

ESSEX ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS
SOUTHERN DISTRICT NEWSLETTER
July / August / September / October 2020



No 163

OFFICERS 2020

Master—Trevor Church

Leigh-on-Sea

Phone: 0792 058 0574

s-district-master@eacr.org.uk

Deputy Master—Steve Nash

Fobbing and Langdon Hills

Tel: 01268 490061

s-district-deputymaster@eacr.org.uk

Secretary—Beth Johnson

Shenfield

07796691520

s-district-secretary@eacr.org.uk

Treasurer—Anne Porter

Prittlewell

01702 582881

s-district-treasurer@eacr.org.uk

Education Officers—Andrew and

Clare Beech

North Ockendon

Clare 07814 583743 Andrew 07957 384764

s-district-education@eacr.org.uk

Public Relations Officer—Theo Johnson

Prittlewell

s-district-pro@eacr.org.uk

Newsletter Editor—Paul Cammiade

Downham

s-district-newsletter@eacr.org.uk

Bell Grants Committee Rep—Steve Nash

As Above



Cessation of ringing in some parts of Essex

Many of you will have already seen the updated CCCBR guidance on ringing, either through an email from our General Secretary, or directly from the Central Council.

In line with UK Government and Church of England guidance, ringing should cease in any area that is under a Tier 2 or 3 restriction. The Essex Association has undertaken to mirror the advice from the Central Council.

The government and church's guidance also includes travel. People living in a tier 2 or 3 area take their level of risk with them when they travel, and so should not travel and gather indoors in Tier 1 areas. In simple terms, the legislation states that we should not travel from a high or very high risk area (Tiers 2 or 3) to a medium risk (Tier 1) area to gather, and sadly this includes ringing. This is relevant in some parts of the Essex Association, where Southend and Thurrock are still at a moderate (Tier 1) risk level, and ringing may continue. It's also relevant to ringers in our western districts, some of whom travel frequently to Herts towers.

Andrew Kelso, Association Master 17/10/2020

THANK YOU FROM NIGEL

I would like to thank the Southern District for very kindly providing me with a very generous cheque. The number 10000, 4-6-4 'Hush-Hush' is not due out for another two or three months, but I shall use the gift to purchase the loco for my model railway!

I thoroughly enjoyed my five years as master, and would have continued if it were not for our plans to move away from Essex.

I would also like to thank everyone who provided me with support and assistance during my tenure.

For your Diary:

20th October—District Quiz 19:30 on-line with Zoom

28th October—Virtual Tower Captains Meeting 19:30

8th November—Remembrance Sunday Ringing

17th November—District Quiz 19:30 on-line with Zoom

28th November—Association Training Day

12th December—Carol Service Rettendon, restrictions permitting.—Please check.

15th December—District Quiz 19:30 on-line with Zoom

2021

Lets hope the news gets better!!

Bring back Westminster Abbey's bells

It took me several weeks, after returning to the *Spectator* office, to work out what was missing. It wasn't the people — though Westminster is a zombie town these days, and even Pret A Manger, once hectic as a trading floor, is calm. I like the calm. What's missing, I realised as I walked past Westminster Abbey, is the bells.

If you're anywhere near the Abbey when the bells start up, it's like being caught out in a monsoon. It's overwhelming and joyful. You can't speak. You can't think. There's nothing for it but to stop and gawp up like a guppy at feeding time. The bells have been silent since March, since the Church of England abandoned its churches, and it's strange how claustrophobic it feels without them.

Half a mile away, over the river in Lambeth Palace, sits our tortured Archbishop of Canterbury. A fortnight ago he suggested that we were all suffering from 'a sort of national PTSD' brought on by uncertainty. Well then, here's a suggestion for the Archbishop. Instead of depressing the country by diagnosing it as nuts, why not cheer it up? Instead of agonising over which statues to rip out of which churches, why not encourage the bells to ring? Especially the Abbey bells. Every cathedral and church with willing ringers and a decent belfry should be given some special archbishop's award for cracking on despite the virus. I can't think of a better remedy for national PTSD.

I'm not for a minute suggesting any ringers risk their lives. I'm a Covid-believer and I think it was reasonable to be cautious back in March. But the C of E, not known for laughing in the face of risk assessment, has said that it 'would be good to get ringing going'. Ringing has been allowed since July and there are careful guidelines in place — social distancing and masks.

More to the point, churches around the country have started up again: St Michael's Church in Bishop's Stortford, Otley Parish Church, St John the Baptist in Beeston... some have moved ringers on to different levels so they can be distanced, Nantwich has inserted timber struts between the walls to allow a rope to be drawn into a new position, Holy Trinity Church in Stratford-upon-Avon has started using an apparatus called an Ellacombe which allows all the bells to be rung by just one man. St Paul's Cathedral is ringing, so why not Canterbury Cathedral, the Mother Church of the worldwide Anglican Communion? Why not Westminster Abbey, which should be marking feast days and royal birthdays, helping order the awful sprawl of Covid life? There are families of ringers rising to the challenge, I've heard, because people in the same bubble can ring adjacent bells; there are even ringers who can handle two ropes at a time — surely now is their moment.

Everything about bellringing is an antidote to terrible 2020. It's not done these days to be patriotic or feel proud of British history, but you'd have to have the spirit of a slug not to admire our way with bells. For 5,000 years or so humans rung hand bells or swung them through an arc. Then sometime in the 1600s a Brit thought to invent a way of turning bells in a full circle, leaving the bell balanced upside down. This meant precision ringing was possible, and that bells could be rung in a sequence, and that this sequence could be changed — hence ringing the changes, and the strange mathematical tumbling peal that's the soundtrack of English life.

The rules that generate the different changes are called 'methods', and even reading the list of methods is soothing: Black Cat Delight Royal, Grandsire Caters, Chartres Delight Royal, Percy's Tea Strainer Treble Place Major... there are special methods rung for feast days and royal birthdays, except not this year. Westminster Abbey was silent for the Queen's birthday, though York Minster rang for the death of Gerald, its cat.

Back in 2016 I was invited to visit a bell tower. One dark wet night, about this time of year, I knocked at the door of St Vedast opposite St Paul's Cathedral. My notes from the time say it was like a straight replay of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. The door creaked open and a gaunt, strange-looking man said: 'Hello. You're wet. I think you'd better... come inside.' Up we went to the ringing chamber where I discovered that the inner workings of a ring of bells is just as eerie and impressive as its sound. Because the bells are in a separate chamber above, what you see when you enter the ringing room is simply a circle of men and women facing each other, staring intently as if attempting telepathy, counting, feeling their way into the changes. I remember how the fluffy 'sallies' shot up, wriggling through the holes in the ceiling, and how addictive it is to handle a bell: the great weight, the precarious balance. It's strange the way your mind starts communing with a ton of metal hanging unseen in the dark above, and it's odd how proprietorial I felt, as if I had charge of a living thing.

Among themselves, ringers refer to their art as 'The Exercise'. How excellent is that? Recently, Catherine Pepinster at the Telegraph urged young people to keep the art alive. I would have thought it was a natural choice for the Harry Potter generation.

Ringers who've begun ringing again, in a limited way, have talked about how joyful they feel to be back in the belfry. Even though the masks are suffocating, even though the bells can only ring in 15-minute bursts, it feels important to them to do it. Jane Deadman, head bellringer at Chichester Cathedral, says: 'We won't be able to ring all eight bells, it won't be all the ringers, but it will be enough for ringing to be part of the cathedral services, and to remind people which day is Sunday.'

Will Westminster Abbey ring for All Souls Day? Will it ring for Remembrance Day? This year, of all years, we need the bells back.

Reprinted with kind permission of The Spectator and author Mary Wakefield from the issue 10th October 2020

Southern District Virtual Quizzes

We have now held five district quiz evenings via Zoom, with a sixth a few days away (as at the time of writing). As the quiz master I have tried to give a wide variety of questions, from identifying district towers through to questions about space, sport, art, geography and science. Over 30 teams have taken part, varying from individuals in their sitting rooms to families and small groups of friends in accordance with local social distancing guidelines. To spice things up a bit, we have created a league where points are awarded to the top ten from each quiz; prizes will be awarded next time we are able to meet in person! There is a second competition where teams compete to have the most interesting Zoom background! For the December quiz, I intend to make it as light-hearted as possible with lots of Christmas related questions.

The current leader board is:

Name	Total Points
Leigh clangers (Trevor Church, Anthony Neale, Bernard Arscott)	38
Chris Bailey	33
Julia & Nigel Taylor	28
Adele, Mark, John and Sarah Robbins	26
Paul Cammiade	22
Sarah Chin-A-Loy	20
Clare, Andrew, Sam and Will Beech	18
Carol Adams & Steve Ashley	18
Liz Atkins & Wendy Olley	10
Gail Farrow	9

John Harpole

From the District PRO

Hello all,

I am pretty sure all of us have been missing ringing a lot, although some of us have been taking part in a Ringing Room Zoom call but it's just not the same!

There have been a few quiz games on the Facebook group, notably the 'Name that Tower' which kept us all on our toes!

More recently the Central Council have given the go ahead for small numbers to return to ringing which felt strange the first time, and I must admit I did get a few blisters on my hands! Hopefully many of you have been able to take advantage and that it's not too long before we can start properly again.

Theo

Get Well Soon



Many of you will know that Alison Nash was in hospital over the summer for a long awaited back operation. What you may not know is that while recovering at home on the 1st October she had fall and broke her hip resulting in another stay in hospital. She is now at home and I am sure that everyone would like to wish her a speedy recovery and return to full working order and much better luck for the future.

Also best wishes for a speedy recovery to Sylvia Martin, from Hutton, who has now had her hip replacement after many months of painful waiting.

Notable Events

Ringing Room

Thorrington, Wickford, Great Hockham & Goldhanger

Tuesday, 6 October 2020

1296 Plain Bob Major

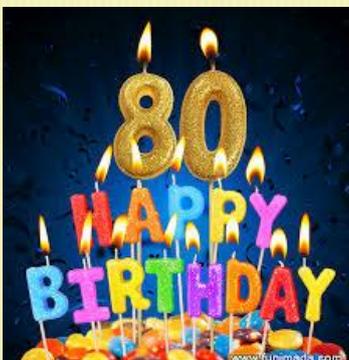
1-2 David L Sparling

3-4 Paul A Cammiade

5-6 Simon A Rudd (C)

7-8 Andrew R C Kelso

80th Birthday compliment to Ann Dorking, member of the Downham band.



Duplicate Annual Reports

David Sloman has a large number of Old Annual Reports from around the country that he would like to find a new home for. See list below. If you are interested, please contact the Newsletter Editor and I will put you in touch.

Bath & Wells	1964	Gloucester & Bristol	1988	Middlesex	1965	Suffolk	1976
Bath & Wells	1968	Gloucester & Bristol	1994	Middlesex	1977-8	Suffolk	1977
Bath & Wells	1989	Gloucester & Bristol	1996	Middlesex	1992-3	Suffolk	1978
Bath & Wells	1995	Gloucester & Bristol	1999	Middlesex	2003-4	Suffolk	1979
Bath & Wells	1997	Gloucester & Bristol	2001	Midland Counties	1992	Suffolk	1980
Bath & Wells	2004	Gloucester & Bristol	2016	North Staffordshire	2001	Suffolk	1981
Bath & Wells	2005	Guildford	1975	Norwich	1980	Suffolk	1982
Bath & Wells	2006	Guildford	2007	Norwich	1984	Suffolk	1990
Bedfordshire	1997	Hereford	1977	Norwich	1986	Suffolk	2006
Beverley	1978	Hereford	1999	Norwich	1989	Surrey	1963
Beverley	1988	Hereford	2003	Norwich	2000	Surrey	2008
Chester	1984	Hertford	1986	Norwich	2006	Sussex	1985
Chester	1987	Kent	1974	Oxford	1972	Sussex	2000
Chester	2007	Kent	1976	Oxford	1983	Swansea & Brecon	1994
Coventry	1999	Kent	2000	Oxford	1994	Swansea & Brecon	1995
Coventry	2002	Kent	2002	Peterborough	1989	Swansea & Brecon	2006
Coventry	2007	Lancashire	1980	Peterborough	1996	Truro	1970
Derby	1992	Lancashire	1987	Peterborough	1998	Truro	1978
Derby	2002	Lancashire	2001	Peterborough	2000	Truro	1998
Devonshire	1992	Lancashire	2006	Peterborough	2004	Winchester	1976
Durham	1998	Leicester	1967-8	Salisbury	1981	Winchester	1979
Durham	2006	Leicester	1991	Salisbury	1991	Winchester	1984
Durham	2007	Leicester	1992	Salisbury	1994	Winchester	1991
Ely	1987	Leicester	2004	Salisbury	2004	Winchester	1995
Ely	1996	Lincoln	1988	Shropshire	1999	Worcestershire	1989
Gloucester & Bristol	1963	Llandaff & Monmouth	2005	Shropshire	2004	Yorkshire	1988
Gloucester & Bristol	1966	London County	1977	Southwell	1988	Yorkshire	1994
Gloucester & Bristol	1969	London County	1983	Southwell	1977	Yorkshire	2003
Gloucester & Bristol	1976	London County	1985	Southwell	2003	Yorkshire	2004
Gloucester & Bristol	1977	London County	1987	Suffolk	1958	Yorkshire	2017
Gloucester & Bristol	1978	London County	1989-90	Suffolk	1959		
Gloucester & Bristol	1987	London County	1991-2	Suffolk	1975		

EACR Management Committee Report - 3 October 2020

The usual October Management Meeting was held on 3 October 2020 via Zoom Video Conferencing Software, due the COVID 19 Pandemic.

Saxilby Simulator Competition - a Saxilby Simulator has been donated to the EACR, a competition was launched earlier in the year to find a suitable home. There were five entries and the results will be announced at the end of October.

An Extra-ordinary Management Meeting was held via Zoom on 11 July to discuss the re-scheduling of the Annual General Meeting which was postponed in May.

A successful AGM was held on 11 September 2020, covering all the usual items of business except the motions. Beth Johnson being elected as our Education Officer.

As there have been so few Association events, the District Rota for 2020, will be repeated for 2021. For 2021, the usual set of dates are planned, with the exception of the Association Striking Competition Finals, which are being moved back to the original date of the 1st Saturday in July, as the RWNYC is being held on the 2nd Saturday next year.

The possibility of having an Association Zoom account, that could be used by the districts and Association is being investigated. Currently, we are relying on some members to host the meetings using their own personal paid accounts.

There are no plans to change subscriptions for 2021.

It was decided that the three motions that were originally submitted for the 2020 AGM will be resubmitted for next year, with a few slight amendments in light of comments received.

The Master is obtaining some quotations for the renovation of the Association handbells.

Essex Course 2021, a decision will be made by mid-November as to whether it will go ahead next year.

Bell Restoration Grants awarded :

- Bishops Stortford - £11,500 the current ten bells are undergoing a rehang and recasting of the front three bells.
- West Hanningfield - £4,600 - the existing four bells are being rehung with new fittings.

Association Training Day 28 November 2020 - details have been circulated by Beth.

Essex Young Ringers - the previous budget for this year is being carried forward to next year.

Officers for 2021, all are standing again with the exception of the Social Committee Convenor, Andrew Brewster is standing down. We are looking for a replacement to take on this role of organising the Annual Dinner and the catering at the Essex Course.

Life Members - next year marks 50 years membership for Renee and Robin Page-Jones of Hutton, they were both elected on 20-Nov-1971, congratulations for next year!

Nominations for Life Membership must be with the Association Secretary by 1 December 2020.

Nigel Taylor will be standing down as our Technical Advisor next year, we are looking for replacement who would be able to work with Nigel before he moves away from Essex.

Steve Nash -19 October 2020

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS
SOUTHERN DISTRICT**

**District Meeting via Zoom
Saturday 26th September 2020**

Minutes

1. Welcome

Trevor Church welcomed all those who were attending the virtual meeting and asked that standing orders be followed. He thanked everyone for making the brave move onto Zoom and Ringing Room, and for those keeping in touch with their bands via WhatsApp and similar groups. And all the incumbents who have worked with ringers to enable us to get ringing again.

A particular thanks was extended to John Harpole for running the monthly District quiz nights.

2. Apologies for absence

Attached, along with attendance. 29 members attended plus one visitor.

3. Commemoration of members who have died

Peter Nicol, of Canewdon and John Green, ex tower captain at Stanford-le-Hope both died in August.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Annual District meeting held at Thorpe Bay on 18th January 2020 were published in the District newsletter and emailed to those on the Secretary's email list. One spelling error was pointed out but as there were no other amendments they will be signed as a true copy.

5. Matters Arising

Election of EACR Trustee to represent our District was deferred until next year.

6. Correspondence

An email was read from David Roberts from South Benfleet saying he could not manage the IT required for a virtual meeting but sending his best wishes and letting the meeting know all is well at Benfleet.

7. Church donations for meetings and expenses for teas

Several speakers were in favour of encouraging tea makers to claim their expenses in order that this became the norm. Also that churches should be given a donation of £20 for hosting any District event, or their requested amount, whichever is the greater. It was noted that significant profits made from tea had been reported over recently years whereas the tea money was intended to cover costs not create a profit. If people wanted to make a donation it would be more efficient to do this separately and gift aid it.

There were no dissenting voices in regard to the above.

Steve Halliwell, Thorpe Bay, recorded that a donation for the use of the hall had been made in relation to the ADM in January.

8. Election of New Members

There were no new members to be elected.

9. Future Events

Tower captains' meeting

Following the questionnaire circulated earlier in the year, there will be a virtual meeting of tower captains on Wednesday 28th October 7.30pm

Quiz dates

There are three more quiz dates in 2020: 20th October, 17th November and 15th December. The 15th December will be a special Christmas quiz.

November EACR Training day

The training day is going ahead on 28th November as planned, with a mixture of Zoom/Ringing Room courses aimed at different abilities, hand bell sessions and two talks. Details and opportunities for place applications will be available on 7th October.

Carol Service

Please keep the date of 12th December in your diaries. The Carol Service is due to be held at Rettendon and the Vicar has indicated he is keen to hold some sort of Christmas event depending on what the Covid-19 restrictions are at the time.

District ramble

Clare Beech offered to organise a District ramble (country walk) in the near future, probably on a Sunday, bearing in mind the rule of six. Barbara Leigh offered to lead a group.

10. Any Other Business

Barbara Leigh raised the point that although some District towers (ten of the 26) are now ringing for Sunday services this does mean that some members may not

be able to ring at their home towers and it would be good to set up an arrangement whereby those ringers can support towers that are ringing. This could be done via the FaceBook page.

David Sloman offered congratulations to Theo Johnson whose photo is on the FC of The Ringing World this week, the congratulations were echoed by the meeting.

A virtual thank you card was presented to Nigel Taylor for his time as District master and a cheque will be in the post to him. Steve Nash spoke of Nigel's unbounded enthusiasm and incredible knowledge of all things connected with bells.

The meeting closed at 8pm.

The Essex Association AGM

The Essex Association AGM took place via Zoom on the 12th September 2020. The usual AGM format was followed but due the difficulty of holding detailed discussions, the rule changes were deferred until another time. Association Officers were elected as follows:

Master	Andrew Kelso
Secretary	Sharon Lacey
Treasurer	Andrew Brewster
Education Officer	Beth Johnson
Public Relations Officer	Vicki Chapman
Technical Adviser	Nigel Taylor
Property Trustees (3)	Mary Bone, Colin Chapman, Andrew Taylor
Independent Examiners	Neil Avis, George Thoday
Central Council Reps (5)	Fred Bone, Paul Bray, Helen Bridgman, Paul Cammiade, Vicki Chapman

Central Council Representative

There is a vacancy for an Essex Association Central Council Representative following the retirement of Paul Cammiade after this years session and we will be electing one new representative next year. There is a good document from the Central Council at the end of this Newsletter explaining what being a representative means. Have a think about it, it could be you!

There are also two other documents, one about volunteering with the Central Council and the other asks "What is the point of the Central Council?"

Zoom and Ringing Room courses



Basics with a Difference - Tutor Jane Walters

If you have only recently started ringing, maybe just able to ring call changes, then join this course to have some fun with place making and dodging. Jane is tower captain at Waltham Abbey and an ART teacher. She regularly uses a variety of exercises with her learners and this course will focus on Kaleidoscope ringing, Mexican Wave, Big Change - Little Change and more.

The course will comprise of two sessions, part theory part practice with Zoom and Ringing Room. The morning session - 9.30 -10.15am and the afternoon session - 2.30 - 3.30pm

How to learn a method - Tutor Chris McCarthy

Are you ready to venture inside to method ringing? To get the most from this course you will be confident to plain hunt on at least five bells. Chris rings at Saffron Walden and is an ART teacher; he will explain how methods work and avoid rounds coming up at the end of just one lead. Taking one method as an example, you'll have a practice session to get ringing inside straight away.

*Morning theory session via Zoom - get to know your tutor and other students - 10.30 -11.15am
Afternoon - get started on your method ringing with Zoom and Ringing Room - 3.40 - 4.45pm*

Step up to Surprise - Tutor John Harpole

The aim of this course is to give students with little or no prior experience, the opportunity to learn and practise Cambridge Surprise Minor using the online Ringing Room facility. John is an ART teacher and has taught Cambridge on the Essex Ringing Course. The course will run over two weeks, with a theory session covering the method structure, tips on how to learn Cambridge and how to use Ringing Room the weekend before Training Day, and then the opportunity to practise the method with some experienced Cambridge ringers on Training Day itself. Students will need to spend some time studying the method after the first theory session, should already be able to ring methods beyond Plain Bob such as Kent Treble Bob or Stedman and will need to be confident in Ringing Room and Zoom.

*Theory session via Zoom during weekend of 21st November (time to be confirmed), get to know your tutor and other students
Morning refresher session via Zoom - 11.30 -12.15am
Afternoon practice session on Zoom and Ringing Room - 3.30 - 4.45pm*

Handbell sessions

Paul Cammiade, a long-standing handbell ringer and teacher, and handbell peal ringer will be coordinating and tutoring on these sessions. There are two sessions, one for beginners and one for those who have started ringing handbells and now want some further tuition so they can ring more minor methods. The sessions will be run at locations that can host groups of six with social distancing and the locations will be either Writtle or Coggeshall. Of course, these sessions might be cancelled at any time if local lockdowns are announced.

Session 1 Beginners 10am to 12.30pm - 8 places available (if full please register on wait list)

Session 2 Method ringing 2pm to 4.30pm - 8 places available (if full please register on wait list)

A fee of £5 will be charged for these sessions (collected on the day).



All about ART by David Sparling

This talk by David Sparling will explain the background to the foundation of the Association of Ringing Teachers (ART), how their various courses are run and what they cover, and details of the teaching scheme Learning the Ropes. Find out about all their resources and workshops, open to all ringers. Make this your start to your ART adventure, whether you are a learner or a teacher. *Via Zoom 12.45pm to 2pm. Booking will open on November 1st for this talk.*

Simon Linford talks about....

We are delighted that Simon Linford, President of the Central Council, has agreed to talk to the Essex members on their Training Day. Simon will mainly explain how the Birmingham School of Bell Ringers, of which he is a founder and where he still teaches, came into being, what it has achieved, and whether the model can be replicated elsewhere.

Via Zoom 6.30 to 7.30pm. Booking will open on November 1st for this talk.

Essex Young Ringers Practice

There will be a practice via Zoom and Ringing Room for all ringers under 25 years old. Click on the link below to register. The ringing will be run by one of the current young eagles, and it's a chance to get back in touch with the Essex band.

5.00 to 6.00pm. Look out for the opportunity to register on 1st November.

Beth Johnson EACR Education Officer

Email: education@eacr.org.uk

Phone: 07796691520



What does being a Central Council of Church Bell Ringers Representative for my Association mean?

The Council would encourage all Society Representatives to help promote the work of the Council to their Society and membership, including providing updates on the work of the Workgroups, services and products that the Council offers and to, where practicable, actively participate in Workgroups to help support the Council's, and by extension the Societies', aims.

The Central Council currently has 65 affiliated Societies who can look to the Council for guidance and support, and it aims to provide that support and encourage ringing by:

- helping to find alternative long-term sources of recruits who have the potential to be good ringers;
- ensuring no ringer should hit a barrier to their own progression;
- promoting the pursuit of excellence in everything we do;
- ensuring that the sound of church bells remains part of our cultural soundscape and is appreciated and understood;
- recognising that the pursuit of method ringing is not the only measure of success for a ringer; and
- ensuring that the Church continues to value our contribution.

There are three main requirements to being a Central Council Representative for your Society:

- holding the Council's Executive to account;
- assisting with the work of the Council if appropriate; and
- promoting the Council and its work

Holding the Council's Executive to account

The number of representatives a Society can have depends on the number of members that Society has and by attending the Council's annual meeting can hold the Council's Executive and Workgroups to account by being assured that the Council Strategy being followed by the Executive on behalf of the Council is adequate.

While the Society Representatives may not be involved in every piece of fine detail of the Strategy, they do need to be content that the Council is heading in the right direction. The annual meeting is the time when Society Representatives have the opportunity to quiz the Executive and Workgroup leads on progress.

Continual, two-way dialogue throughout the year is encouraged.

Assisting with the work of the Council

Affiliated Societies are able to access that knowledge, expertise and assistance to disseminate those aims at a more local level by having a network of people who can be called upon for advice, and a central body can manage that and share that expertise widely, plugging gaps in local knowledge. If you have an interest or specific knowledge that the Council would benefit from, joining a Workgroup is a great way to share that.

Promoting the Council and its work

The Society only benefits if its Representatives find out what is going on, report back to the members they represent, and take the opportunity to raise questions either from themselves or on behalf of their members. Pulling together is likely to be more effective than territorial societies doing their own thing, good ideas can be shared, and cross border initiatives developed to recognise ringers' mobility and willingness to travel to learn.



Volunteering with the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers

The many benefits of volunteering have been well documented. It can help you make friends, learn new skills, advance your university application or career, and even help you feel happier and healthier by connecting you with others and your community. For some it enables them to bring their skills and experience to the service of the wider ringing community, whilst for others it enables them to branch out and use skills which may have been under-employed in their working life. With busy lives, it can be difficult to find time to volunteer; however the benefits can be enormous, providing vital support to a worthwhile cause and helping others.

As a charity and central body for ringing, both in the UK and overseas, the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers (the "Council") depends almost wholly on the generosity of its volunteers, who give their time to support its work.

The wide range of the Council's activities mean that volunteering can be very diverse and satisfying. The Council's work covers many areas including engineering, education, publicity and promotion, library services, the media, historical research, event management and the technical development of ringing.

As the Council has no direct membership, its volunteers come from the representatives and members of its constituent societies, existing ringers and indeed from those with no ringing background who would like to do their bit to promote a healthy future for ringing.

This short Q&A document explains how you can contribute to the Council's work and what you can expect as a volunteer and how you can get involved if you are able to.

Do I need to belong to a ringing society to volunteer?

No. While most Council volunteers already belong to a ringing guild or society, this is not a requirement and the Council welcomes volunteers who are not themselves ringers, but who share the Council's objects.

Are Council Members discouraged from volunteering?

No. Quite the opposite. Council members are generally the representatives of the Council's constituent guilds and societies and they contribute a considerable amount of time and effort to support the Council's work. All Council members are able to volunteer and they are positively encouraged to do so.

How is the Council's work organised?

The Council's operates through its Workgroups and Stewards, with support and oversight provided by its Trustees. Workgroups are formed of teams of volunteers, each led by a Workgroup Leader and each leading an area of the Council's work. Stewards are either individuals or smaller teams who have the care of the Council's key assets, such as its library and historical artefacts.

The current Council workgroups are:

Workgroup	Area of work	Contact
Volunteer & Leadership	Mobilises bell ringers to develop the teams, knowledge, resources and skills to enable ringing to flourish, including through technical and leadership training.	Tim Hine vllead@cccbr.org.uk
Historical and Archive	Develops and promotes the Council's comprehensive historical resources.	Chris Ridley halead@cccbr.org.uk
Communications & Marketing	Co-ordinates communications and marketing activity, promoting public appreciation of bell ringing, supporting recruitment, and overseeing the Council's communications.	Louise Nightingale cmlead@cccbr.org.uk
Stewardship & Management	Supports ringers, the owners of bells, and other interested parties in all matters relating to the care of bells, ringers and those who visit bell towers. This includes offering publications and advice services on a range of areas including safety, governance, funding and engineering.	Alison Hodge smlead@cccbr.org.uk
Technical & Taxonomy	Develops authoritative reference standards, maintains records for change ringing, offers advice on ringing standards and promotes the use of new technology and manages the Council's technology platforms.	Graham John ttlead@cccbr.org.uk
Young Ringers – Schools and Youth Groups	Develops long-term sustainable sources of recruits from schools and youth groups, focusing on those in their primary and secondary school years.	Colin Newman
Young Ringers – Universities and Colleges	Develops long-term sustainable sources of recruits, focusing on their transition through higher education and beyond.	Ian Roulstone
Senior Stakeholder Liaison	Develops the Council's high-level relationships with Church, heritage and funding bodies.	Mark Regan

The current teams of Stewards are:

Stewards	Area of work	Contact
Carter Ringing Machine	Deal with the hosting, care and maintenance of the Carter Ringing Machine Collection.	Chris Ridley halead@cccbr.org.uk
Dove	Maintain the Dove database of towers and bells, and promote the use of technology to make it as available as possible.	Dickon Love & Tim Jackson dove@cccbr.org.uk
Library	Care for the Council's physical and digital libraries and promote opportunities to extend their use.	librarysteward@cccbr.org.uk
Rolls of Honour	Deal with the care and appreciation of the Council's Rolls of Honour, listing ringers who gave their lives in the two world wars and subsequent conflicts.	Alan Regin rolls@cccbr.org.uk
Fred E Dukes Fund	Act as management trustees for the Fred E. Dukes International Bell Fund with responsibility its investment and distribution in accordance with the legacy of the late Mr. F. E Dukes.	Ian Oram ihoram@hotmail.com

Must every volunteer join a Workgroup?

No. Workgroup Members tend to contribute more widely to the management of a Workgroup's area of responsibility, but also rely on support from individual specialists who contribute their skills and know-how to help with specific projects and services.

Is there a requirement to attend meetings?

No. Whilst most Workgroup Members tend to meet regularly, online or in person, each volunteer's contribution can be shaped to suit their personal circumstances and the amount of time they are able to give.

Does the Council encourage volunteering by those who have special needs or who come from a minority background?

Yes. As a great deal of work can be done from home, there are few limits on what can be achieved and the Council makes every effort to accommodate the needs of individual volunteers.

Is there a minimum age to volunteer?

No, although vulnerable adults or those under 18 years of age should be aware of the Council's Safeguarding requirements.

What is the application process?

If you can offer of your time to support the Council's work, please do contact one of the Workgroup Leaders, Stewards using the contact details above. Alternatively you are welcome to contact one of the Trustees, whose contact details can be found on the [Council's Website](#).

The Council generally finds volunteers through informal contact with those who have expressed an interest in supporting its work or from existing volunteers and representatives of its member societies.

Most volunteers including Workgroup Members are recruited by the relevant Workgroup Leader and the Council's senior officers (including Workgroup Leaders themselves and the Council's Stewards) are approved by its Trustees.

From time to time, the Council also advertises, where it needs to find people with specific experience or skills.

Is there an application form?

There is no formal application form, although volunteers are of course expected to support the Council's objects and to comply with its policies.

In particular, they are expected to ensure that their conduct of Council business complies with the Council's policies including any Conflicts of Interest, which can be found on the website at <https://cccbr.org.uk/about/governance/>

Do volunteers receive expenses?

Whilst volunteers are generous in giving their time, the Council has an expenses policy to deal with out-of-pocket or other expenses which are incurred on Council business.



What's the point of the Central Council?

1. What are the benefits to the Association/Guild of being affiliated to the Central Council in its new format?

Any activity that has mass participation and common purposes needs to have an overall governing body that is responsible for things like keeping and developing rules, dealing with external bodies, record keeping, etc. For ringing that governing body is the Central Council, which has specific functions like managing method names, and looking after Dove's Guide - because someone needs to.

There are things that can be done centrally that have direct or indirect benefit to ringers in all areas of the country. These are specific projects such as Ringing Remembers or developing the Safeguarding policies, and ongoing activities such as the maintenance of Dove's Guide and the method libraries. Imagine just for a moment how much more difficult it would have been to get ringing safeguarding policies agreed if individual associations had to agree policies with their own Diocese, rather than the Council dealing with the Church of England and agreeing a universally acceptable code? Some would probably have failed with potentially dire consequences. Imagine also what a wasted opportunity it would have been had the Council's PRO not grasped Ringing Remembers and coordinated the recruitment of over 3000 new ringers.

It is also worth having a network of people who can be called upon for advice, and a central body can manage that and share that expertise widely, plugging gaps in local knowledge.

So although ringers may justifiably ask why associations are affiliated to the Central Council, the answer is that affiliation is a commitment to a common purpose and set of standards. It recognises that generally all the broad and quite extensive range of things the Central Council does via its various volunteers are of benefit to all ringers, and that it is better for these things to be done by one body than devolved.

2. What are the benefits for the Association/Guild of attendance of the Representatives at the Central Council meeting, and with the new format Executive and Workgroups, what is the role of the representatives at the meeting?

The purpose of the representatives is to hold the Executive and its Workgroups to account,

i.e. make sure the people who have been elected to these working positions are doing good and useful things. The annual meeting is the time when progress is reported and the Executive and other team members can be quizzed. Having to present results once a year is a good way of making sure things happen!

The Association/Guild only therefore benefits if its representatives find out what is going on, report back to the members they represent, and take the opportunity to raise questions either from themselves or on behalf of their members.

A central ringing body, whatever it is called, now needs to do more to consider strategies for arresting the decline in recruitment and training of ringers, strategies that are likely to involve boots on the ground in all areas of the country. Pulling together is likely to be more effective than territorial associations doing their own thing, good ideas will be shared, and cross border initiatives developed to recognise ringers' mobility and willingness to travel to learn. There is also the chance that any association that is not effective in providing opportunities for ringers to develop will be bypassed, and new groupings will be developed perhaps around cities or centres of excellence to provide greater opportunity where there is a critical mass of help. Some of the best ideas are already coming from outside traditional structures.

Representatives of associations will be critical in helping to get new strategies and ideas down to where they matter and can be implemented. At the Council meeting next September we intend to have a couple of topical debates where we hope members will be able to air views and make suggestions in an open environment.

3. What benefit does the Central Council derive from the affiliation of our Association/Guild?

The Council needs to represent all ringers, and the way ringing is currently organised is that ringers are largely represented by territorial associations of which they are members, plus a number of 'special interest groups'. While the Council would no doubt continue to operate if the odd association was not affiliated, the Exercise would start to fall apart if more and more associations were not affiliated. Different rules and standards would start to emerge, a body only representing part of the ringing community would probably cease to be motivated to do anything, especially if there was a feeling that a major recruitment drive (like Ringing Remembers) benefitted unaffiliated societies as much as affiliated ones. This would probably just hasten the creation of a direct membership ringing body that could replace the Central Council and many territorial associations.

There is therefore benefit overall to ringing that all associations representing ringers are affiliated to the Central Council, abide by its rules and support its activities, rather than it being possible to identify the specific benefit derived from the affiliation of specific Associations/Guilds in isolation.

We hope it is enough for you to face your Association/Guild with confidence and justify continued affiliation to the Central Council and would welcome any comments/feedback via PRO@cccbr.org.uk

Simon Linford
President

Vicki Chapman
PRO