

**The Bedfordshire Association of Church Bell Ringers**  
**www.bacbr.org.uk**  
**Members Update July 2017**

Dear Member,

Here is the latest information update for you.

**AGM News**

Over 50 members attended the AGM hosted by the ringers at Biggleswade on 20 May.

We stood to remember Reverent Canon John Tibbs who had died since the last AGM.

The following Association officers were elected:

President - Sue Silver

Vice-President - Pat Albon

Honorary Secretary - Terry Brown

Honorary Treasurer - Tim Blunt

Honorary Peal Secretary - Anthony Smith

Honorary Librarian - Pat Albon

Independent Accounts Examiner - Trevor Groom

Thanks were given to Barbara Fraser, Treasurer for 7 years, and Richard Hillson, Independent Examiner for 9 years.

Technical Advisor - we are currently without a Technical Advisor. Roger Kendrick has stood down from the role and we don't have anyone who wants to take it on. However, requests for technical help can still be made to [techadvisor@bacbr.org.uk](mailto:techadvisor@bacbr.org.uk) and they will be passed on to members who have said they are willing to give informal advice.

2018 subscription rates will be unchanged. If you are a tax payer please gift aid your subscription, it is an easy fund raiser for us.

The proposed Association Bell Restoration Fund (BRF) rule 4 change to reduce the number of Association Officers on the BRF Committee wasn't passed because there wasn't an absolute majority vote so the Committee remains as it is for the time being.

The proposed R J Sharp Fund Code of Practice 2a change to clarify that grants could be made direct to church authorities was passed by a majority vote.

We ratified the belfry election of two Associate Ringing Members - Yvonne Towler, prior to a peal at Campton, and Simon Adams prior to a peal at Biggleswade.

Ronald J Sharp Ringing Centre, St Andrew's, Biggleswade - a written update from James Eggleston was read out. James expressed thanks to the Association for their support with this project. The Centre:

- has all the components of a ten bell church tower together with a dumb bell, a sound management system, simulator, CCTV, facilities for hospitality and resources to promote and teach bell handling/change ringing.
- is available to everyone as a bookable facility for general ringing, including quarter peals, peals and training events/courses. Please note that the tower and Ringing Centre can only be used with prior authorisation of the St Andrew's Incumbent.
- expects everyone to pay a minimum £1 donation for using the bells and equipment when attending training courses, ringing quarters/peals or for general ringing. Donations should be gift aided where possible and will be used towards the upkeep and maintenance of the bells, stays and ropes.
- operates under the St Andrew's Safeguarding Scheme. There must be two adults, at least one of whom is DBS checked, in the tower when a ringer under the age of 18 or vulnerable adult is present.
- is seeking accreditation to be one of a network of ringing centres approved by the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.

To arrange use of the Ringing Centre and equipment - contact [biggleswadebellringers@gmail.com](mailto:biggleswadebellringers@gmail.com). Future bell and ringing centre bookings are viewable on the website calendar at [www.Biggleswadebells.org.uk](http://www.Biggleswadebells.org.uk)

Central Council review - Pat Albon, one of our three Central Council reps, lead a discussion on proposals put forward by the Central Council Review Action Group. The general view was that the change proposals were good and we should support them at the forthcoming Central Council meeting.

The 2018 AGM will be on 19 May, hosted by the Luton District at Leighton Buzzard.

## **Other news**

### **Ridgman Trophy 10 bell Striking Competition, Saturday 17 June at Great St Mary, Cambridge**

Congratulations to our team who came 2nd out of 7 teams, with the Ely Diocesan Association winners. The ringers were: Charlotte Smith, Ros Keech, Philippa Whittington, Anthony Smith, Matt Johnson, Cameron White-Spunner, Stephen Stanford, Russell Brown, John Loveless and Frank Rivett. Thanks to Philippa who organised the team and practice arrangements

### **Ringing World National Youth Competition (RWNYC), Saturday 1 July at Birmingham**

Our young ringers and supporting entourage travelled to Birmingham for this year's RWNYC. Having made it through the qualifier held at Yardley our team came a very respectable joint 2nd with Sussex Young Ringers in the method category final which was won by the Yorkshire Tykes who took home the Whitechapel Trophy.

Many congratulations to ringers - Clarrie Scott, Rebecca Gordon, Charlotte Francis, Tom Monks, Jonathan Nash, Melissa Nash, Cameron White-Spunner and Dean De-Mateis. Reserves Henry Francis and Kristian White-Spunner joined in the day's activities but didn't need to ring in the competition. Thanks to all the supporters and parents who came to help on the day.

### **Association BRF grant applications**

The BRF Committee met on 17 July to discuss two applications:

- All Saints, Campton – install a modern electrically operated sound management system. Total estimated cost £5229 (ex VAT and minus reductions for supplying local labour, accommodation and DIY removal of current system). The BRF Committee will recommend a grant of £1000 which has to be agreed by the General Committee at their next meeting in October 2017.
- All Saints, Kempston - replace 7th and tenor bell with two existing bells, minor refurbishment work to existing bells and improve internal acoustics, hang the old 7th and tenor as stationary bells in the tower above the existing ring. Total estimated cost £35400 (ex VAT and minus reductions for supplying local labour). The BRF Committee will recommend a grant of £3500 which has to be agreed by the General Committee at their next meeting in October 2017.

Some brief details of each project are on the Association website [www.bacbr.org.uk](http://www.bacbr.org.uk). Please feel free to give your views about these proposals to your District Secretary or General Committee - District representatives prior to the meeting in October.

### **R J Sharp Fund grant application**

In May the RJ Sharp Committee agreed a grant of up to £150 to cover the tower donation costs for the 2017 Bedfordshire Young Ringers monthly training sessions.

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 Terry Brown, Honorary Secretary