

## NEWS FROM THE GUILD

July 2024

*A message from the Guild Master, Sue Robinson*

A very warm welcome to this Guild newsletter.

Time literally appears to fly by and when we are all so very busy with our lives and of course, not least, doing a great deal of bellringing it is easy to forget the number of events people are involved in. It's also easy to assume that District & Guild activities are few far between but there are plenty of things going on and with the enthusiasm that is out there we've got a good base to build on. Please do publicise activities, success stories and local events supported by bells on the website. Also please check that the information about your tower is accurate, the holiday season is upon us so we may have some holiday makers in our region, it would be good to be able to make them welcome at our practices or on a Sunday morning.



*Sue with a young pupil at Bromyard*

### To all members

It has been a couple of months since the Guild AGM, so we thought we'd get in touch to let you know some of things we have been doing, and what we hope to do in the future

[visit the website at hdgb.org](http://hdgb.org)

### Guild Website

Have you visited Guild website [hdgb.org](http://hdgb.org) lately? There are new profiles and pictures of the Guild Officers and an article about our new Vice-President Val Roberts to read. The webmaster is always working hard to keep the website updated, and we encourage everyone to submit news and articles so that we can all keep in touch. Please also make sure your events are on the Guild Calendar to encourage as many ringers as possible to attend, and don't forget to tell [peo@hdgb.org](mailto:peo@hdgb.org) about your events too, so that they can be more widely publicised.

### Hereford St Nicholas



You may have seen the draft scheme that the Church of St Nicholas Hereford be closed for regular public worship and appropriated to use for community, cultural and/or educational purposes, and for occasional Christian worship. The Guild has been in touch with the St Nicholas ringers regarding this proposal, and understand the proposed new owners have expressed the desire that the bells be retained and access be granted for the continued use of the bells. The Guild has responded to the Church of England consultation of the proposed Pastoral Scheme to express our interest in the continued use of the bells, as well as contacting the prospective new owners.

If your church is in a similar position please let us know.



## Ringling for D-Day

Well done to all those who marked the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day with ringing. The Ringing World (issue 5904) mentioned **40 Guild Towers** who had recorded their contributions on Bellboard.



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### Guild/District Officers meet-up at Bromyard

Following the AGM we feel it is very important for the new Guild and District Officers to get to know one another, and talk to discover how we can best work together to support each other. So we held our first informal gathering of the Guild Officers, District Masters and Secretaries, to listen to what is happening on the ground regarding ringing generally, recruitment, teaching and the pathway for progress. It was a positive first meeting, we hope to meet again in August.

If you have any thoughts or ideas that you think your District officials could bring to the next meeting please do let them know.

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#### Bells in our Community

We've received this lovely article which shows how bells are important and relevant to everyone in our wider community, and how Chris Pickford has used his huge knowledge to support a local cause. Please do let us know how the ringers and the community come together in your area, it is always worthwhile to share our enthusiasm for ringing, and it is often surprising to hear just how much people appreciate what we do.

#### **"Let steeple bells be swungen"**

We read on Facebook that Chris Pickford was giving a talk on the history and archaeology of bells and bell founding at Cound Church and that it included cheese and wine, so we were hooked!

The talk was arranged as part of the Church's fund-raising efforts towards the restoration of the Doom painting that was discovered in the church and requires a lot of work in order to protect, restore and preserve it.

We arrived to the familiar sound of bells ringing, which was a surprise, as it was not advertised that the bells were going to be rung. We did the obvious thing and went for a grab! The ringing had been arranged by the local ringers, joined by Val (our Vice President) who took charge, to ensure the ringing went without a hitch.

After ringing down, we all walked over to the Guild Hall, next to the church. We were met with a table full of cheese, crackers and lots of other goodies to tuck into before Chris' talk, there was so much, we were even encouraged to eat more afterwards. We were certainly well fed!

Chris started his talk and kept us thoroughly entertained. He talked us through everything to do with a bell, from what it is made of, how it is made (and how the process have been improved), but the basics remain unchanged and how technological advancement has aided the restoration of bells. Chris finished his talk about the bells at Cound which the locals were very appreciative of. Learning to ring at an early age, you don't really appreciate all of the history behind our wonderful art.

Thank you, Chris, for a wonderful talk and to the parishioners of Cound for making us feel so welcome.



## Forthcoming Events

### **Guild Quarter Peal Festival**

#### **10th-25th August**

Inspired by the annual Hereford District Quarter Peal Festival., this year we are hoping to go bigger and better with a **Guild-wide quarter peal festival**. We would like bands from all over the Guild to get together and mark the event with as many quarter-peals as you can muster.

We're especially keen for people to use the opportunity to try to achieve a milestone, it might be your first quarter peal, the first in a method, or as conductor, or it might simply be the first time you have had the opportunity to ring a quarter peal in a long while. Whether you are a nervous first-timer, seasoned quarter peal ringer, or a prolific peal ringer, we hope you will feel inspired to give a quarter peal a try. We'll be issuing certificates for memorable 'firsts'.

If you would like to take part but just don't know where to start, get in touch with your district officials, or any member of the [Guild Events Team](#) (Nicky Aubrey, Richard Bracher, Tim Hollinghurst, Fran Watkins) **Or, if you are super-keen why not volunteer to act as a coordinator and get as many people involved in your area as you can?**

Look out for updates on the Guild website and on social media.

You can link your attempts and successful performances on [Bellboard](#) by going to <https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/event.php?id=18675>

Let's work together to see what we can achieve.

### **Open Towers Day - 19th October 2024**

We will be holding a fund-raising Open Towers Day for the **Bell Restoration Fund** on Saturday **19th October 2024**. The day is still in the planning stage at present but the route is likely to take in 23 towers in the Hereford, Clifford and Kington and Leominster districts.

We'd love as many Guild members as possible to take part, whether you'd like to go 'on the grab' and ring at as many towers as you can, or if you would prefer a more leisurely day, perhaps offering your services to act as a steward, helping with refreshments or fund-raising along the route, we do hope you will join in and make the day enjoyable, memorable and profitable!

As soon as the towers are confirmed and the route finalised we'll publish more details. In the meantime please contact Nicky, Richard, Tim or Fran or email us at [eventsteam@hdgb.org](mailto:eventsteam@hdgb.org)

If you have an event that you would like to publicise, then tell [peo@hdgb.org](mailto:peo@hdgb.org) and [webmaster@hdgb.org](mailto:webmaster@hdgb.org).

We've been really pleased to see ringing news stories in the local press recently, lets share our good news and hopefully we'll attract some new recruits

We hope that you have found this Guild Newsletter useful and enjoyable, please let us know what you think, we'd really appreciate your feedback. You can tell your District Secretary, or email direct at [news@hdgb.org](mailto:news@hdgb.org)