

The Bedfordshire Association of Church Bell Ringers
Members Update June 2013

Dear Member,

We are writing to give you an update following the AGM held in May.

Association Officers and appointments

- Vice President

After 10 years, Bob Churchill decided to step down as Association Vice President. We are very grateful to Bob for his years of outstanding service to the Association and pleased that Pat Albon was elected to succeed him.

- Safeguarding Coordinator

Due to work commitments, Sarah Ward has had to step down as our Safeguarding Coordinator. Sarah has carried out this most important role with diligence and sensitivity for the last 5 years and we owe her our thanks. We are fortunate that Rosemary Drewery from Sharnbrook has agreed to take over this work. Inevitably there will be a handover period and we will circulate more details in due course.

All the other Officers were re-elected.

Central Council Reps

Our three reps - Sue Silver, Pat Albon and Richard Horne were elected to serve as our Central Council Reps for another 3 years.

Association Bell Restoration Fund

We made the exciting and important decision to set up an Association Bell Restoration Fund (BRF). If you haven't seen the rules and FAQs, the documents are on the Association's Website www.bacr.co.uk. If you would like a hard copy please contact us.

Our BRF will receive a significant amount of its income from membership subscriptions. We agreed that, from January 2013, the annual resident ringing member subscription for everyone over 19 years old will increase to £10 (Under 19s rate will remain at £2.50), with 50% going directly to the Association BRF.

To comply with Charity Commission requirements we also agreed a new Object for the Association - 'To promote and support the care, maintenance, improvement and restoration of bells within the area of the Association'.

These are early days but if you have any queries or concerns about the BRF please let us know.

Other rule changes

Three changes were made:

- Remove the option to become elected as a Resident Life Membership with immediate effect. Existing Resident Life Members are unaffected by this change, they continue to be Life Members.
- Amend Rule 5 to take into account name changes made to the Technical Advisor and Safeguarding Coordinator posts in Rule 4 last year.
- Add new rule 15 - a procedure for the unlikely event of the Association being wound up.

Other news

- We are hoping to arrange a tower maintenance course in conjunction with the Central Council. If you are interested please contact Terry Brown
- We are going to have a display and mini-ring at the Bedford River festival again next year. Make a note of the dates – Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 July. We will need lots of helpers. Contact Sarah Ward.

Thank you for your continued support. If you have any ideas or suggestions for events, activities or fund raising opportunities please contact us or your District Committee.

Kind regards

Sue Silver, President and Terry Brown, Honorary Secretary