

**The Bedfordshire Association of Church Bell Ringers**  
**Members Update June 2016**

Dear Member,

Here is the latest information update for you.

**New website**

Our new website is now up and running. The address is [www.bacbr.org.uk](http://www.bacbr.org.uk) – please take a look and let us know what you think. You'll see that the officer's generic email addresses have been changed to the new format.

We are grateful to Tony Sharp for taking over as Webmaster and thank Chris Williams for developing and looking after the old website for the last 6 years.

There is still some fine tuning to do with the new website so please bear with us for the next few months whilst we get it fully functioning. Tony is currently working on a member database that will enable us to email updates and information directly to you. If you would like to continue, or start, to receive Association information by email please email [webmaster@bacbr.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@bacbr.org.uk) or [secretary@bacbr.org.uk](mailto:secretary@bacbr.org.uk).

**First grant awarded from the Association Bell Restoration Fund (BRF)**

Eversholt PCC recently made an application for an Association BRF grant towards their major bell restoration project involving a new frame, bell tuning and new fittings. A £5000 grant was recommended by the BRF Committee and this was ratified by the Association General Committee on 20 May.

**AGM News**

Over 40 members attended our AGM at St Paul's Bedford on 21 May. We were also delighted that one of our two patrons, the Right Reverend Richard Atkinson, Bishop of Bedford, was able to join us for tea, the service and meeting.

We stood to remember the following who have died since the last AGM:

- David Pegg, member from Northill
- Francis Spavins, former member from Woburn
- Maureen Oakley, former member from Houghton Regis
- Doris Thacker, former member from Luton
- Jim Yates, former member from Ampthill

Annual Reports have now been distributed. Please contact your District Secretary if you haven't received yours yet. There are several corrections to note:

- Page 1, Webmaster for 2015 was Chris Williams
- Page 13, District Accounts Summary, Luton total receipts were £1223.50
- Page 15, Statement of Assets and Liabilities, Current Liabilities - remove 'NIL' from 2014 column
- Page 23, Bedford St Andrew ringer should be Jonathan Nash
- Page 30, Potton tower contact Rosemary Kimber's email address is [rosemarykimber@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rosemarykimber@yahoo.co.uk)
- Page 32 Cranfield ringer should be Steve Capper
- Page 52, handbell bell no 4154/67 was rung at 19 Totternoe Road, Dunstable

It is with regret that Doris Thacker's obituary was omitted from the 2015 report; it will be included in the 2016 report.

Since the report was published Southill tower contact, Colin McCartney, has a new email address:

[colin.mccartney03@talktalk.net](mailto:colin.mccartney03@talktalk.net)

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

Pat Albon, Richard Horne and Linda Garton were elected as Association reps to the Central Council for the next three year term.

Subscription rates for 2017 will remain the same as 2016.

We amended Association Rule 6 to reduce the required number of District Committee posts.

We elected the following new members:

- Jessica Richards from Potton
- David Carter from Felmersham
- Christopher Wagstaff from Bedford St Paul

#### **Some items of other business that were raised:**

##### **St Andrew's Biggleswade - bell restoration, augmentation and ringing centre project**

James Eggleston gave an update about the Biggleswade project. 2 new trebles have been cast to make the ring up to a 10. The old tenor bell was found to have a fault and was recast. James expressed thanks for financial support from the Biggleswade District and the RJ Sharp Fund.

The tower will be fully kitted out to be Bedfordshire's first accredited ringing centre. James stressed that the ringing centre will be available to all as an Association resource and a lasting legacy to Ron Sharp. It is hoped to get this up and running in July.

The bells were on display in the church for a hallowing service on 29 May and are now back in the tower and the bell hangers are finishing the job. There will be a dedication service at 5pm on Sunday 25 September to which all are invited. For more information see <http://www.biggleswadebells.org.uk/>

##### **A new initiative for the '19 to 30s' age group**

Lyndsey Brett would like to set up a group specifically for 'young adults', especially those who are no longer eligible to take part in the 'young ringers' events and competitions and who are returning to the area after their time at university. Lyndsey hopes to get this set up in the early autumn so contact her if you are interested on [nick\\_lyndsey@hotmail.com](mailto:nick_lyndsey@hotmail.com)

##### **RJ Sharp Fund**

It was agreed that the RJ Sharp Committee would consider recent comments made by a member about the validity of recent grants awarded from the Fund.

**Paying subscriptions by standing order** – we encourage you to pay your subscription by standing order, it's very easy and convenient for you and our treasurers. Please get a form from Sue Silver, or download it from the website <http://www.bacbr.org.uk/association/business/subscriptions/> You can also set this 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

Remember to set this up as an annual payment, not just a one off.

Thanks were given to the St Paul's ringers for hosting the service and the meeting and for the delicious tea.

##### **Other news**

The redundant church Upper Gravenhurst has been sold and the 5 bells have been bought by the Keltek Trust. The bells will be removed later this year after the bat breeding season (there are bats in the belfry!); but before this happens a final peal attempt has been arranged on Monday 27 June. The peal, if successful, will be rung for the Association.

**Ridgman Trophy** - this year's competition was held at Daventry on 4 June. 7 teams entered. The Ely Diocesan Guild team came first and, unfortunately, Bedfordshire finished 7th.

You can read reports at <http://ridgmantrophy.elyda.org.uk/competition-archive/2016>

**National Youth Striking Competition** – Good luck to our Young Ringers taking part in the Ringing World National Young Ringers Competition being held in London on 2 July. The team will be ringing changes for the first time. There are 3 eliminators and the final at St Olave Hart Street. More information is at <http://rwnyc.ringingworld.co.uk/> - please go and support the team.

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