

The Bedfordshire Association of Church Bell Ringers
Members Update May 2015

Dear Member,

Here is the latest information update for you.

AGM News

Over 40 members attended our AGM at Leighton Buzzard on 16 May.

We stood to remember one member and two former members who had died since the last AGM:

- Patricia Woolhead, member from Aspley Guise, who died in January.
- Ron Freeman, former member of Kempston and Wootton, who died in March.
- Ralph West, former member of Biddenham, who died in March.

The following officers were re-elected:

President - Sue Silver

Vice-President - Pat Albon

Honorary Secretary - Terry Brown

Honorary Treasurer - Barbara Fraser

Honorary Peal Secretary - Anthony Smith

Honorary Librarian - Pat Albon

Independent Accounts Examiner - Richard Hillson

We elected Alan Smith from Biggleswade as Honorary Life Member. Congratulations Alan.

The Annual Reports have now been distributed. Please contact your District Secretary if you haven't received yours yet.

There are four corrections to note:

- Page 9, Treasurer's report – the reported BRF fund total should be £6317.11
- Page 13, District Accounts Summary – Biggleswade - delete £5.95 expenses
- Page 26, the postcode for the David Shaw, Riseley Tower Contact, should be MK44 1DH
- Page 49, peal number 4139 at Bromham, the conductor was Steve Stanford.

Subscription rates for 2016 will remain the same as 2015.

We amended Association Bell Restoration Fund Rule 6 to clarify that the 'Under 19' membership category is excluded as income source for the Fund.

We elected a new member, Ann Clark from Aspley Guise.

Any Other Business:

- We discussed the recent update / discussion paper from the Central Council of Change Ringing for the Future, sent to our Central Council Reps, Sue Silver, Richard Horne and Pat Albon. The paper can be downloaded from our website:

<https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZGVmYXVsdGRvbWFpbmxiZWZWRzYmVsbHJpbmJlcN8Z3g6OGY3ZTMzMTNhMTQxM2E>

or directly from the Central Council website:

<http://cccbr.org.uk/council/meetings/2015/2015-13-change-ringing-for-the-future.pdf>

The paper identifies some key actions to improve ringer recruitment and retention which include:

- The Central Council going regional – setting up 8 regions to combine forces
- A new participative format for the Central Council meeting
- A new website to attract prospective learners
- A new survey 'toolkit' for regions
- Leadership training modules
- A new learner initiative with a new learner pack
- Partnership with the Association of Ringing Teachers

Please read the paper and give your views back to our Central Council Reps as soon as possible, preferably in advance of the meeting on 25 May. There was general support from members at the meeting for the initiatives and all agreed that ringer recruitment and retention was an important issue for us and ringing in general.

Linda Garton mentioned the Central Council's 'First Peal 2015' initiative to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the first true peal being rung. <http://www.cccb.org.uk/FirstPeal2015/>
An aim of the initiative is to encourage as many ringers as possible to ring their first peal during the year. So far this year, four Bedfordshire ringers have rung their first peal, Dean De-Matteis from Husborne Crawley, Chris Hartley from Cranfield and Ruth and Thomas Monks from Eaton Bray. Congratulations to all. If you know anyone who would like to ring their first peal but their tower doesn't have the resources to allow this please contact Sue Silver, email - president@bacr.co.uk

Terry Brown mentioned that the website would be reviewed in the coming year. Chris Williams, our current webmaster, is standing down in 2016 and we will need a new webmaster. We will also take the opportunity to give the website a bit of a refresh before Chris retires. Anyone who is interested in helping with this please contact Terry Brown, email – secretary@bacr.co.uk

Gift Aid

If you are a UK tax payer please gift aid your subscription so that Association can recover the tax paid on it. Gift aid forms can be downloaded from the <http://www.bedsbellringers.co.uk/home/gift-aiding-subscriptions>
We need all members who can do this to do it!

Paying subscriptions by standing order – we encourage you to pay your subscription by standing order, It is very easy and convenient for you and our treasurers. please get a form from Sue Silver, or the website <http://www.bedsbellringers.co.uk/home/gift-aiding-subscriptions> or set up now through online banking:

- Bedfordshire Association of Church Bell Ringers Account number 01418488.
- Sort code 30-94-47
- Use your name as the reference
- Please let your District Treasurer know that you've set this up

Other news

Ridgman Trophy – We will be entering a team for this year's Ridgmen Trophy to be held at Wisbech on 6 June. Linda Garton is coordinating our team this year. Supporters are very welcome to travel to Wisbech, the competition is generally a very well organised event with plenty of catering and refreshment provided.

National Youth Striking Competition – our young ringers are practising hard and will aim to retain the Whitechapel Trophy for a third consecutive year. The competition is being held at Oxford on Saturday 11 July. Please consider going to support our young ringers, it will be a great day out. Good luck to all our young ringers.

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