

## **The Bedfordshire Association of Church Bell Ringers Members Update May 2020**

Dear Member,

I hope you and yours are well and coping with the strange times we're living in - with some members in 12-week isolation, churches closed, no ringing and all Association and District events cancelled. It looks set to continue like this for some months yet. Do take a look at the Central Council's discussion document on the topic here <https://cccbr.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/20200511-Ringing-and-COVID-what-are-the-risks-for-CC-website.pdf>

I'm sorry to say that I know about two members who have recently passed away, Stan Ashton from All Saints Clifton in April and Prudence Moore from St Andrew's Biggleswade on 10 May. Our sympathies go to their families and friends at this time.

### **AGM**

As you will have seen from our Website and Facebook page, the AGM, due to have been held on 16 May, has been cancelled. The General Committee are keeping an open mind about whether we'll be able to hold it later on in the year and will keep you informed. The minutes of last year's meeting, and the 2019 accounts are all on the website for you to look at here <https://www.bacbr.org.uk/association/business/agm-minutes-archive/>

As announced at last year's AGM, Peal Secretary, Chris Williams, is due to stand down this year. Chris has agreed to carry on until such time as we can hold an Association meeting to elect a successor. We still need someone to volunteer for this role and Chris would be happy to talk to anyone who'd like to know more. It's not an onerous job!

After 10 years as Honorary Secretary, I'm planning to do one more year and retire gracefully next May! During my 10 years, the role has evolved with the increased use of electronic communication, the website and social media such as Facebook. My main responsibilities are: servicing the AGM and 2 General Committee meetings a year, Annual Report production and membership records and communication. I work very closely with Webmaster, Tony Sharp, keeping the website content up to date and working on the new membership spreadsheet database that Tony devised.

I'd be happy to hear from anyone who would like to consider taking on all or some of this role. I think it's feasible to split off some of these jobs as Non-Committee posts.

### **2019 Annual Reports**

The 2019 reports have been printed, although the usual distribution to members hasn't been possible. Please be patient, we will get them out as soon as government restrictions allow. There is a pdf version available on the website now at this link:

<https://www.bacbr.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/2019-annual-report-final-for-printers2.pdf>

### **2020 Subscriptions**

Subscriptions were due on 1st January and we usually expect them to be paid by the end of April. If you haven't paid yours, or on behalf of your tower, yet then please do so as soon as possible, preferably by online banking. The details are:

Account - **Bedfordshire Association of Church Bell Ringers**

Sort Code - **30-94-47**

Account number - **01418488**

Please put your tower name as a reference and let your District Treasurer know you've paid:

Bedford District - Jenny Thompson [bedfordtreasurer@bacbr.org.uk](mailto:bedfordtreasurer@bacbr.org.uk)

Biggleswade District - Clare Francis [biggleswadetreasurer@bacbr.org.uk](mailto:biggleswadetreasurer@bacbr.org.uk)

Luton District - Chris Catlin [lutontreasurer@bacbr.org.uk](mailto:lutontreasurer@bacbr.org.uk)

If you can't pay online then please post a cheque, made payable to Bedfordshire Association of Church Bell Ringers to Association Treasurer - Tim Blunt, 5 Water Lane, Flitwick, MK45 1LD

## Bell Restoration News

**All Saints Kempston** - this long-standing project to replace the very old 7th and tenor bells with two redundant, ex-Prinknash Abbey, bells from the Keltek Trust, was finally completed last December, just time for Christmas. You can see a picture presentation on this Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=206464553783813>

**St Lawrence Steppingley** - this augmentation project was successfully completed in February, bringing back another church into ringing condition again. The existing 4 were augmented by 2 Keltek Trust bells, all tuned and hung in a refurbished and part new 6 bell frame. The Bishop of Bedford blessed the bells at a service on 10 February and they were rung for the first time on 14 February. Photos are available on the Associations Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/240759242723040/>

Several local people have expressed an interest in learning to ring and an introductory handling session was able to go ahead just before the lockdown in March.

Both of these very worthwhile projects were driven by members, and other volunteers, who gave countless hours to make them a success. Both projects received grants from the Association Bell Restoration Fund, which every member supports from the 50% proportion of your subscription - so thank you!

### Keeping in touch

The current situation has shown the value of having the Website and Facebook page to convey news quickly. Please join our Facebook page - send a joining request here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/240759242723040/>

We'll use this and the Website [www.bacbr.org.uk](http://www.bacbr.org.uk) to keep you up to date with any ringing related news, such as Central Council and Church of England advice and guidance.

Being able to send out these email updates relies on me having the correct email address for you - please let me know if you change it so that we can keep our records up to date. If you're a tower contact please encourage your fellow ringers to send their email addresses to me.

[secretary@bacbr.org.uk](mailto:secretary@bacbr.org.uk)

Please also let me know if you no longer want to receive these updates.

Regards

Terry Brown

Honorary Secretary

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