

The Bedfordshire Association of Church Bell Ringers Members Update June 2021

Dear Member,

Ringling Recovery Project Update

Linda Garton gave an update on the Association's back to ringing project at the recent AGM (see more below about the AGM).

In the context of the Government's road map out of lockdown and Central Council's guidelines, she recommended the Association of Ringing Teachers (ART) 'ringing recovery' toolbox as a really useful source of good information for getting back to ringing.

[Association of Ringing Teachers :: Survival and Recovery Toolbox](#)

It's available to everyone, whether involved with, or a fan of, ART or not! The BACBR Website has been signposting to ART and Central Council resources, notably the 'Planning for Recovery' document https://ringingteachers.org/download_file/view/2082/1490 – a checklist of things to consider with hotlinks to existing resources.

Two well attended and successful workshops have been held with Association members following the survey sent to 80 towers back in March. The survey was completed by 63 towers giving an amazing 79% response rate! The survey was given a promotional boost the Bishop of Bedford who asked clergy to support the initiative with their ringers.

Workshop attendees:

- Identified the main issues and concerns arising from the survey.
- Prioritised these issues and concerns as short, medium or long term.
- Came up with lots of ideas to help resolve these issues.
- Defined a 'vision for the future' of what we'd like ringing in Bedfordshire to look like in 10 years' time.
- Helped to formulate an action plan of the most worthwhile ideas, over the short, medium and long term in 5 main categories:
 - Getting back to ringing post Covid – see link to the Action Plan for this below.
 - Retain existing ringers
 - Increase the number of ringers
 - Encourage greater cooperation (between ringers, towers, Districts Associations and the Church
 - Improve communications

The first 2 categories start from now to the end of the year and carry on into 2022.

Linda is asking everyone to get involved and help to take this initiative forward.

Further project news – The 'Getting Back to Ringing Post Covid Action Plan is now on the website here: [BACBR-Back-to-Ringing-Action-Plan-DRAFT-OBJECTIVE-1-1.pdf](#)

There are two important things to draw your attention to in this document:

EVENT - Ringing Refresher Session, Saturday 3rd July, 9.30am to 1.30pm at All Saints Campton

If you haven't rung a bell for ages or are feeling a bit nervous about coming back to ringing then you can sign up for session to refresh your ringing skills and rebuild your confidence, one to one, with a friendly, helpful experienced tutor before ringing with others.

This will be at **All Saints Church, Campton SG17 5BN** on **Saturday 3 July**

You can book a **30-minute session** available between **09:30 – 13:00**

The event is on a first come first served basis and open to all Bedfordshire ringers!

Please book your Ringing Refresher session on Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ringing-refresher-sessions-tickets-158224538855>

If you would like a refresher session but can't make this date, please email Linda on backtoringing@bacbr.org.uk to register your interest, and we will investigate whether it's possible to offer additional sessions on a different date or at a different venue.

Download a flyer here [BACBR Refresher Sessions 3rd July 2021](#)

INFORMATION – we've produced an information note on producing a Covid risk assessment and procedure for a return to ringing which, along with the existing Central Council guidance, you might find useful is found here

[Latest Guidance | Bedfordshire Association of Church Bell Ringers \(bacbr.org.uk\)](#)

2021 AGM News

39 members attended the 2021 AGM held on 15 May by Zoom.

We remembered the following who had died since the November AGM:

Heather Waters – former member Arlesey, Nov 2020 (obituary in 2020 annual report)

Marion Ridgway – former member Oakley, Dec 2020 (obituary in 2020 annual report)

Martin Heaslip – member Oakley, April 2021

Peter Culverwell – former member Biddenham, May 2021

We had change of President and Vice President but were unable to fill the Honorary Secretary role following my standing down. The following were elected:

Office	Name	Contact email address
President	Linda Garton	president@bacbr.org.uk
Vice President	Sue Silver	vicepresident@bacbr.org.uk
Honorary Secretary	Vacant	secretary@bacbr.org.uk
Honorary Treasurer	Tim Blunt	treasurer@bacbr.org.uk
Honorary Peal Secretary	Richard Horne	pealsecretary@bacbr.org.uk
Honorary Librarian	Pat Albon	librarian@bacbr.org.uk
Hon. Independent Examiner	Trevor Groom	examiner@bacbr.org.uk
BRF Committee Chair	Stephen Stanford	brfchair@bacbr.org.uk

We elected two new members – Susan Ashman and Chris Jones, both from Eversholt. Welcome both!

There were a few corrections to the 2020 Annual Report noted:

- Page 10 Independent Examiners Report - should be dated 2021 not 2020.
- Page 12 – Bedford District BRF made two grants 2020 £5000 to Kempston for the restoration project and £345 to Goldington towards the cost of new ropes.
- Page 26 and 28 – Michael Buckingham and Alan Davies are actually members of Westoning tower not Flitwick.
- Page 44 Points from the peals – John Loveless rang 5 not 4 peals.

It's unlikely that the St Peters Cup inter District striking competition will go ahead this year. But hold the date – Saturday 18 September - because we're hoping to arrange some sort of event probably as a social occasion and maybe with an open striking competition – people just turn up and teams are sorted on the day.

Similarly, for the young ringers, it looks like we don't have enough 'age eligible' ringers to enter a team for the Ringing World National Youth Competition, still scheduled to go ahead at Worcester on 11 September. The Association's Melville Cup won't take place this year but the focus will be on rebuilding and consolidating the young ringers across the county.

Stephen Stanford reported that, hopefully, preliminary planning for two potential restoration projects may start soon – at Bedford St Pauls and at Marston Mortaine.

And finally

I'm still holding a few Hon. Secretary reins but Philippa Whittington has agreed to take on membership admin, we're working on that now, and I will carry on with some website content work.

Linda or I would be really pleased to hear from anyone who can help with the basic Association secretarial support or Annual Report production. I will give comprehensive hand over support to whoever volunteers.

As ever, please pass a copy of, or forward, this Update on to those you know who aren't on email or haven't given permission for us to use their email address. The more email addresses we can use the more effective our communications can be with members. Please help by advising any email address changes promptly.

Regards

Terry Brown

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