

NEWS FROM THE GUILD

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

From the Master

October 2025

With the support of the trustees, the MCM representatives and the wider membership we have been very successful in taking several initiatives through to completion.

- 🔔 Membermojo is now firmly established as the GDPR compliant member database, and we are delighted that we have not lost members because of its implementation.
- 🔔 Rule changes have been implemented which allow proposals to be put before the membership in a timelier fashion, allowing us to move forwards much faster.
- 🔔 The Guild has appointed a safeguarding lead who will be the link between us and the requirements of the diocese
- 🔔 A guidance document has been developed as a point of reference should a church within our Diocese be threatened with closure or change of use. This can be found on the website at <https://hdgb.org/church-closure-project/>

The project to recruit and teach 140 ringers is underway. An ART training course is planned for those who expressed interest & for others a workshop will be scheduled for a knowledge sharing opportunity. This initiative will need all our support, even those who don't want to be involved in teaching bell handling can play a part when the new recruits are at the stage of learning to ring rounds and beyond. More people in our community of bellringers makes for a richer ringing experience for all of us.

Despite the excitement of the pending anniversary other essential activities must continue. We continue to work on our policies, including the financial planning element & safer recruitment.

A working party has been set up to review all our communication channels because without communication that is reaching the membership in a format that is wanted, we are missing the opportunity to engage our members. The first meeting of this small team has already taken place.

Learners and intermediate practices have been well attended, these will continue to be scheduled, and we look forward to your support at such events.

Quarter Peal Festival

This year's Quarter Peal Festival recorded fewer quarter peals than last year, with 33 being recorded on Bellboard. However 114 ringers took part, and we recorded a number of significant firsts:

- | | |
|--|--|
| ❖ First Quarter Peal – Sarah Mills & Suzanna Goodchild | ❖ First Mixed Doubles as conductor – Vicky Rees |
| ❖ First of Minor - Hilary Friso | ❖ First Double Oxford Bob Major - Sue Robinson, Helen Sharpe, Alex Sharpe, Richard Bracher & Tony Greatrex. |
| ❖ First on 10 – Ady Taylor | ❖ First of Yorkshire S. Major – Chris Baird |
| ❖ First Grandsire Doubles – Richard Wright | ❖ First touch of Caters as Conductor – Jane Mason |
| ❖ First variations as Conductor; First of Bristol S. Major; and First of London S. Minor - Michael D'Avanzo | |

Congratulations to everyone on their achievements.

Renewing your membership for 2026

With the District AGMs approaching it will soon be time to think about renewing our subscriptions. This will be our first renewal since we have started using the membermojo online tool. On or around 1st December every member who has registered on the system will receive an automated email reminding them that subscriptions fall due on 1st January 2026 and asking that the member review their information. Online payment for 2026 subs can be accepted by the system from 1st November onwards.



A 'How to' guide is attached to the end of the newsletter, if you need any help, please contact guild_secretary@hdgb.org. Guild Officers will visit as many AGMs as possible to also offer help.

Members who wish to pay their District Treasurer can continue to do so, but everyone who is registered on membermojo must login to indicate their renewal preference.

The small number of members who declined to use membermojo should liaise with their District Secretary and Treasurer as in previous years.

District AGMs and Safer Recruitment

Since the changes to the Church of England's Safeguarding Framework earlier this year, we have been reminding members of the mandatory training requirements for District and Guild Officers. As we approach the AGMs we need to ensure that everyone is aware of the commitment required to undertake training in specific roles...

Message from the Safeguarding Lead - Anyone that runs District or Guild events (district ringing masters, assistant/deputy ringing masters, education officers, secretaries) will need to complete the leadership training as they will be the responsible individuals at district/guild events. This training is mandatory not voluntary, so you will need to book a training session and add your training on to Membermojo. Anyone not willing to complete this training, will not be able to take up the position or be able to continue in their role and will need to step down at the next District AGM. Everyone should be aware of their responsibilities and commitment to this training and will need to get themselves booked on to a future course if they haven't already done so. Future course dates will be published at <https://www.hereford.anglican.org/parish-support/safeguarding/safeguarding-training/>

Here are the details of forthcoming district AGMs

Leominster	Sat 1 st November	Eye, time, 3pm
Ross on Wye	Sat 29 th November	Llangarron, 2pm
Clifford and Kington	Sat 5 th December	Eardisland, 2.30pm
Church Stretton	Sat 17 th January	Condover, 5pm
Hereford	Sat 24 th January	Burghill 2.30pm
Ledbury	Sat 7 th February	To be confirmed
Bridgnorth	Sat 7 th February	To be confirmed
Bromyard	Sat 21 st February	To be confirmed

Holmer Outing

Holmer and friends Bell Ringing Outing – 2nd August 2025

Route: Beoley → Redditch → Ipsley → Lunch at the Nevill Arms, New End → Feckenham → Inkberrow

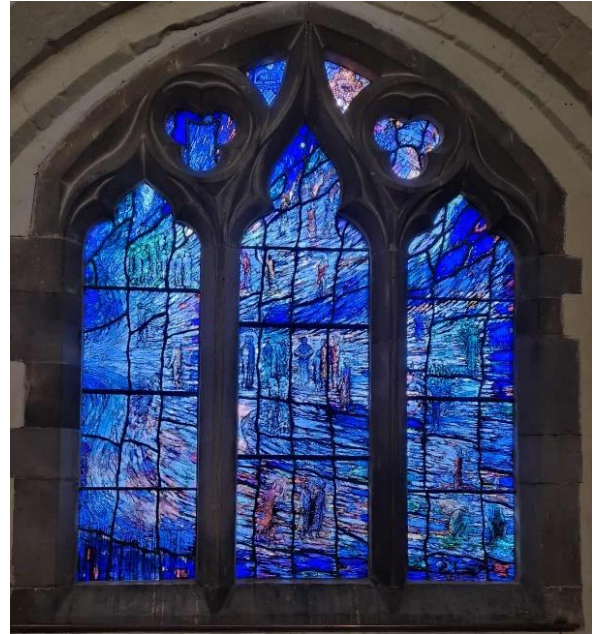
Our bell ringing adventure began waiting for a bus. Thank you to Dave for arranging and driving the Minibus.

We arrived to a warm welcome at Beoley (8 bells, 10-2-20). We were greeted by two friendly members of their band and a lovely ring of bells behind a glass screen on an upper mezzanine – a very beautiful setting. A lovely 8 bell tower with a bell slightly odd-struck, giving our ringers a hearing test to keep in with striking

At Redditch (8, 10-3-12), the second tower of the day, things took a different tone. The bells had long drafts and required a box – a challenge for some (aka me!), but all part of the fun. Once we had a few turns we settled into ringing call changes. The bells sounded very loud outside, due to being in a built-up area. The sound of the bells ricocheting off the buildings, is amazing and something I had not experienced before. Interestingly we were told by the tower captain that the buildings do not have planning permission to be taller than the church spire, which makes sense. Hayley doted on a beautiful Lhasa Apso dog owned by the tower captain with an angelic temperament and a beautiful face. Hayley had to be pulled away to ring 🌈.

Next, we headed to Ipsley (6, 9-2-13), where we were thrilled to bump into a runner we'd first seen in Beoley (locally pronounced "Bearly"). He had already clocked 14 miles and still had the energy to take a fabulous group photo for us with big smiles. An open church day was on and they were very complimentary about our ringing..luckily! Beautiful ringing mixed to our abilities. Interesting on leaving we observed a beautiful stainless window with a hidden dove.

The oldest bell is dated back to 1410.



After all that activity, we stopped for a well-earned and absolutely delicious lunch at the Nevill Arms in New End. Good food, good company, and plenty of chat about the morning's towers, and the interesting place mats on the pub tables that had puzzles on them. As a competitive group we rose to the challenge 🌟💪.

Refreshed and recharged, we rang at Feckenham (8, 11-3-24). The session flew by as we moved quickly from rounds into Plain Hunt on 8 – a rare treat for those used to 6-bell towers. It soon became clear who had more experience... and who didn't 🤔! Finally, we wrapped up at Inkberrow (6, 10-2-4), where things got even more interesting (and mentally demanding for me!). With a mixed method of touches of St Martin's and Grandsire – enough to blow anyone's mind, but done with much laughter and a good dose of teamwork when corrected 🤪.

Of course it wouldn't be a Holmer outing without a pub finish line, a beautiful picturesque pub called The Old Bull Inn. Where we sat outside in the sun, reflecting on our day. Dave does look after us and the beer available on tap made everyone happy 🍺. Cheers.

A brilliant day full of variety of laughs, friendly faces, a furry friend, and memorable ringing. Looking forward to the next one already!

Victoria Hurlow

Peal News

Since the last Guild newsletter, there have been six peals rung for the Guild, and special mention must go to:

- **Chris Brackston** - First Peal at Burghill (14/08/2025)
- **Ian Thornevell** - First Peal inside to Grandsire Doubles at Marden (29/07/2025)
- **Mark R Aston** - First Peal 'inside' at Marden (25/9/2025)

Also, 80th Birthday compliment to Rick Shallcross at Much Cowarne (4/9/2025)

Congratulations to you all.

Next year is the 140th Anniversary of the Guild, and if you would like to ring your first peal or need help at your tower to ring a peal, please contact any District/Guild officer or email me at pealrecorder@hdgb.org

Andrew Watkins (Peal Recorder)

80th Anniversary of VJ Day



Twenty-five of our towers recorded their commemorative ringing for the 80th Anniversary of VJ Day on Bellboard. This ranged from chiming, tolling, and general ringing to quarter peals and peals.

Well done to all who took part and helped their community remember the events of 80 years ago.

We were hugely pleased to receive an email from Dorothy Chamberlain telling us of her memories...

I was in London on VJ Day with my father and an old family friend! I was a (fairly) little girl but remember walking up The Mall with a lot of people and finishing up riding on my father's shoulders! My parents and I had moved up to (old) Huntingdonshire from S. London at the outbreak of war and they were visiting old friends as soon as they could. I also remember a lot of broken buildings.

Dorothy



Notices

Since our last newsletter we have sadly lost several members and retired ringers through death.



We remember the following who have rung with us in the past:

- Andrea Moore (Leintwardine)
- Katherine Fox (past member Colwall)
- Agnes Bowen (Honorary Life Member, Lyonshall)
- Malcolm Johns (Non-Resident Life Member, Brecon)

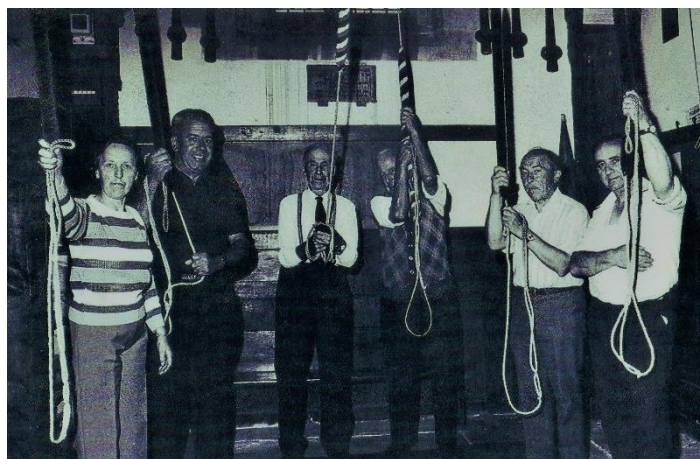
OBITUARY – AGNES BOWEN

Agnes Bowen, Honorary member of Lyonshall tower in Clifford & Kington District, sadly died in September at the grand age of 100. Declining health led to her move to The Garth Nursing Home where she has lived for a number of years.

Agnes was a Herefordshire girl, born and bred, living all her life in the county. Her father was a gardener at several of the big houses in the area, finishing his working life in Lyonshall. She remembered the days when there was so little traffic in the village that the children played ball games in the road and were in and out of each other's houses, the doors always being open.

Agnes was married to Denis Bowen who was tower captain at Lyonshall until his death in 1987. Agnes continued to ring and supported the local band at practices, services and special occasions. She only rang one peal for the Guild, 5040 Grandsire Doubles at Old Radnor in 1951. This was called by Leslie Evans, the band including other noted local ringers Bob Hatcher, Fred Harris, Wilfred Norgrove and the redoubtable Mrs E C Chandler.

Some years ago a photograph was discovered at Kington Museum. This showed Agnes with husband Den, Fred Harris, Tom Bound, Jim Wilce, and Ted Jones in Lyonshall ringing chamber. The date this was taken is unfortunately unknown but obviously pre-1987 when Den died. A framed copy of this was given to Agnes where it hung in her room at The Garth, a further copy gracing the wall in Lyonshall tower.



Although no longer able to ring herself, Agnes still took a keen interest in ringers and ringing and is fondly remembered by those who knew and rang with her.

Guild Report

Neil Bragg is leading a review into the Annual Report, a small working group was formed at the last management committee meeting, but Neil would like to hear from all members about what they would, or would not, like to see in the report – what is important to you? Many other Associations use the report as a 'handbook' for the coming year, as well as a historical record of the previous year, is this something you would like to see?

If you have any views or ideas or would like to help with the review, please contact Neil nbragg83@gmail.com or 01952 433014.

Management Committee Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the Management Committee Meetings can be found at <https://hdgb.org/management-committee-meetings/>



140th Anniversary of the HDGB

As we go into 2026, conscious that next year is the 140th Anniversary of the Guild we would like our collective efforts to be focussed on making this a year of celebratory events to mark this special occasion. We have set up a 140th Anniversary team, currently comprising of the existing Events Committee and a representative from each district. Please feel free to join us if you would like to get involved, here are some of the ideas so far:

- Anniversary Peal, 140 recorded rings (QP's, Peals General ringing)
- 140 new recruits
- 140 "firsts"

SAVE THE DATES...

Saturday 9th May 2026 – Annual General Meeting – Hereford District

Friday 12th June 2026 – Anniversary Dinner at the College Hall, Hereford Cathedral

Saturday 3rd October 2026 – Open Towers Day

Please get in touch at contact@hdgb.org

Fundraising

WOW! With just 18 supporters signed up so far we have now raised **£287.97** on easyfundraising – please signup if you haven't already https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause/step-1/?char=384331&invite=gi3h50&referral-campaign=c2s&utm_campaign=web-referral



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They pass
it on to us
:)

Plus, you'll get...



Exclusive retailer offers



Competitions



A warm feeling inside!

Over

£60m

raised for UK good causes

£0

extra cost to anyone

Having never attended the CCCBR (Central Council of Church Bell Ringers) AGM before, I had no idea what to expect... or what I was letting myself in for.

This year, the event took place in Sheffield. Saturday was the business part of the weekend and it began with the Ringing World AGM in the morning. This was an opportunity to get an insight of all the hard work that goes in to publishing the magazine and the challenges it is facing to be viable in a modern world, with dwindling subscribers. The RW team have been looking at various possible scenarios to secure its future but ultimately, without new subscriptions, or renewals, the future of the publication is unknown.



Sheffield Cathedral

The CCCBR meeting took place in the afternoon, where ringers from across the world had travelled to Sheffield to represent their respective ringing Associations/Guilds. The usual business matters you would expect in an AGM took place (minutes will become available on the CCCBR website in due course). There was not a lot of reporting during the meeting, as to what all the workgroups were doing but the business plan for Ringing 2030 was discussed.

Ringing 2030 is a major strategy, initiated by the CCCBR to create a sustainable future for change ringing; with an ambitious target of getting 10,000 more active ringers. So much work has already been done and if you would like to know more, you can find this out at: <https://cccbbr.org.uk/ringing-2030-business-plan/>

The Ringing Roadshow took place on Sunday. There was a variety of activities, from having a go on different mini-rings, attending talks from various speakers, and walking around the trade stands. It was great to chat to lots of ringers from all over the world and to know that the challenges we meet in our own Guild are also shared in others.

Kris Perruzza

News from Clifford & Kington District

We will be holding a district practice at KINGTON on Saturday, 1st November from 2.30 to 4.00pm, and the C&K AGM will be held at EARDISLAND on Saturday, 6th December with ringing from 2.30pm, service at 4.00pm, followed by tea and meeting in the Village Hall. Everyone is welcome to both events.

Please consider printing out a copy of this newsletter to put in your tower, or to share with ringers who don't receive emails

Recruitment & Teaching Bell Handling

1) Much Wenlock

On 20th September, as part of National Heritage Days, the church opened up the Priest's Room which is a rare event. Having been used in recent years as a "put it in the Priest's Room", it has been cleared, and visitors were invited to see this ancient space where a monk from the Abbey lived. The tower was also open to visitors all day, but we used it as a recruiting exercise too with some outside advertising material borrowed from the Central Council via our own Guild.



The tower not only houses our bells but hides a beautiful west front and people interested in architecture, and we hoped bellringing, were invited to come up. Some visitors took the opportunity to "have a go" and at least two people are being followed up.

Val Roberts

2) Reaching out to the public

Bodenham & Marden ringers have told us how they have a 'Bellringers' page in their monthly parish newsletter. This is a great way to keep in touch with your community, tell them about what we do and let them know what to expect to hear. The page also includes a 'Meet the Ringers' article, where individual ringers can explain why they ring, and what they get from it.

Many other bands have a feature about bellringing on their church's website (see the [Much Wenlock website](#) for a good example), if your church doesn't have any up to date information about ringing readily available for the public to access please think about what you can do.

If you need any advice on where to start please contact peo@hdg.org, or try visiting the Central Council resources at <https://cccbr.org.uk/resources/publicity-material/noticeboard-toolkit/>

3) Pencombe Open Tower Day

The newly formed band at Pencombe is continuing to do great work and recently hosted an 'Open Tower' day to allow villagers to visit the tower and find out about ringing. This resulted in a few more recruits wanting to learn to ring which is great news.

Tower open days are always popular, and recent events have shown that people love to find out about what we do and to be given the opportunity to explore some parts of the church they never see, especially the view from the roof (if safely possible).

If you haven't yet completed the questionnaire about training and recruitment, please go to
<https://forms.gle/zVH1npQKUMSiaKZ78>

4) Recruitment Day in Hereford

Initially this started as an idea that was discussed at a Hereford District Committee meeting. Having organised an event like this before but inside the Cathedral, we really felt an external event would be better.

After approaching the Cathedral to see if they would host the event, they agreed, and we had a date set!

We had hoped it was going to attract people from all over the Guild and further afield, with that set-in mind we approached the trustees to see if they would help with funding the mini-ring which they agreed. It then quickly developed into being a Guild event and people from all over the Guild were showing an interest in supporting the event. We created some leaflets to hand out to those who showed an interest, with details of who they could get in touch with.

So, on the morning of the day, a number of us turned up bright and early at the Cathedral to meet Roger, who was transporting the mini-ring over Hereford for us to use. It took us just under 2 hours to put together, and we were all set and ready to go just before 10am.



We expected to be a little busy, but little did we know that there would be a constant flow of interested members of the public and we have very little opportunity to sit still. Having the open gardens nearby helped with people walking past. There was a lovely buzz of excitement and interest. People of all ages were keen to give bellringing a try, quite a few signed up for us to contact them with their local teaching tower and others were very happy to take leaflet with a generic e-mail address to contact if they got home and decided they really wanted to give it a go.

All those that signed up on the day were contacted after the event with their local teaching towers and I'm pleased to say that most of them have gone along to a practice and have continued to give bellringing a go. I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of the volunteers that helped, without your input the event would not have been as amazingly successful as it was, and I hope the Guild does decide to run a few more days like this next year, as it really got people's attention and there was genuine interest. If there are any towers who would like a number of info leaflets to hand out on a recruitment day, please get in touch, we have a huge box full of them!



Jason Walker

Guild Sessions

A Beginners Session was held at **Tenbury Wells** on 9th August, and a Coffee Morning/Open Theory Session was held at Cleobury Mortimer on 13th September.

The coffee morning was a really useful opportunity for us to get together and talk about any ringing matters we wanted, whether it was personal progress, where to find help, sharing ideas, remembering old times and friends, or discussing the future direction of the Guild.



Thank you to **Cleobury Mortimer** for hosting and being so flexible and helpful with arrangements when we sadly had to cancel the planned Guild Competition Day due to a lack of entries.

We have more sessions planned before the end of the year, and still have vacant places but **booking is essential**.

To book a student or helper place on any/all of the sessions below

Go to <https://membermojo.co.uk/hdgb/signin> to sign in then

Click on Your membership>Store Purchase

Places are FREE but must be pre-booked to ensure we have the correct number of students/helpers

- **Learner's Session at Weston under Penyard, HR97QA, 8/11/25 10am - 12pm.**
This session is aimed for those people who are wanting to **improve bell handling, ringing rounds and called changes**, it can be helpful (though not essential) if learners and their teachers can attend together
- **Doubles practice at Bridstow, HR9 6AG, 8/11/25, 1pm - 3pm.**
This session is aimed at ringers who have been learning **Plain Bob Doubles and Grandsire Doubles**, who would like an opportunity to practice plain courses, and looking at ringing touches. We only ring those methods advertised to make the best of the opportunity for everyone.
- **Triples/Major practice at Eardisland, 15/11/25, 2pm - 4pm**
This session is aimed for those people who are competent at Plain bob or Grandsire Doubles and would like an opportunity to practice plain courses or touches of **Plain Bob and Grandsire Triples (or Major)**. We only ring the methods advertised to make the best of the opportunity for everyone.

We're planning more sessions for 2026 so please contact guild_education@hdgb.org if you have requests or suggestions. If you have any problems booking a place email bookings@hdgb.org

Guild Archive

At our most recent Management Committee Meeting, members discussed Guild property, and the important social history contained in the records the Guild and Districts hold. Across the districts there is huge variation in the known whereabouts of records and other items such as trophies etc.

Some District Secretaries have reported that they hold no old minute books or records, whereas others have a long and comprehensive record including records of the old Presteigne District.

If anyone knows where records of the original Bewdley, Ludlow, Clun or Welshpool districts might be please let Fran know guild_secretary@hdgb.org

There is a real danger that as our members get older, important records and items may be lost if families and loved ones do not recognise the importance of any old books etc. We are aware that some items have been destroyed in the past.

The Management Committee discussed the possibility of approaching the Hereford Records Office for help in creating an archive.

We have been trying to identify members who are pictured on the Centenary photograph, we now have names for about 107 of the 140 members pictured below. If you think you can help to identify anyone, please contact guild_secretary@hdgb.org.



Ross Tower update

Many of you will have read on Facebook or the Guild website that Ross bells are currently out of action. Following a visit from an architect and structural engineer the church was found to have three unsafe pinnacles. Currently the church is waiting for reports and updates from the architect, structural engineer, steeple jack and grant applications. Major fundraising will no doubt be needed, if you are able to make a donation, please visit <https://rossparishes.uk/giving2022/giving/>

Please consider printing out a copy of this newsletter to put in your tower, or to share with ringers who don't receive emails

From the Ringing World

At the Central Council weekend, we were very pleased to meet with Will Bosworth, the Ringing World editor, he kindly agreed to write something for our newsletter...

Autumn greetings from the Ringing World team!

At the end of a busy summer producing your magazine while leapfrogging each other's holidays, we were delighted to spend a weekend in Sheffield at the Central Council AGM and Roadshow. We met lots of readers and other creators in the world of ringing – seeing an eBell being 3D-printed in front of us was quite something!

Our big news of autumn is the **Little Blue Ringing Book**, which will be printed in just a few weeks and is already available to pre-order. It focuses on methods ranging in difficulty from Plain Bob Doubles to Little Bob Major. Like its companions, the “green book” and the “purple book,” it aims to contain everything you might meet at this stage of ringing, and much more besides – with explanations, diagrams, and tips aplenty.



We're already looking ahead to our **Christmas special issue** of the Ringing World which is a bumper triple issue in full colour - and we'd love your help to make it sparkle! Anything happening in the first ten days of December is especially welcome, as the issue goes to press mid-month. If your tower is planning a carol service, Christmas tree festival, or any other festive ringing, please send us your photos and short write-ups. If you get early snow or a picturesque frost, don't forget us, and help us share the joy of Christmas ringing!

Start preparing for Christmas and the next year for yourself as well. Don't forget the annual **Ringing World Diary** ([link](#)) and **Ringing World Calendar** ([link](#)), both ideal for planning and for gifts. We would be thrilled to see a copy of the calendar on every tower noticeboard – please send us a photo of yours! We've also launched a brand-new **“Bell Ringers' Outing” Tea Towel**, illustrated by award-winning children's illustrator Sarah McIntyre. It's a fun and colourful addition to any kitchen, and makes a perfect stocking filler, or a thank-you for the ringing organiser in your life.



Other stocking-sized ideas include:

- **Methodoku Mayhem** – a puzzle book full of ringing-themed Sudoku-style challenges that will stretch both ringers and puzzle-lovers. Sit by the fire at Christmas and learn how methods fit together at the same time!
- **The First Hundred Years USB stick** – a digital archive of the first century of *The Ringing World*, perfect for anyone who wants to explore the history of ringing in their family or village at the click of a button.

Looking further ahead, the **2026 RWNYC** is already very much on the horizon, and we're really looking forward to zipping around Nottingham on the trams! And beyond that, we've started preparing for the **6,000th issue of The Ringing World**, a major milestone for the magazine shortly after Easter.

(with grateful thanks to the Ringing World for the text and photos on this page)

Please send any feedback on this newsletter to news@hdgb.org. We'd also appreciate submission of any news, information or articles to news@hdgb.org

Dates for your Diary

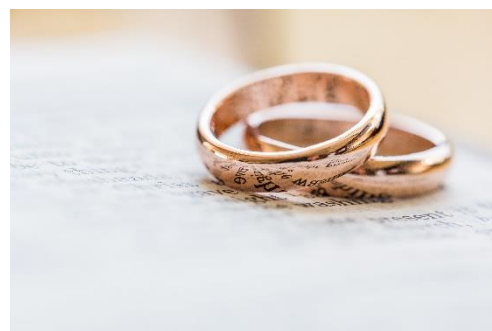
- Sat 1st November – Leominster District AGM, **Eye**, 3pm
 - Thurs 6th November – online meeting of 140th Committee
 - Sat 8th November – Learner's Session at **Weston under Penyard**, 10am
 - Sat 8th November – Doubles Session at **Bridstow**, 1pm
 - Sat 15th November – Plain Bob/Grandsire practice session at **Eardisland**, 2pm
 - Sat 15th November – Church Stretton District **practice** (tbc)
 - Sat 29th November – Ross District AGM, **Llangarron**, 2pm
 - Sat 6th December – Clifford & Kington District AGM, **Eardisland**, 2.30pm
 - Mon 15th December – Ross District practice – **Weston under Penyard**, 7.30pm
 - Sat 20th December – Church Stretton District **practice** (tbc)
-

What do you want?

Please tell us what events and activities you would like the Guild and Districts to arrange. Our officers work hard on behalf of the membership, but it may be that you simply are not interested in the traditional practices/meetings/outings that we have always run in the past. Life has changed considerably since the foundation of the Guild, and even from when we celebrated the Centenary in 1986. What do you want now? Do you think that the traditional events are important, or does the Guild need to focus its efforts in a different direction? Your district AGM is an ideal opportunity to voice your ideas and opinions, or you can email contact@hdgb.org with your thoughts.

Ringling for weddings

How much does your church charge for ringing for weddings? There is a considerable gap between the lowest and highest amounts that ringers may receive. Often when we consider travelling time and expenses, together with waiting times, ringers receive less than the minimum wage for providing a skilled service. Please email contact@hdgb.org to let us know your rates, we will hopefully be able to work out an average, which could be useful when discussing rates with your church or PCC.



Hereford Diocesan Guild of Bellringers Bell Restoration Fund (registered charity 508531)

The AGM of the Bell Restoration Fund took place in Leominster on 15th October 2025. There were no new applications for grants, and Trustees and Officers remained in post as updated in the last issue.

News from Bellboard & Facebook

We regularly check Bellboard and Facebook to see what has been happening around and about. Here is a round-up of some of the news and events over the past three months:

- **St Nicholas** church in Hereford has now been put on the market; the Guild is continuing to keep in touch with the Diocese regarding the future of the bells.
- The **Marches Teaching Belfry** is ringing again.
- Congratulations to **Sue Hack** and **Ian Thornevell** who are now accredited ART teachers (Module 1).
- **East Radnor Bellringers** featured on the Kington Parishes Facebook page with a write up of their very successful Thursday afternoon learner's practices at **Kington**. Well done all, you are doing a great job!
- Church Stretton District, Stoke St Milborough, Holmer & friends, and Clifford & Kington District all held tower outings
- Well done to Kris Perruzzza who is now an accredited ART teacher for Module 2
- Ringing was recorded on **Bellboard** with many special footnotes including special birthdays, marriages and in memory of loved ones. Many visitors from outside of the Guild also rang quarters and peals, some helping us to commemorate special events.
- Congratulations to **Trevor Brackston**, **Andrew Burdett** and **Jenny Childs** who all achieved Learning the Ropes Level 1 awards.

Burghill Bell Club 2025



Huge congratulations are due to all those who took part in Burghill Bell Club in August. This was originally conceived as a way to recruit younger people into bell ringing and drew on the skills and expertise of ringers who form part of the Burghill/Marden/Bodenham/Wellington cluster in the north of the Hereford District. The club provided daytime activities for young people aged 10+ over the course of a week during the school holidays.

The organisers based the activities on the Bluebell challenge; Sherbourne Teaching Aids; Association of Ringing Teachers LTR level 1 and the Handbells Ringers of Great Britain 'Crescendo' scheme to ensure that all the participants were able to achieve a certificate and/or badge during the week.

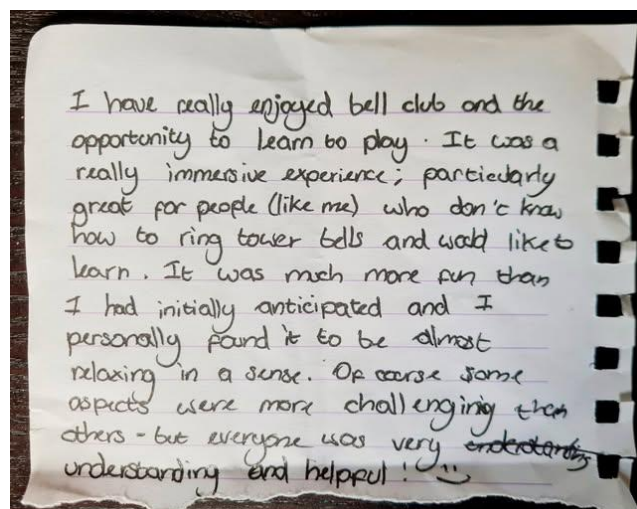
During the week no fewer than 23 ringers were involved in learning/teaching/helping and supporting the event – a fantastic team effort, all credit to the organisers.

If you would like to know more about Bell Club, or have ideas and inspiration to share please contact

guild_education@hdgb.org or if you would like to access resources focussed on recruiting and training young ringers please visit

<https://yrhub.cccbr.org.uk/resources/>

Feedback from one of the young people who attended.



The Marches Teaching Belfry and The Fire Ring

The Marches Teaching Belfry and The Fire Ring are privately owned by Jan Herraty and John Turney in Hopton Heath.

The MTB is a simulated set of 10 “dumb bells”, it was set up with the idea of being a teaching centre and over the years Jan and John have hosted many workshops and short courses, as well as weekly practices. The MTB has also rung 100s of quarter peals, mainly Surprise including 40 spliced Surprise Major and quite a few peals of Major and Royal.



Unfortunately, COVID put a stop to this and due to John’s ill health, it sadly had never really got going again.

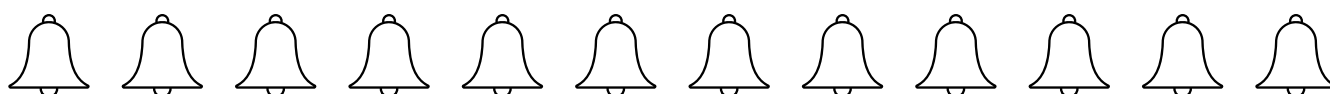
Good News

Over the last few months, a group of ringers have been checking over everything, making tweaks and getting everything working again.

We are pleased that Jan has managed to restart practices, and we have run a small learner session for a few of our local ringers, as a trial. We even managed to ring a quarter peal on them after doing some initial work.



The MTB is a fantastic resource located quite centrally in the Guild, and we would encourage everyone to use this facility to your tower/district/ the Guild’s advantage.



The Fire Ring is a mini ring of 8, they have not been rung for some time, but a small amount of maintenance work has been done to the bells and fittings, as well as the ringing room and they are now also working well. We hope to be able to ring a quarter peal on them soon, when time and other commitments permit.



<https://dove.cccbr.org.uk/tower/13820>

Contact details for the Hopton Heath rings can be found in the annual report.

How to renew for 2026

All registered members will need to log in to renew their membership through membermojo (even those whose membership is free – to ensure their information is still up to date and correct).

You can renew your online membership from 1st November onwards, but the system will also send out automated email reminders.

Access membermojo renewal page by:

Clicking the **renew** link in the mail sent to you and login OR

Go to <https://membermojo.co.uk/hdgb/signin> to login then go to **Your Membership** and click on **Renew**

Example of how the automated renewal email will look

Your membership is due for renewal



Hereford Diocesan Guild of Bellringers <noreply.hdgb@membermojo.co.uk>

to me

[Unsubscribe](#)



Your membership with Hereford Diocesan Guild of Bellringers is due for renewal before 31st December 2025

Please Sign In to confirm your details and renew your membership. You will not require a password.

[Confirm your details and renew your membership.](#)

Name: Bert Ringer

Email: Berttheringer@bells.com

Membership: Your membership type, e.g Ringing Member/Freeman/Junior Member

Expiry Date: 31st December 2025

Review and update your details, and communication preferences. Most information will be pre-filled, but some questions will need to be answered.

NB to make compiling the annual report easier, and because of the changes to the CofE safeguarding framework this year, there will be some additional questions to answer.

The following questions are about any roles you may have as a ringer.

Such as, are you a Tower Captain or Correspondent, or do you have a Guild or District role?

This information will help us to keep contact information correct and make compiling the annual report much simpler.

*** Are you a Guild Officer, District Secretary or District Ringing Master (includes Assistant Ringing Masters or other named equivalent position)?**

-- select --

District Education Officers who may run practices on behalf of the Guild/District should answer YES

District Treasurers/Bell Restoration Fund Reps etc. (ie officers who will not organise or run a practice) should answer NO

*** Are you a Tower Captain (also known as a Tower Ringing Master) or appointed as a Responsible Individual for a Tower by a PCC?**

-- select --

The Tower Captain or Ringing Master will run the ringing at a tower.

Other people with responsibilities in the tower - eg Secretary/Treasurer or Steeple Keeper should answer NO to this question

*** Are you a Tower Correspondent?**

-- select --

If you have been appointed by a parish as correspondent for a tower please choose Yes

When you reach the bottom of the page click review

Next

your details then

Checkout

From the following screens you will have the option to add a donation to the Guild, or to pay for other members during the checkout process.

If a member wants to add extra items (donation or other subs), they must click on **VISIT STORE** at the bottom of the checkout page.

They can add items as required then click again to checkout – a revised basket will be shown e.g.

More Checkout Options

Start a new membership that shares your email.

Checkout items from the Hereford Diocesan Guild of Bellringers store.

New Membership

Visit Store

Checkout

Fran Watkins

Membership renewal: Ringing Member, 2025-11-01 to 2025-12-31 £10.00

[Edit](#) [Remove](#)

From the Store

Payment of 2026 membership subscription for additional ringing member(s) - Adult Ringing Member (x3) £30.00
paying for Sally Ringer, Bob Ringer and Fred Headstock of Bellminster tower

Donation to Guild funds - £25 Donation £25.00

[Edit](#) [Remove](#)

Total: £65.00

PAYMENT OPTIONS - Members can pay

- online with a Credit or debit card (processed by Stripe)
- by Paypal Account
- To your District Treasurer
- Or by selecting that your Tower will make payment for your 2026 subscription

Checkout

Fran Watkins

Membership renewal: Ringing Member, 2025-11-01 to 2025-12-31 £10.00

[Edit](#) [Remove](#)

Total: £10.00

Payment

Pay with credit or debit card

☒ Credit or debit card (processed by Stripe)

Card number: 1234 1234 1234 1234

Expiry date: MM / YY

CVC: CVC

[Pay with Card](#)

[Pay](#)

Where a member chooses to pay **online** their membership record will be updated immediately.

Online payment can be made through the checkout (hosted by Stripe, by Apple Pay or by Paypal account)

Pay with your PayPal account

☐ [PayPal](#)

If a member chooses to pay to their Treasurer or confirms that their tower will pay, when the admins receive confirmation that payment has been made, an Administrator will mark the record as payment received/renewed manually.

Pay with Payment by CASH only to my District Treasurer or My 2026 subscription will be paid by my tower

☐ Payment by CASH only to my District Treasurer

☐ My 2026 subscription will be paid by my tower

In all cases the final **ORANGE BUTTON** must be clicked to confirm checkout

[Pay with My 2026 subscription will be paid by my tower](#)

[Pay with Payment by CASH only to my District Treasurer](#)

otherwise the process WILLNOT BE COMPLETE

When checkout has been completed the member will receive an email confirming their renewal option.

If any member needs help, please contact Fran Watkins. A 'How to' Guide will be added to the front page of the website and to membermojo.