



Shropshire Association of Church Bellringers

Newsletter - January 2020

Forthcoming Association Events:

Jan 4 th	10.00am - 12noon	6-Bell Practice	Stanton-upon-Hine-Heath (6, 7-1-27)
Jan 11 th	3.00 - 8.00pm	Monthly Practice, Quarterly Meeting and AGM	Oswestry (8, 13-1-19) (ringing 3.30 - 5.00pm, service 5.00 - 5.30pm, tea and meetings 5.30 - 8.00pm)
Jan 15 th	10.00am - 12.30pm	Wednesday Morning Practice	Lilleshall (6, 9cwt)
Feb 8 th	9.30am - 12.30pm	Training Morning	Edgmond (8, 9-3-12)
Feb 8 th	7.00 - 9.00pm	Monthly Practice	Whittington (6, 9-0-5)
March 7 th	10.00am - 12noon	6-Bell Practice	Whittington (6, 9-0-5)
March 14 th	7.00 - 9.00pm	Monthly Practice	Wrockwardine (6, 11-2-7)

All members and friends are welcome at all meetings and events. Please support your Association!

One event above all should stand out in the above calendar - our **Annual General Meeting**.

There are those within the wider national ringing community who believe that our territorial associations are irrelevant to today's ringing scene. One of the arguments made is that smaller local cooperatives, which may cross county, diocesan or national boundaries, offer a better model for mutual support between towers and ringers. A counter-argument says that such groups are completely free to operate, but that larger organisations are essential to manage e.g. bell-restoration funds which often - like ours - hold many thousands of ££s.

What's your view? Do you think this Association provides, e.g., the right type and number of opportunities for training? What do you think of the range and number of social events - ringing tours, quiz nights, ceilidhs, treasure hunts, etc, etc? Should the Association be giving you and your tower more help with with what?

Why not come and have your say - there's no better opportunity than this? The experience of recent years is us that folks turn up, don't 'pull their punches', but tell the rest of us what's on their mind. Good!!!

Why not come and vote into office the people you think can make a positive difference to your ringing experience? Why not ... dare I say it ... stand for office yourself? A number of current committee posts will become vacant this year. You would expect your committee to be aware of this and make some plans to replace them (you know what I mean - give a tap on the shoulder to someone gullible enough!). The present committee has looked at it and has not been able to 'pencil in' a name for every post. Now's your chance!

We've invited the Right Revd Sarah Bullock - the new Bishop of Shrewsbury - to attend and preside at the meeting but, at the time of writing, we're not sure if she'll make it.

The previous Newsletter told of some difficulties with catering at the Striking Competition - we didn't know how many people were coming and the actual number exceeded our best guess. Hence a new rule: you must let us know beforehand if you want tea at the AGM (bread & soup, sandwiches & puddings). See the separate poster with more details and remember:

NO NAME - NO TEA!

Congratulations to (*gleaned from footnotes to peals and quarters*): In no particular order:

- First peal: Clare Morris (Overton) and Steve Broughton (St Martins) - rung at Chirk.
- First QP: Jonathan Molesworth; 250th QP: Richard Major; 300th QP: Amanda Craig; 500th QP: Peter Woollam.
- First QP as conductor: John Clark (Chirk).
- First QP/blows in method or stage: John Neal, Martin Scott, Jad Bienek, Maurice Ingram, Gareth Jones, Richard Offen, Sue Perry, Maddie Harris, Will Lander, Steve Broughton, Clare Morris (Overton).

Well done to those of our members from across the Welsh border. See the poster about the AGM for the proposed rule changes to give them equal rights with resident members.

Donation invited ... of a full set of paper copies of The Ringing World, 2019.

The Association library holds DVDs containing electronic files of 'Bell News' for the years 1881 - 1915 and 'The Ringing World' for 1911 - 2017. These are relatively easy to search - e.g. if you wanted to check on a peal or quarter you rang in many years ago or for some other piece of historical research. The DVDs are the most commonly loaned library items. (In truth, almost the only items to have been out on loan in recent years!) The library also has a complete set paper copies of 'The Ringing World' from recent years, up to December 2018.

In the interests of having a complete history, would anyone who takes their own copy be willing to donate their 2019 set to the library? Contact librarian@sacbr.org.uk.

100 Club:

Gill Glover writes: "We are very grateful for the support this year for the 100 Club, and as this has been so good we are able to offer an extra prize of £50 in the January draw, making a total of six prizes."

One more good reason to attend the AGM!

Ash supplies:

Some towers need to obtain quantities of ash from time to time to replace broken stays or sliders. I've recommended Morgan Timber at Nesscliffe to a number of people over the years but, on a recent visit, I learned that Phil Morgan plans to close the business and retire in 2020. If you like to keep a small supply in stock, you might think of going to see him before it's too late.

For the future? I'm sure that there are many suppliers across the county who can help. A friend of mine recommends North Shropshire Timber, though I haven't used them myself. Can anyone suggest others? You might like to let Geoff Harding, our Bell Adviser, know so that he can build up a list.

North Shropshire Timber, Unit 19-26 Rednal Industrial Estate,
Rednal, West Felton, SY11 4HS. Tel: 01691 610570

Items for the Newsletter from members are welcome, email: pro@sacbr.org.uk