

Correspondence, Information and Reports – General Committee 25th November 2023

Correspondence

5a ART statement www.bellringing.org

I've been in post a little over six months now, so I thought it was high time I updated our Financial Supporters about what we have been up to since I took over the role of Chair. The steady increase in activities seen last year has continued this year and it is looking likely that we may yet again set a new a record for the number of courses run in a year. This is not surprising as the real need at present is to train new ringers, for which we need more trained teachers.

We have also moved forward on a number of fronts, both in support of changes already in train and new ones designed to build on the excellent work being done at the time of the change of Chair. We are currently undertaking major IT development in a number of areas so our IT systems provide better support for our core activities and improve our efficiency. I have also sought to develop an operational and governance infrastructure which can support the fast developing 'on the ground' activity of ART.

Please click the button below to read our latest Newsletter which contains more detailed information about what we are doing.

[ART Newsletter for Financial Supporters](#)

Thanks again for your continued financial support of ART, it is much appreciated. Your support has enabled ART to develop a strong, robust, and sustainable future.

Best wishes

Andrew

Andrew Slade ART Chair andrew.slade@bellringing.org

5b Ashmolean One World Handbells

Dear Karen Pile

I hope that you are well. I am writing to enquire to see if any members of the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers would like to be involved in the 2024 One World Family Festival (10 and 11 February) at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford.

The One World Family Festival is an annual co-produced event at the Ashmolean celebrating the faiths and communities of Oxford. Our theme this year is the colourful communities of Oxford. As part of our celebration, we would love to have Church Handbell Ringers perform on 10 February in our Atrium area. Please do let me know if this would be of interest. If so, we can discuss any monetary compensation and a brief rehearsal to ensure that our space can meet your needs.

Please do let me know if you need any further information about the One World Festival or if there are any further questions.

Thank you so much for your kind consideration.

With Best Wishes

Lucy
Lucy Shipp (she/her)
Head of Informal Learning & Public Programmes
Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology

5c CCCBR minutes – October 2023

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS Charity Registration No 270036 Executive Notes of the meeting held on 25 th October 2023, by Zoom. Present: Tina Stoecklin (President), Vicki Chapman (Deputy President), Fergus Stracey (Treasurer), Ernie de LeghRunciman (Secretary), Clyde Whittaker, Catherine Lane, Ian Roulestone, Beverly Faber Apologies: Alli Devine

1. Previous meeting notes. The notes of the Executive meeting, held on 27 th September 2023, were approved.

2. Outstanding Actions All have been completed, with the exception of the following, which will be carried over: • All non-CCCBR items to removed from the online shop • Updating of the signatories on the CCCBR accounts • Updating of the CCCBR organisational charts

3. Money. The treasurer advised the meeting that the 3rd quarter financial figures were in line with the 2023/2024 budget. It was noted that a drop in the amount received in society subscriptions was in line with the expected figure, due to the change to £0.20 per society member. It was noted that there were a number of outstanding payments from the AGM still to be received. These are being chased.

4. YellowYoYo Branding Collaboration. A refined delivery plan and payment schedule has been received, with a revised cost of £10,000 (+VAT). A question was raised as to if this plan includes milestones. It was agreed that the payment schedule acted as milestones. It was also noted that the CCCBR would own the intellectual property and that the branding guidelines were still in the scope. The Treasure asked if there would be a cost of incorporating the new branding into the banners and feathers owned by the CC. The Vice President recommended that the CC should review the use of

these items following the re-branding. An initial payment of £5,000.00 (+VAT) to YellowYoYo was agreed by the Executive in order to allow work to start on this next phase. Details of the branding collaboration can be found on the Council website www.cccbr.org.uk

5. Julie McDonald. There have been few responses to the consultation request. It is proposed to recirculate the request to Ringing Forums, and then take a view on the matter with the methods Team.

6. National Ringing Centre. An update was received on the NaRC, asking for a decision on how to progress this. It was felt that clearer understanding and background were required and a small sub-group of the Executive was set up to analyse the project, and report back with synthesis and recommendations.

7. CCCBR Wikipedia Entry. It has been pointed out that the CCCBR Wikipedia Entry is very out of date. It was pointed out that Wiki entries can be edited by anyone, and it was unclear from the audit trail who created the page, and who has been updating it. The PR team have been tasked to investigate and report. Page 2 of 2 05/11/2023

8. Direct Membership Proposals. The Treasurer presented a proposal for implementing of direct membership of the Council. After some discussion regarding the pros and cons of such a proposal, a limited time working group was set up to look at this proposal, and report back at the November Executive meeting.

9. Ringing2030. The President presented the latest version of the plans for re-alignment of the Workgroups. It was emphasised that the focus of the Workgroups should be on Ringing2030. This plan will form the agenda for the joint meeting of the Executive and Workgroup leads in November.

10. There will be a presentation by Chris Sharp (CC Diversity Officer) on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, by Zoom on Wed 8th November. If Council members would like to attend, please contact The Vice President.

11. Sport for Women and Girls Conference. The Vice President sought permission to attend this conference on behalf of the CC, as it was felt that the agenda covered many aspects that also related to ringing. This was approved.

The next meeting will be on Saturday 11th November at 9.30am, followed by the quarterly Executive/WG Leads meeting at 11.02am. Ernie de Legh-Runciman Secretary, CCCBR 5th November 2023

Information and Reports

6a Member Communications

Subject: ODG Transformation – Case for Change consultation paper

The ODG must be transformed into a modernised organisation, governed effectively but able to address the **needs of 21st century ringing**.

At the May 2022 AGM it was agreed that the Officers would undertake some preliminary work on actions that could be taken to update the way that the Guild works.

A work group has been formed to look at the priorities and is represented by ringers with knowledge of the ODG and who possess the skills required to facilitate change.

Catherine Lane – Master

Karen Pile – Secretary

Stuart Gibson – Treasurer

Richard Stanworth – Server Manager

John Payne – Membership secretary

Andrew Goldthorpe - Webmaster

Martin Rice – Membership Data Collector

Jenny Bennett – Experienced implementor of membership data base for the Lincoln Guild
membermojo.co.uk

Many meetings have taken place during the intervening months and the time is now right to update the members.

Consultation with members representing a wide variety of roles and experience across the Guild defined several priorities, two of which are linked and therefore covered by this stratagem:

What needs to be done:

The present ODG structure and roles predate **modern technological communication** advances and were put in place for historical needs.

- Develop our IT server capabilities.
- Implement a membership database.

Key Positive Points in favour of having a Membership Database

- Central place for keeping and accessing records.
- Improve Communications at all levels.
- Record details from paper membership forms.
- Maintain contact with members.
- Facility for members to update personal details.
- Level of interaction dictated by individuals own preference.
- Linked to Guild website.
- New members can be added at branch level.
- Welcome pack, inc. certificate, issued to new members.
- Consistency of information.
- Avoid copying and storing duplicate forms.
- GDPR compliance.
- Agreement to publicise name in annual report.

- Possible statistical analysis/training and development.
- Produce reports eg membership renewal lists, insurance implications, membership demographics for training.
- Branch secretary/treasurer can have access.
- Main controllers being Membership secretary and Guild Treasurer.

Meetings are on-going but the group agree that the Guild should proceed with holding the membership list on line versus an excel spreadsheet. We are asking for your support and if there is anyone with skills that can help the set up the process efficiently, please get in touch.

6b QR code

What is it?

You may have heard of a QR code before, and you've possibly utilised them at some point. The technology is becoming an ever-popular resource. It can be used in various ways and is one of the most effective forms of barcode for many industries, such as marketing, and communications. For example, the Coronavirus pandemic introduced a new way to use the QR code with links to online ordering apps for the hospitality industry. When using QR codes for ODG on posters we could for example link to a virtual version of an event (ringing day) or information about the guild or learning to ring.

7a Education (Learning & Development Workgroup)

Learning & Development Workgroup Report
November 2023 General Committee

We have continued to meet via Zoom. Jonathan Cresshull has been elected to the vacant Chairman's position and Robert Newton continues as Secretary. Chris Mundy and Sue McCouaig have been co-opted.

Successful courses (Radley and Michaelmas) have taken place with good support from students and helpers. At the time of writing we anticipate that similar benefits will result from the Steeple Aston and Ten-Bell (at Shrivenham) courses.

We are anticipating that the Training Meeting (3rd February) will, as this year, focus on tower leadership, but that just three branches will be targeted this time.

The RWNYS in York was another well-organised and successful event, from which both the ODG and Bucks & Berks squads benefited. Congratulations to both bands on their efforts and thanks to their leaders and supporters for their commitment and hard work. We have continued to discuss launching a revised Award scheme but feel that the increased opportunities for networking within the Guild and with other groups of young ringers have reduced its attractiveness. Colin Lee, leader of the ODG squad, would like to see more 'regional' practices, in part to reduce the distance that those attending must travel.

Dorothy Hall has been busy enhancing the L&D section of the website, with several links to new resources. We wish to encourage all members to make good use of it and would particularly mention the Central Council recruitment videos, which are free to use.

Robert Newton (Secretary)

7b Towers and Belfries

ODG TOWERS & BELFRIES COMMITTEE'S REPORT TO GENERAL COMMITTEE NOVEMBER 2023

We finally seem to have got "return to ringing" behind us and the coincidental extreme hot dry weather with unprecedented levels of problems in belfries. Loose wooden frames or headstocks making the bells go badly or wheels nearly becoming detached. We ran a campaign to alert churches but please don't relax now. Make sure you still inspect regularly!!

Topics to come up recently have been fly infestation, belfry access and "wobbly" ropes. These are sometimes caused by guides that are too high, too low or non-existent, by rope holes being out of line or maybe a need for "flapping boards". We also visited a tower where the bad "go" of the bells was finally traced to frame movement. We had to tie the bells before watching and listening in the belfry and finally discovering the cause. We are also seeing increasing instances of stretchy ropes leading to the perception that the bells are "going" badly. An initial recourse is to hang a heavy weight on the rope for a week or so. If the problem persists and is traced to a stretchy polypropylene "top" then the "top" may need replacing. We continue to visit towers to advise where sound inside or outside is too loud or soft. Sometimes, the remedy is quite straightforward. Ask us!

We continue to run belfry and rope courses. We recently ran an advanced "hands on" course at Windsor. This was definitely a spanners, oil can and boiler suit session! We also ran a very successful Rope Course in Steeple Aston Hall while it was vacant during the Steeple Aston ringing course in October. This included mending, maintenance and preventive maintenance, also minor improvements to either reduce rope wear or improve the ringing experience. We made use of belfry artefacts at "ground level" for ease of teaching. During 2023 we taught 60-70 students!

Next year will see Rope Courses at Radley on 10th February and Steeple Aston on 26th October. There will be a General Belfry Course somewhere in the Chipping Norton Branch on 27th April. We have some invitations for an advanced "Hands-On" course and will publish details of those when known. Email or tbchair@odg.org.uk or tbsecretary@odg.org.uk if you would be interested.

Most of the committee's work goes on between meetings with inspections, advice and courses. We meet two or three times a year; lastly in August 2023. We mix in-person meetings with Zoom. In-person in the Summer and then Zoom in the Winter to avoid driving in the dark nights! The Tower Maintenance Award (TMA) is still active. Towers are encouraged to ask for an inspection.

The T&B page of the ODG website Towers and Belfries - Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers (odg.org.uk) continues to expand with useful material. You will find contact details and the services offered by our members. If you can't find what you are looking for, please ask tbchair@odg.org.uk

Since the last General Committee, T&B members have been active with TMA, Bell-Fund grant inspections and general advice at the following places: Kencot, Broadwell, Haddenham, Shilton, Hinton Waldrist, Piddington, Kirtlington, Stoke Poges, Turville, Great Milton, Aston Tirrold, Hughenden, Sonning, Stewkeley, West Hendred, Stanton Harcourt, Goring, Streatley, Witney, East Garston, Little Wittenham, North Moreton, Kelmscott, West Wycombe, Theale, Arborfield, Brightwalton, Padworth, Burford, Slapton, Purley, Reading St Lawrence and Compton Beauchamp: nearly 10% of ODG's towers!

Tony Crabtree – Chairman – Towers & Belfries Committee.

7c Finance and General Purposes

The Finance and General Purposes Sub-Committee has met twice in person and via Zoom since the 11th March 2023 General Committee meeting.

We are seeking members for the Public Relations Working Group. However, new members events and are proceeding.

Current branch arrangements have been amended to accommodate additional stewards and this has been communicated to all branches.

The new arrangements are:

Peter Robson - Reading, Newbury, and Old North Berks.

Tony Crabtree – Vale of the White Horse, Witney & Woodstock, and Chipping Norton

Patricia Newton - EBSB, Oxford City and South Oxon.

Colin Lee - Bicester, Banbury, and Central Bucks.

Steve Rossiter - North Bucks, Sonning Deanery and Chiltern.

Initiatives to address membership matters were discussed (see item 6(a)). More detail will be presented at the meeting.

Richard Stanworth (ODG Server Manager) and Andrew Goldsmith (ODG Webmaster) reported on improvements to the guild server and website.

The valuable work of the Learning & Development Workgroup and Towers and Belfries was discussed and is reported under items 7(a) and 7(b).

Karen Pile Hon Sec

8a Central Council Representatives

Verbal update in the meeting (also see correspondence item 5(c)).

Report supplied to Hon Sec to place in papers after the meeting. This is below.

CENTRAL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

This year's meeting of the CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS was held on 2nd September at The Hold, Ipswich. The draft minutes of the 126th Annual Meeting of the CCCBR are available on the CCCBR website and were published in The Ringing World on 6th October. Full reports from the Executive, Workgroups, Support Services, and Safeguarding team, for the period to May 2023, are available in the 2023 Annual Meeting Papers online at cccbr.org.uk/about/annual-meetings/2023-annual-meeting/papers/. Members of The Ringing World Ltd are, by right, all those members of the Central Council who indicate a willingness to be company members before the AGM, which is held on the same day as the Council meeting. Most of our ODG reps. have continued to be involved in the workgroups : John Harrison(Ringer biographies and Obituary Index co-ordinator)-Historical & Archive, Lucy Hopkins Till(Education team leader)- Volunteering & Leadership, Graham John(Composition Team) and Tim Pett (Dove Steward)- Technical & Taxonomy. Katie Lane, ODG Master, is also one of the Trustees. This report includes just some key points from both meetings.

An Application to Affiliate was received from the Central European Association, which was approved.

The Trustees' Report estimated that approx.10% of ringers were lost owing to the pandemic but considered that bands had now stabilised. The death of HM Queen Elizabeth highlighted the importance of bells and the run up to the Coronation provided a useful recruiting opportunity. The new mobile belfry is expected to be completed this year. The Council is now planning to roll out more widely the school 'scheme of work' for bell ringing. The CofE's National Safeguarding Team agreed to consider how bell ringers' specific safeguarding training can be developed.

In the **Accounts**, the total assets of the Council were listed as £441,667. However, the General Fund made a loss of £5,583, largely attributable to the cost of last year's meeting. Publications are making a profit again after the pandemic and transferred £10,000 into the General Fund. 15 grants were given from the Bell Restoration Fund, amounting to £11,450. Resources expended in 2022 exceeded Incoming Resources by £15,488. Cash reserves of £199,889 are currently held.

The Executive and Workgroup Reports

The Executive Report noted that work is progressing on how ringing is branded and marketed with the help of an external branding agency, Yellowyoyo. The three areas which will be covered are 'Publicity and Marketing', 'Recruitment and Development' and 'Quality Environment'. The National Call Change Competition was a success. A pamphlet 'From Practice to Perfect' was produced by the Council and sent to all Diocesan Safeguarding Advisers to improve understanding of ringing. The President mentioned that a 'Code for Ringing' template has been produced.

Senior Stakeholder Liaison WG The President, Simon Linford, has kept a 'watching brief' on the Save the Parish campaign, the work of The Churches Conservation Trust and The Historic Religious Buildings Alliance. The Executive had its annual meeting with Historic England and the Church Buildings Council. On the dissolution of the WG, Simon has volunteered to continue this work.

Historical and Archive WG Work has focused on relocating the CCCBR Library, continuing the development of the ringing history website and capturing images for the pealboard database.

Public Relations WG Besides the significant Royal events, ringing was suggested for COP27 and encouraged for Bell Sunday. The UK was the spotlight for the US New Year's Eve Bell Festival. A project took place involving bells inspired by John Betjeman's poem 'Summoned by Bells' and George Perrin's Discovering Bellringing videos are now available on the Council's You Tube channel.

Stewardship and Management WG The online 'Belfry Upkeep' information has been followed by 'Running a Tower' and 'Belfry Projects'. Members of the Workgroup continue to respond to an assortment of enquiries from various sources

Technical and Taxonomy WG Work on the Method Extension Review continues. The Framework for Method Ringing and the Method and Composition Library continue to be maintained and the ICT team supports the CC Website, Ringing Forums etc.

Volunteer and Leadership WG The Intelligence Section has been creating a standardised survey. The Education Section has continued to supply and develop training posters for towers and 3D printed model bells. The North West Ringing Course is becoming established and plans are in hand to set up a South West Ringing Course. The Towards Decent Striking project has completed its information gathering stage and development of the leadership course is under way.

Young Ringers-Schools and Youth Groups The Bluebell's Challenge Girl Guide badge has been updated and a Summer School was held in Bristol for current and future university students.

Young Ringers-Universities and Colleges Plans are being made to create a website 'hub' for ringing activities led by university and college societies.

Support Services

Publications Two new titles were published, eight reprinted and 26 are available to download free.
Performance Analysis Peal numbers had more than doubled and Major was still more popular than peals on other numbers with the Yorkshire Association the leading affiliated society. Quarter peals were up by more than 50%. Again, the majority were Minor and most were rung in Kent.
The **Bell Restoration Fund** From a bequest to the Central Council, the grants panel received £4,000 for projects in the West Country.

Elections of Trustees Tina Stoecklin was elected President, Vicki Chapman was elected Deputy President and Ian Roulstone was elected Ordinary Trustee.

Motions were passed to set the Annual Subscription for a Small Society at £10 and to support the migration of the Council Library to the Loughborough Bellfoundry Trust. A motion to reduce the number of members on the Council was defeated.

Next Year's Meeting will be held on Saturday 7th September hosted by The Devonshire Guild

At the RINGING WORLD LTD AGM the chairman reported that there was a £26K surplus this year owing to increased ringing for Royal events, but 2024 will be tougher. In addition to the sales of merchandise, the Company received generous donations from readers and sponsors amounting to £54,554. However, the number of postal subscribers has dropped from 1920 to 1850, slightly offset by a rise in online subscribers.

Lucy Hopkins Till

8b Safeguarding Officer

Safeguarding Report to Guild Committee Nov 2023

A safeguarding audit has been completed using the CCCBR audit form and, in the light of this, the policy has been reviewed and some small amendments made. The audit also reveals the need for some more detailed monitoring of groups within the Guild, which will be undertaken shortly.

Whilst it is not my role to monitor the safeguarding in our towers, I am hearing of incidents where Parish Safeguarding Officers or Diocesan Advisers are doing this and finding some of our towers wanting. This will only happen more frequently as Parishes begin to increase their vigilance. If ringers have not completed the appropriate training or obtained DBS clearance where necessary, they are likely to be taken to task. An extreme response to this would be to stop ringing. Hopefully this won't happen.

June Wells, Guild SO



15 Year Plan – ODG Branches hosting timetable

Date	Spring General Committee Mtg 2nd Saturday in March + Bell Fund AGM	Bell Fund Ringing Day 1st Bank Holiday in May	AGM & 8 Bell Competition 3rd Saturday in May	6 Bell Competition 1st Saturday in October	November General Committee Mtg + 10 Bell Competition 4th Saturday in November	Guild Festival 2nd Saturday in July every 5 years
2024	North Bucks	Oxford City	EBSB	Sonning Deanery	Reading	
2025	Newbury	Old North Berks	South Oxon	Oxford City	Bicester	
2026	Chipping N	Bicester	North Bucks	Central Bucks	W & W	
2027	VOWH	South Oxon	Oxford City	Reading	Newbury	
2028	Central Bucks	EBSB	Sonning Deanery	Bicester	North Bucks	
2029	South Oxon	W & W	Chipping N	Banbury	Old North Berks	
2030	EBSB	Reading	Newbury	VOWH	Chiltern	
2031	Banbury	North Bucks	Central Bucks	W & W	Chipping N	150 th anniversary Oxford City
2032	Oxford City	Newbury	VOWH	Chiltern	EBSB	
2033	Sonning Deanery	Chipping N	Banbury	Old North Berks	South Oxon	
2034	Bicester	Central Bucks	Chiltern	EBSB	Sonning Deanery	
2035	Reading	VOWH	Old North Berks	South Oxon	Oxford City	
2036	W & W	Banbury	Bicester	North Bucks	Central Bucks	Oxford City
2037	Chiltern	Sonning Deanery	Reading	Newbury	VOWH	
2038	Old North Berks	Chiltern	W & W	Chipping N	Banbury/ Bicester	

Forthcoming Events – 2023/2024 dates list.

Saturday 8th July Guild Festival - Oxford

Saturday 15th July New Members' Get Together

Wednesday 23rd August – Towers & Belfries Committee meeting - Radley

Thursday 14th September Learning & Development Workgroup Meeting by Zoom

Saturday 16th September Advanced Hands-on belfry course - Windsor

Wednesday 20th September –F&GP Meeting by Zoom

Saturday 30th September Michaelmas Course in the South East part of the Guild

Saturday 7th October 6 Bell Striking competition in Chipping Norton Branch + Raising and Lowering competition.

Saturday 28th October Steeple Aston Course in the North West part of the Guild

Saturday 28th October Rope Management & splicing course – Steeple Aston Village Hall

Saturday 4th November Ten Bell Course (Grandsire Caters – Shrivenham)

Saturday 18th November ODG New Members Outing

Saturday 25th November 10 bell competition at Bicester & Autumn General Committee Meeting Steeple Aston Village Hall (Banbury Branch)

Saturday 16th December Branch Secretaries Zoom meeting

Sunday 21st January 2024 Learning & Development Workgroup Zoom Meeting

Saturday 3rd February Tower Leadership workshop in 3 branches (Central Bucks, Chiltern, and North Bucks)

Saturday 9th March 2024 Spring General Committee meeting & Bell Fund AGM – North Bucks branch

Saturday 13th April 2024 Radley Course

Saturday 28th September 2024 Michaelmas Course

Saturday 26th October 2024 Steeple Aston Course