

The Guild Master's Report 2007

Finishing with the last AGM at Ledbury, I have enjoyed the very speedy Guild year, which is almost at a close.

I am unsure of how to construct this report, whether it should be a summing up of my observations and conclusions or to just paint a picture of what has happen through out the Guild, but the reports from each District seem to do the latter.

Managing to visit many towers across the Guild, possibly 20 plus, both at District meetings and general practice nights, I see many practices succeeding and quite the reverse in others. No more so than at 1 AGM where only 6 members attended the service, thankfully a few more attended the meeting. This is not new many will say, but if so many know this, why are we not taking steps to rectify the situation?

This first year has allowed me to view and conclude that we need to undertake major steps to both promote our passion towards ringing, encouraging more to follow; and then supporting these new keen people, allowing our active towers to flourish and towers without bands, to become re established. I am under no illusion that all will be corrected over night, but feel we are at this time, not fully addressing the situation. There will be repercussions that will follow and where towers are hanging on at present these will cease to function for service ringing and general practice, which may lead onto general deterioration through lack of use and possible issues if a group tries to restart ringing at such towers.

During the Autumn Management meeting I presented some information hoping that it would be discussed prior to and at the District AGMs, in some cases this has been done and in others it has been overlooked. Taking this opportunity again, I want to stress the importance as a Guild, of our need to work together on selling the Guild and Ringing to perspective new recruits, following on with a good support base in tuition, perhaps taking a standard approach to training new teachers and generating much needed confidence. Also we need to understand that what may work in one area could completely fail in another and in such situations an alternative approach may be needed.

The thought of requesting 2 small workshop groups to look into this is my next step; as the volunteer base was so underwhelming, where the subject was discussed, I shall now look into drumming up such groups by personal invite and push this project forward, the time of resting on our laurels has gone!

Good work has already been achieved in towers such as Ross, where I understand a busy group of young ringers has been cultured and the fruits of such investment have led to one young lady ringing at least 2 peals of complex methods and Francesca shows no sign of stopping, well done. Daniel Jones of Bromyard is also another fine young ringer who has scored many peals over the year and must be commended on the 12 bell peal at Tewkesbury for the Guild, 1 of very few 12 bell peals on tower peals and we wish him good ringing during his time at university.

Kris Perruzza has also taken the opportunity to push a Surprise Minor evening and Ashley Fortey a Surprise Major morning once a month and I believe those attending have benefited so thanks go to them for the efforts to maintain such an undertaking along all those who assist.

Success has also been gained in Much Cowarne with efforts from Bromyard to encourage and train people ready to ring the bells when the project to rehang is complete. Morville must also be mentioned. Martin Bluck and others have worked hard in training seven plus people and with these new members commitment both to ring and fundraising, are doing very well on both fronts and I look forward to ringing Morville bells when the project is completed.

So as we can see, there are many areas within the Guild that are busy and I only wish to amplify this and raise the enjoyment level for us all and those who follow in years to come.

Finishing with thanks, to all who I have had the pleasure of meeting and ringing with, all the District Officers whom run their Districts and my team whose efforts to jell things together sometimes get overlooked and of course all of you, our members, whom without we would not have a Guild.