

The Bedfordshire Association of Church Bell Ringers Members Update May 2021

Dear Member,

There's lots to tell you about in this edition!

2020 Annual Reports

These are now printed and have been distributed over the last few weeks. If you haven't received yours yet please contact your District Secretary or me.

Annual General Meeting Saturday, 15 May 2021, 3.00pm

The 2021 AGM will be held by Zoom at 3pm on Saturday 15 May.

Please email secretary@bacbr.org.uk to register or send your apologies. Joining instructions and Zoom meeting link will be sent to you in due course. You'll be able to take part online or by landline phone.

The agenda and meeting documents are available at [AGM Current Information and Minutes Archive | Bedfordshire Association of Church Bell Ringers \(bacbr.org.uk\)](#)

Before the AGM Steve Stanford will host a 'Ringing Room' session with Zoom from 2.00-2.45pm. Please email as above if you would like to register for this – you will get a separate Zoom meeting link.

If you're not familiar with Ringing Room - it's an on-line program, somewhat similar to other computer ringing programs, such as Abel and Bell-Tower, which enables up to 12 people to 'ring' together from remote locations. It can be a little tricky if there are time delays, but it's quite challenging and good fun! If you want to find out how it works and, maybe, attempt some ringing, you'll need to set up a personal Ringing Room account beforehand at www.ringingroom.com/authenticate (You will need to enter a personal user id (your email address) and create a password to set up your account.)

You run Ringing Room and the Zoom meeting together to join in the ringing. It's fairly straightforward to do and free to use. Further details will be sent when you sign up for this session. If you have any problems setting up an account, or would like a trial run, please phone or email Steve Stanford (01234 856778 steve.h.stanford@gmail.com)

In the meantime, have a look at this [Ringing Room](#) which explains more and has a You Tube video which was shown on BBC News!

Honorary Secretary vacancy from May 2021

As I reported in February, I will be standing down as Honorary Secretary at the AGM 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: ex officio administrator of the Association Bell Restoration and R J Sharp Fund Committees, 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 several 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 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 or your tower haven't paid 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

Latest Central Council Covid and Ringing Guidance

The Central Council has published some guidance about ringing between 17 May and 21 June. It's only draft because a lot will depend on what the Government actually says nearer the time.

The guidance is here [Guidance 17 May to 21 June – CCCBR](#)

Ringing Recovery Project

• Workshop 1 – We've done the survey – now what?

Over 25 people participated in a very successful Workshop on Saturday 17 April to look at the information gathered from the, equally successful, Bedfordshire tower survey. The survey summary and workshop output are now on the website:

- Tower survey - [Results-of-BACBR-Ringing-Recovery-Survey-FINAL-VERSION.pdf](#)
- Workshop output - <https://www.bacbr.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Summary-of-Workshop-1-Weve-done-a-survey-What-next.pdf>

We looked at the Central Council / Ringing Teachers toolkit which has a wealth of interesting and useful material to help us <http://ringingteachers.org/survival-and-recovery-toolbox>

The discussion feedback will be used in the second workshop being held on 8 May. If you're quick there's still time to sign up - [Ringing Recovery Workshop 2: Looking to the Future Tickets, Sat 8 May 2021 at 10:00 | Eventbrite](#)

• Central Council and Association of Ringing Teachers 'Survival & Recovery' newsletter 5

This newsletter has some useful links to a series of helpful presentations about returning to ringing beginning on 8 May. See more here [Survival-Recovery-Newsheet-Issue-5.pdf \(cccbr.org.uk\)](#)

• Central Council – Planning for a successful return to ringing.

Hot off the press - the Central Council has just published a very helpful document on how to plan a successful return to ringing which has sections titled: taking stock, getting ready for ringing, ringing together – a successful return, the recovery – back to some sort of normal, the recovery – coming back better. The document is on our website here [Planning-for-Recovery-final.pdf \(bacbr.org.uk\)](#)

Chris Pickford's talk on Bedfordshire Belfries

Chris Pickford's Zoom talk on Bedfordshire Belfries given on April 22 was very entertaining – if you missed it, or want to watch again, it was recorded and is on Youtube here [Exploring Bedfordshire belfries with CJP 21 April 2021 – YouTube](#)

Commemorative ringing for the Duke of Edinburgh and Captain Sir Tom Moore

Thank you to every tower and ringer who, at relatively short notice, arranged to toll bells to commemorate the deaths of the Duke of Edinburgh last month and Captain Sir Tom Moore in February.

Guidance about ringing for the Duke of Edinburgh came from The Cabinet Office, the Church of England and the Central Council for Church Bell Ringers and involved half-muffled tolling or chiming a single bell on Saturday 10th April 2021 at 12 noon, 99 times or up to 5 minutes and half muffled Sunday Service ringing during the 8 days of official mourning.

It was the Bishop of Bedford who asked for Bedfordshire ringers to toll a single bell 100 times on the day of Captain Sir Tom Moore's funeral. There was an amazing response to this. At least 77 Bedfordshire towers were able to make this simple gesture to his memory. The Bedfordshire details were published in The Ringing World and on 'Bell Board' at <https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/event.php?id=13552>

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

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