

The Bedfordshire Association of Church Bell Ringers

Members Update February 2021

Dear Member,

At the start of another year, we find ourselves in a Covid-19 lockdown situation again and most ringing unable to go ahead. With vaccines now being rolled out we can begin to hope that life will return to some degree of normality but it's just too early to say how long it will be before we can get back to ringing for services and for pleasure. Please keep an eye out on the Association's website - www.bacbr.org.uk and Facebook page ([The Bedfordshire Association of Church Bell Ringers | Facebook](#)) for updates that come out from the Central Council and Church of England.

Ringling after Covid – Recovery Plan

It was agreed at the AGM (see more below) to have a membership engagement and ringing recovery project to help us keep in touch now, and once we can get back to a new post-covid normal. The plan is to make this Association wide, cross District and cross tower and will be for all Bedfordshire ringers, not just those who are members.

Linda Garton will lead a team of a few people from each District to take this forward and roll it out through District Secretaries and Tower Contacts.

The first thing will be to find out the current situation - how have towers managed over the last year to ring for services when it was allowed? What have bands been doing to keep in touch, for example by virtual ringing /socialising? How many ringers are likely not to return? What's needed to help struggling bands to get going again?

It's likely that some generally ringing related talks, and possibly other events, will be put on in the next few months using Zoom video conferencing. Watch out for more details. An initial virtual social event, a Zoom quiz - was held just before Christmas; about 30 members, friends and family joined in the fun with quiz master Linda Garton and Zoom master Simon Stranks.

A questionnaire will be on its way shortly. The results are important for the Association, individual towers, members and non-members alike. Please – if you can make completing the questionnaire a priority as soon as you get it that would really help.

If you have any questions or suggestions you can email the team at backtoringing@bacbr.org.uk

Honorary Secretary vacancy from May 2021

As I reported last year, I will be standing down as Honorary Secretary in May after 10 years in the post. We are looking for volunteers to take over some or all of this important role in the Association. The main responsibilities are: servicing the AGM and 2 General Committee meetings a year, producing the Annual Report, maintaining membership records, working closely with the webmaster on the website content and communicating with members. It would be possible to share these jobs out between two or more people with some as Non-Committee posts. I will be very happy to help anyone who would like to take on one or more of these jobs with a comprehensive hand over period.

Please consider if you can help and take the opportunity to put something back into the Association. Contact me secretary@bacbr.org.uk if you'd like to find out more.

2021 Annual District Meetings (ADM)

Biggleswade District - held their ADM by Zoom on Saturday 9 January. Elected District Officers are: Chairman - Sue Silver, Secretary - Nicky Hele (biggleswade@bacbr.org.uk), Ringing Master - Chris Williams and Membership Treasurer & BRF Treasurer - Clare Francis. Committee members: Terry Brown, Paul Chandler, Charlotte Francis, Henry Francis.

Bedford District - held their ADM by Zoom on Saturday 16 January. Elected District Officers are: Chairman - vacant, Secretary - Bob Jones (bedford@bacbr.org.uk), Ringing Master - vacant, Membership Treasurer - Jenny Thompson (bedfordtreasurer@bacbr.org.uk) and BRF Treasurer - Martin Goodwin. Committee member: Barbara Woplin.

Luton District - held their ADM by Zoom on Saturday 23 January at 6.00pm by Zoom. Elected District Officers are: Chairman - Richard Horne, Secretary - Angela Blackburn (luton@bacbr.org.uk) , Membership Treasurer - Chris Catlin (lutontreasurer@bacbr.org.uk), BRF Treasurer - Simon Stranks, Ringing Master - Alan Shepherd. Committee member: Barbara Fraser.

2020 Association AGM

It became inevitable that a face-to-face AGM wouldn't be possible because of Covid-19 restrictions. the 2020 AGM was finally held by Zoom on 28 November. 49 members took part which is comparable or more than recent AGM attendance.

We remembered the following:

From May 2019 – Jill Mayes, formally of Clifton, Ron Battams of Aspley Guise, Ann Desics of St Peters Bedford and Walter Jennings of Roxton.

From January to November 2020 – Stan and Sheila Ashton of Clifton, Prudence Moore of Biggleswade, Roy Webb of Stotfold and Alan Smith of Biggleswade.

The following Association Officers were elected:

President - Sue Silver

Vice-President - Pat Albon

Honorary Secretary - Terry Brown

Honorary Treasurer - Tim Blunt

Honorary Peal Secretary – Richard Horne

Honorary Librarian - Pat Albon

Independent Accounts Examiner - Trevor Groom

We agreed that the peal fee should increase to £1 and that the subscription for Non-resident Life Members (generally those elected prior to a peal attempt) be reduced to £0. We hope, that under more normal times, this will generate a bit more income for the Association Bell Restoration Fund and that more ringers from outside the area won't be put off by having to pay a membership subscription so that more peals will be rung for the Association.

2021 Subscriptions

We appreciate and thank you for your continued support as a member of the Association even though we've not been able to get together to ring much in the last year. Subscriptions are now due and 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

Biggleswade District - Clare Francis biggleswadetreasurer@bacbr.org.uk

Luton District - Chris Catlin 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

That's all for now - please let me know if you change your email address or if you don't want to receive these updates.

Regards

Terry Brown

Honorary Secretary

secretary@bacbr.org.uk 01462 361057 / 07932 627476