



Celebrating 140 years
of the Hereford Diocesan Guild of Bellringers

Peals of Celebration – ideas and inspiration for anniversary festivities in 2026

2026 marks a remarkable milestone — the 140th anniversary of the Hereford Diocesan Guild of Bellringers. This is a wonderful opportunity to honour our heritage, and to come together to ring our bells. Here are some planned events and ideas to help us celebrate this special year in style.

1. Anniversary Ringing

The actual anniversary of the Guild falls on **Monday 2nd March 2026**. It would be amazing to have peals, quarter peals, date touches or touches (perhaps even 140 changes in length!) and general ringing recorded in as many of our towers as possible over the week. *A special event has been created on Bellboard <https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/event.php?id=22351> and here are some options of various methods:*

140 Middlesex Bob Triples

234567	1	4
534267	–	–
234567	–	–

Near calls.

Not atw.

≈54: 2 567s, 2 657s, 4 crus, 6 4-bell runs (2f,4b), 4 46s.

140 Grandsire Triples

234567	O	M	T	H
453267	–	s		
532467			s	–
234567			s	s

Not atw.

≈43: 3 567s, 657, 10 crus, 7 4-bell runs (4f,3b), 3 46s.

140 Stedman Triples

Composed by George E Symonds

234567	3	10	12	13	
462537			–	–	(14)
(3124567)	–	–			(10)

Start with rounds as the last row of a quick six.

Not atw.

≈37: 567, 3 657s, 7 crus, 3 4-bell runs (2f,1b).

1886 Stedman Caters

Composed by Paul Marshall

123456789	1	3	5	15	
361572894	s	–	s		(8)
651273984			a		
125376498	–	–	–		
532471869			b		
125374698				14A	
(483756219)	s				

Start with rounds as the last row of a quick six.

a = 1.2.5.s6.s9.15

b = 1.5.15.s17

1 56 (0f,1b), 4 65s (1f,3b), 49 4-bell runs (21f,28b).

1886 Stedman Triples

Composed by Paul Marshall

1234567	1				
6315427	–				(6)
3425167	a				
4165237	a				
1235647	A				
3546217	b				
4156327	3A				
5346127	c				
4236517	3A				
3615247	B				
6523417	D				
5623147	C				
1253467	2A				
(6514327)	–				

Start with rounds as the last row of a quick six.

a = 3-6

b = 3-8

c = 3-8.12.13

7 567s, 6 657s, 46 crus, 31 4-bell runs (18f,13b), 18 46s, Tittums.

140 Plain Bob Triples

234567				
234567	a			

a = s4.6.7.s9

≈79: 3 567s, 3 657s, 6 crus, 12 4-bell runs (6f,6b), 10 46s, Whittingtons, Backrounds

2. 140 Firsts

<https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/event.php?id=22372>

Throughout the year we want to keep a record of all the firsts achieved by our ringers and achieve at least 140 firsts. Everyone at any stage of their ringing journey can join in this challenge, please make sure the event is recorded on BellBoard and linked to the event we have created. **A “first” can be anything, first time ringing call changes, first time ringing for Sunday service, first time ringing on 10, first Quarter Peal, first in a new method, first peal and any other first you can think of.** Below is the first entry – congratulations Burghill!

Hereford Diocesan Guild – 140 'Firsts' - celebrating 140 years of the Hereford Diocesan Guild of Bellringers

1st January – 31st December 2026

Celebrate the 140th Anniversary of the HDGB by recording your 'firsts' on Bellboard

This can be a 'first' ring for Sunday service or other significant occasion, or any 'firsts' in quarters, date touches or peals

Associated performances
Found 1 associated performances. [Filter]

3 Jan 2026 Burghill (St Mary the Virgin) 1260 Doubles (1m/1v)

Performances associated with this event will not be printed together in *The Ringing World*. If you wish your performance to be printed, you should select "Send to RW" on each performance in the normal way.

Congratulations
on taking part in the
Hereford Diocesan Guild of Bellringers
140 Firsts' celebrations 1886-2026

Hereford Diocesan Guild

On Saturday, 3 January 2026 in 41m
Burghill, Herefordshire
St Mary the Virgin
Tenor: 10-0-20 in G
1260 Doubles (1m/1v)
660 Plain Bob and 600 changes Kensington.
1 Chris Brackston
2 Luke Watkins
3 Kris Ferruzza (C)
4 Jason M Walker
5 Andrew Watkins
6 Luke R Hollingsworth

First quarter peal - Tenor:
Luke began ringing 5 months ago, when he attended the inaugural Burghill bell club.

140
HDGB
Celebrating 140 years
of the Hereford Diocesan Guild of Bellringers

A certificate will be issued to each individual or band achieving a first.

3. 140 New Recruits

This target is clearly ambitious, but we need something to aim for, and the new recruits will hopefully convert to becoming guild members in time. All of us can encourage people to come along and give bellringing a go, we all know the benefits are enormous, as a hobby it ticks so many boxes, and it is within the capabilities of most. Encouraging towers to open their doors to the public, offering guided tours, bell handling demonstrations, and opportunities to try ringing is a fantastic way to engage communities and attract new recruits to the art.

With this target in mind and having secured the support of the membership the Guild took the decision in 2025 to direct some of the available funds towards recruitment and training.



Events such as the recruitment day outside Hereford Cathedral, Bell Club & local Open Tower events have been successful in attracting recruits. An online meeting was held at the end of January where members and Districts were invited to discuss potential recruitment opportunities and the support required. Please ask your Management Committee Rep. for information of a copy of the minutes. There is a huge amount of material available from within our own guild and drawing on the experience of other organisations and from the Central Council.

4. Teaching

New recruits require ringers available to teach them. A guild wide request for teachers, both experienced and those wishing to receive training to teach, indicates we have more than 40 people ready and willing to teach or support teaching in one of the 38 locations identified as being potential teaching towers.

An **ART level 1 (teaching bell handling) course** took place at Bromyard on 24th Jan 2025 to kick start the teacher's training initiative. Guild members who attended will receive a 50% refund on their course fees from the guild with the remaining 50% being refunded when they complete the training and become accredited. We are fortunate to have 29 trained ART teachers who can act as mentors for those wishing to go down the ART path and their support is going to prove invaluable.

If you want to find out more information about ART & their education offering here is the link <https://bellringing.org/>

We are delighted to support anyone wishing to teach from those who are seasoned experienced teachers to those who need the confidence of some instruction first.

If you would like to find out more about teaching bell handling then please speak with any Guild officer or contact ART directly. Another ART M1 course could be held later in the year if we have enough interest.



Joining forces with others locally & having at least a couple of teachers in the tower works well, **bringing groups of learners together** regularly helps them realise they are not the only ones out there.



We have introduced some **targeted, supported sessions** which have been either for those who are just starting to ring rounds, through to call changes and simple plain hunt or for those who are learning to ring triples methods. The sessions have been held across the districts and have been well supported by experienced ringers and those coming to learn alike. It is vital that ringers are given a **pathway to progression**, and we hope that these sessions will continue to fulfill this need.

Any input or questions about recruitment, teaching & targeted practices please get in touch with Kris Perruzza, Guild Education Officer guild_education@hdgb.org

4. Annual AGM Saturday 9th May Hereford

In our anniversary year the AGM will be hosted by the Hereford District.

Last year's event (Ross District) was very well attended and the format of the day received very positive feedback; our intention is to recreate a similar experience.



This year the service and meeting will take place at **St Peter's church**, there will be activities including a **mini-ring** and **tours to see the ancient bells**, along with many **other activities and ringing opportunities**. Full details will be released nearer the time. Please make every effort to attend, enjoy the ringing and use the opportunity to vote for what is important to you. Remember to encourage any learners or new members to come along as it is a rare chance to meet with ringers from all districts of our Guild.



5. Special Anniversary Guild Dinner – Friday 12th June

In the prestigious location of The Green Dragon, Hereford, we are holding a celebratory anniversary dinner. Guest speakers include our President, the Bishop of Hereford, the Editor of the Ringing World and our very own Vice President Val Roberts.

Tickets are now on sale, visit the [store](#) on membermojo or email contact@hdgb.org please make every effort to ensure your tower is represented and come along to what we hope will be a most enjoyable evening.

For those of you who may have to travel further we have **discount code available for room bookings**, please email contact@hdgb.org for details.



6. Anniversary Striking Competition – Thomas Cooper

As well as it being the 140th year for the Guild, the Thomas Cooper striking competition reaches a milestone 50th anniversary. It is fair to say that the guild striking competition has had roller coaster reception over the last couple of years with a sell-out & greatly celebrated day in 2024 followed by a cancellation in 2025 due to lack of entries.

Because it is the year of two anniversaries and we, as bellringers, need to acknowledge and celebrate the spirit of the legacy behind the Thomas Cooper Trophy we feel it is important to honour this event.

Bromyard is the home of the Thomas Cooper legacy and has been chosen as the venue to host this years Striking Competition on **Saturday 18th July**.

There will be other competitions on the day, widening the opportunity for participation for all ringers and removing district constraints.

Full details and competition rules will be available when the event is advertised later in the year.



Current Holders of the Thomas Coper Trophy – Church Stretton District

7. Commemorative Merchandise



We're pleased to announce that **limited edition badges** featuring a special 140th anniversary logo will soon be available to purchase. They will be on sale at Guild events – look out for details.

We also hope that Clothing with the 2026 anniversary logo will soon be available to order through the normal channels on the website.

Funds raised will go towards Guild activities relating to recruitment and teaching.

As a **registered charity (No. 1105766)**, the Guild has a duty to help support our ringers to meet the aims of

- Encourage interest in the ancient art of bellringing
- Teach new bellringers
- Educate and train existing bellringers, so that they can perform to their highest ability
- Bring ringers throughout the Diocese together, so that they can support each other, and learn from each other
- Help churches and bellringers to care for all the bells within the Diocese.

8. Tower Open Day

We will be holding a Tower Open Day on 3rd October. With a ringing route that is planned to take in several districts running the east side of the Diocese it should be a fantastic way to get out ringing, grab a few towers, spend a day with ringing friends and raise funds for the Guild.

We will publish the ringing route nearer the time and will be asking for volunteer stewards to make sure that day runs smoothly, and to welcome visitors from all over the country to our beautiful countryside.

How to Get Involved

- Last year we formed an events committee which has been augmented to include representatives from each district to form an Anniversary Committee to coordinate the 140th anniversary activities. However, if you wish to get involved you will be a very welcome addition, please let us know.
- Please share all our activities and photos with the Guild newsletter and website. Contact Fran Watkins, Guild Secretary guild_secretary@hdgb.org or Nicky Aubrey, Public engagement officer peo@hdgb.org and Nick Chapman webmaster@hdgb.org.
- With activities such as the 140 First and anniversary ringing on 2nd March **every single ringer can contribute to our celebrations in their own tower** and make the most of the opportunity to share bellringing with the wider community.
- Certificates will be issued to those who ring a 'First' or take part in commemorative ringing or chiming on 2nd March, and these can be displayed in your tower, or with your community on social media, or through your parish magazine – tell everyone you know about ringing!

Let the Bells Ring Out!

The 140th anniversary is a once-in-a-generation opportunity.

Whether you're ringing a single bell, organising a peal, or welcoming a newcomer, every contribution makes the celebration richer.

Thank you for helping to keep our proud tradition alive and well.

Hereford Diocesan Guild of Bellringers, Est. 1886

