

**Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting held at The Crown Inn Dilwyn on
Saturday 28th of March 2026 2:00 PM**

Those present:

<i>Guild Master</i>	Sue Robinson	<i>Ledbury Sec.</i>	Judith Faux
<i>Guild Secretary</i>	Fran Watkins	<i>Ledbury Rep.</i>	Chris Roberts
<i>Peal Recorder/CC Rep</i>	Andrew Watkins	<i>Hereford Rep/Safeguarding</i>	Jason Walker
<i>Report Secretary</i>	Neil Bragg	<i>CC Rep</i>	Tyler Edwards
<i>Tower Stewardship Advisor</i>	Alan Reade	<i>Clifford & Kington Sec</i>	Pat Key
<i>Clerical Rep/CC Rep</i>	Anthony Ellis	<i>Church Stretton Sec</i>	Neil Pirie
<i>Clerical Rep.</i>	Rev Nicky Seabright	<i>Events Team Rep</i>	Richard Bracher
<i>Bromyard Rep.</i>	Nick Cronin	<i>Vice President</i>	Val Roberts
<i>Church Stretton Rep.</i>	Anne Hone	<i>Bridgnorth Rep</i>	Richard Rogers

Apologies were received from

<i>Clerical Rep.</i>	Rev Barney Bell	<i>Webmaster</i>	Nick Chapman
<i>Bridgnorth Sec.</i>	Darren Swancott	<i>Ross District Sec.</i>	Greg White
<i>Bromyard Sec.</i>	Clare Bellis	<i>Leominster Sec.</i>	Abigail Pugh
<i>Clifford & Kington Rep.</i>	Tim Hollinghurst		

Not in attendance, no apologies received:

<i>Belfries Officer</i>	Ashley Fortey	<i>Public Eng. Officer</i>	Nicky Aubrey
<i>Leominster Rep.</i>	Alice Pugh	<i>Guild Treasurer</i>	Mark Aston
<i>Ross Rep.</i>	Sally Townsend		

1. Opening prayers:

The Guild Master welcomed everyone to the meeting, then opening prayers were led by Rev. Nicky Seabright and remembered those who have died since our last meeting in October 2025: Shirley Rowlands – Eardisland, John Bartley – HLM Welshpool, Rev David Eve – Cleobury Mortimer, John Croxton – Clunbury, John Turney – Hopton Heath, Rosemary Lawley – Highley

2. Welcome:

As there were several new faces the Master then invited everyone to introduce themselves. New committee members Richard Rogers, Anne Hone and Judith Faux were welcomed.

3. Apologies for absence were formally received from those members indicated above

4. Minutes of the October meeting had been distributed before the meeting, there were no questions and Nick Cronin proposed, Andrew Watkins seconded, that they be accepted as a true record of the meeting. All were in favour, and the Master signed the minutes.

5. Matters arising:

Several matters arising from the minutes were discussed –

- (i) Use of the **Wombel** – the potential to use the Wombel for all districts was discussed. Judith said that at the Ledbury community day they found it to be a very useful tool for raising awareness. Districts were encouraged to keep it in mind; it was suggested a reminder be sent via the newsletter.

ACTION – Wombel reminder in Newsletter (Guild Sec)

- (ii) **Online payments** update – the Secretary advised the meeting that a large majority of members had renewed using the online payment system, and that she had been able to assist with any

members who contacted her with queries. Some districts reported that members had problems, but it was hoped that as members become more familiar with the system these will be naturally worked out. The secretary was willing to offer any assistance or advice as needed. Pat asked whether there was a facility for a tower to pay for more than one member, Fran explained that this was available through the system.

(iii) **Feedback from Districts on recruitment opportunities and the Mini MCM.**

Neil Pirie advised that the new **Church Stretton** District Officers held a small committee meeting to discuss ideas for the district, they have agreed a schedule of monthly practices and have moved the time, they are looking at forming a 'Ringing Force' of experienced ringers who can work together to support towers who may be struggling. A Ringing Festival is also planned in Bishops Castle to encourage recruitment and promote bellringing. Scouts and similar groups could also be invited.

Richard Rogers told the meeting that **Bridgnorth** District had recently held a monthly event with a different format, incorporating a maintenance training session, followed by general ringing, a shared lunch and further ringing aimed at newer recruits. The day was structured so that people could attend just the parts they were interested in, and Richard said it was better attended than other district events he has been to. Much Wenlock had also held two tower open days, in conjunction with Church-led events (such as a Heritage Open Day), they have new recruits as a result of these. The Church had also given out leaflets to the congregation highlighting 'church jobs' such as cleaning/flower arranging/bellringing – this had also attracted a recruit.

Judith said that **Ledbury** District is working on a social media group to try to attract recruits, with follow-on open days at towers.

Anthony Ellis reminded the meeting that the **Central Council** has produced a wide range of tools and materials that can be used to help with recruitment and he urged districts to make use of it.

(iv) **Review of Annual Report**

Neil reported that he has received some feedback and has updates to send to the printers. There was some discussion as to whether it was necessary to print members' names in the report. Neil has rearranged the report to try to make it more logical. District Master's reports are no longer to be included. A list of members for each district could be included after the tower details. Nick Cronin said he felt it was important for members' names to appear under their tower. Judith Faux agreed. Fran suggested that we will be able to include the names under separate tower headings at the end of each district section. It was agreed that this compromise would be adopted for this year.

A discussion took place as to how the information on membermojo can help with the production of the report, the Secretary felt that we have started a process, a lot of the information is now available, but not all members were yet engaged. Val Roberts said that she felt it should be the District Secretary's job to gather the information, and that she did not like membermojo. The Secretary said that it was each member's responsibility to ensure their information was correct, if this is done, then there is no information that need be gathered. The Guild Secretary said she had been working with the District Secretaries, and many had been very helpful encouraging the uptake of membermojo.

Discussion took place about the long-term value of the detail in the report as historical record. The Master felt that we should monitor how many copies of the reports remain uncollected.

ACTION – District Secretaries to report back on uncollected copies of report to the October MCM

Clun District Records Anne Hone advised, that following the sad death of John Croxton, she had spoken with John's daughter to ask them to look out for any Guild or District records when

looking through his belongings. John's daughter had agreed to pass on any records she might find.

(v) **New website & email provider**

We changed the host for the Guild emails, all officers that have used the new system feel that it is working well. The Master told the meeting that the Webmaster is working on an update for the website. The Master said that progress on this is relatively slow, however we do appreciate that the Webmaster is very busy and works with other projects as well as his role with the Guild. The Master advised that the trustees are exploring whether any outside/paid for resource might be able to assist with the project and will explore with the Webmaster whether this is something that he would like to work with. The Master felt that a recruitment/learn to ring landing page could be an important addition to the website.

6. Correspondence

(i) **SLOT licence** – the Secretary advised that to hold a Grand Prize Raffle, to be drawn at the Guild Dinner on 12th June, a lotteries licence had been required. This had been successfully applied for, but Herefordshire Council required two signatories be authorised to complete the return (see appendix 1). Andrew Watkins proposed, and Sue Robinson seconded, that **Fran Watkins and Jason Walker be the authorised signatories**, a vote was taken with all in favour.

(ii) The Secretary advised that she has maintained contact with Sarah Girling, Diocesan Pastoral Secretary, regarding future use of **St Nicholas Hereford** bells. No preferred bidder had yet been identified, but Sarah had recently advised that the two short-listed candidates are both church/community based and continuing access to the bells at St Nicholas was likely. The secretary will maintain communication with Sarah.

Judith Faux said that she had worked with an umbrella group that had been involved with the previous planned sale of St Nicholas. The project had not gone ahead due to problems with planning. One issue they came across was that if any item was to be removed from the church, it was much easier if this were to take place prior to the sale completion, as this avoided issues in any planning application.

Anthony Ellis reminded everyone to make Guild Officers aware of any potential church closures. If the bells need to be removed it is necessary to obtain a DAC faculty, and it would be good to work with the PCC to try to obtain this prior to closure.

Val Roberts advised that the Churches Conservation Trust are expected to take over **Berrington** shortly, this was agreed to be a positive step forward.

ACTION all MCM members to notify Guild Sec of any potential church closures

7. Officers' reports (appendix 2)

Judith Faux said that the reports (especially the Secretary's report) raised several questions of process, including how nominations are made in the wake of the recent resignation from the Education Officer/Master Elect/CC rep posts, and also how districts and members can remain engaged. Judith explained that her comments should be taken as a discussion about process, engagement and openness. The Ledbury district had felt quite shocked about the recent resignation and felt some concern that there were nominations made for replacements when the Ledbury District had not even known there was a vacancy to be filled and therefore had not had the opportunity to consider any replacement.

The Master said that the trustees do recognise there are issues with the current rules which do have an adverse effect on how we can operate.

The Peal Recorder suggested the formation of a group of trustees and representatives from the districts to look at the rules.

Judith Faux said that she would like to record that the districts recognise how much hard work has already been put into re-energising the Guild and transforming the way we operate and recognise that we cannot do everything at once.

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The Secretary asked whether it was felt the previous, single topic, mini management committee meeting had been useful, and whether holding more specific meetings might be useful.

Judith explained that a 'task & finish' group would be suitable to look at the rules, and it would have the benefit of being able to access people with expertise who may not be on the management committee.

Jason Walker said that if we are to form a group, we must be sure that those people on the group are actually interested and committed, otherwise we will be in the same problem where we have people in roles who are just not interested and doing nothing – this is not helping the Guild at all.

The Master said that as a result of this discussion we will move to form a group to undertake a review of the rules.

ACTION – a preliminary miniMCM to be arranged to begin work on a review group (Guild Sec/Master)

Nicky Seabright said that she had found that the miniMCM meeting with a single focus had been very useful. The Master felt we could start the process of forming a review group with a miniMCM.

There was some discussion as to whether Microsoft Teams was a suitable tool, Nick Cronin had issues using it, and Anne Hone said she could not use any form of online meeting. Anthony Ellis suggested that if you are unable to use a particular piece of software, you could make arrangements to visit or share screens with someone who can.

Chris Roberts said that it had been difficult to find out who the trustees were, the information in the report and on the website could be clearer.

ACTION – revision to website and Annual Report to clarify Trustees (Guild Sec)

The Master agreed that the Secretary's report was sobering reading but possibly did not tell us anything we did not already know. The lack of young ringers was discussed, together with the demographic of the diocese.

The Master told the meeting that as we have emails that are functioning well, we would like to encourage all Guild & District officers in any role to have a Guild email address, this will ensure continuity and offers a range of online tools that can be used. She encouraged any officer without a guild email address (hdgb.org) to get in touch so that it can be arranged.

ACTION – all MCM members/Districts to consider the use of Guild email addresses

Chris Roberts asked whether this MCM needs to approve the accounts to be presented to the AGM. The accounts were distributed, and the meeting took the opportunity to review them. Ledbury District queried an item in Note 2 – Grants to Districts -£162.06. Judith wondered with this was a formatting issue. The Secretary checked the original spreadsheet and found that this was not a formatting issue. That being the case Ledbury District could not approve the accounts.

Ledbury also asked whether the balances held by the districts will also appear in the accounts.

The Master said that we intend to format the accounts in future so that expenditure to meet the Guild's charitable aims is more easily identifiable.

As we could not approve the accounts until the queries are resolved Judith Faux proposed, and Nick Cronin seconded that we approve the accounts subject to clarification from the Treasurer over the Note 2 – Grants to Districts -£162.06 Ledbury District, and the inclusion of balances held by the districts.

ACTION – Guild Treasurer to clarify and amend accounts

8. Nominations for Guild Officers, Central Council reps & Clerical reps (appendix 3)

The Master advised that Rev Sheila Anthony had expressed an interest in becoming a Clerical Representative and she has been formally invited to the post.

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Judith Faux suggested that it would be useful to have a short biography of nominees, even when there is only one candidate. It is very difficult to vote for someone that you have no knowledge of. There was general agreement that this was a good idea.

ACTION – Short Biographies to be introduced as appropriate (Guild Sec)

Val Roberts found it very sad that ringers rarely seem to travel outside of their own areas. The Secretary felt that if we have better publicity, making use of the Guild Calendar & the Bellboard Diary, then there is a much better chance of people travelling to events.

ACTION – District Secretaries to make use of Guild Calendar and Bellboard Diary to publicise events

Andrew Watkins proposed and Nick Cronin seconded, that the nominations be recommended to the AGM, all in favour.

9. Proposals received from Trustees (Appendix 4)

(a) Change to Peal fees and Non-Resident Life Member subscriptions.

The Peal Recorder explained that prior to the proposal, he had consulted with regular peal ringers and considered our status as a charity. The Trustees had unanimously agreed a proposal that the peal fee be increased to £1.00 per ringer, and that the Non-Resident Life Membership fee be increased to £5.00.

Anthony Ellis proposed, and Nick Cronin seconded that this change be adopted, all were in favour.

(b) Formation of a Tower Support Fund (& agree donation to BRF)

The Trustees were in an agreement that the peal fees could be used to form the basis of a Tower Support Fund, specifically aimed at small projects (that would not fall under the scope of the Bell Restoration Fund (Charity number 508531)) but would be in line with our own charitable purposes. The Ledbury District currently has a similar fund, and the Peal Recorder had approached the district for a copy of how their fund is managed.

Nick Cronin proposed, and Neil Bragg seconded that the fund be set up, with a committee to be formed to look into the administration.

ACTION -- a preliminary miniMCM to be arranged to begin work on a review group (Guild Sec/Master)

Anthony Ellis asked whether it would be possible to make donations to the fund, this will be made possible, either by bank transfer or membermojo, and if Gift Aid is enabled, we will be able to claim tax relief.

The Master asked the meeting to consider how much money the Guild might donate to the Bell Restoration Fund. In 2025 we donated a reduced sum of £400 as we wanted to be able to invest in training and recruitment. The Secretary confirmed that an analysis of 2025 expenditure shows we had been able to allocate approximately £400.00 to both training and recruitment spending.

Nick Cronin asked whether we have had an approach from the Bell Restoration Fund asking for a donation. The Secretary confirmed that there had not been any approach, and that the Master had written to the BRF to outline the reason for our donation amount last year and had requested a meeting. The Bell Restoration Fund had thanked us for the donation but had not agreed to a meeting.

Anthony Ellis stated that he believed we should make no donation. The Peal Recorder advised that the Treasurer felt that, as the BRF had not spent any money, they did not need to have a donation at this time. The Master stated that she did not want to advocate either way on a donation, but she felt that we should not exceed last year's donation because we still have many of our own aims that we need to meet.

Anthony Ellis was concerned that there was a problem, it appeared that there was no engagement between the BRF and the Guild, and that until there was some engagement, we should not make a donation.

The Report Secretary confirmed that in the BRF submission to the annual report, they do acknowledge and thank the Guild for our 2025 donation. The BRF accounts show an excess income of £10,600.00 last year, and that they currently have £94,920.00 in funds.

Judith Faux expressed that the BRF would need several big projects to make a substantial reduction in their current reserves.

Val Roberts said that she would hate to see that the BRF and the Guild have a problem between them, but it appears this may be happening. She felt that we must try hard to engage and keep a dialogue, as there was no representation from the BRF at the meeting any information or feedback does not get back to them.

Judith Faux wondered whether a personal approach to one or more of the trustees might be useful. The Peal Recorder said that all Guild members can attend the BRF AGM, and it was up to members to attend.

The Secretary said that from the conversations she has had with some of the BRF Trustees, they are very clear that they view themselves as an entirely separate charity and value their independence. There is confusion amongst many of our members who do not appreciate that the Guild and the BRF are separate charities. The situation where both entities are charities, and both have their own differing aims, does make things difficult.

Judith Faux proposed that we adopt the proposal in Appendix 4 (b) (ii) that we make £0 donation to the Bell Restoration Fund, and that we write to their Trustees to explain the decision as outlined in the proposal.

ACTION – write to BRF to explain our decision (Guild Sec)

Nick Cronin asked that the date of the BRF AGM be publicised to the Guild.

ACTION – BRF AGM to be publicised to members when the date is known (Guild Sec)

(c) Recommended Rules Changes

Appendix 4 outlined the proposed rule changes to Rules 7c & Rule 8.

Nick Cronin proposed and Anthony Ellis seconded that the revised version (ii) be adopted for Rule 7c and that the revised Rule 8 be adopted. A vote was taken with all in favour.

10. 140th Anniversary update

The Master gave an update on 140th Celebrations. Badges and Raffle Tickets are now on sale. The Master reminded the meeting that there are a number of events that will need the support of everyone at the meeting, she asked all to go out and encourage their members to attend.

We would welcome a table at the Dinner from every district. Val Roberts asked whether each of the past Masters, Secretaries and Freeman could be written to, to ask them to show their support by attending the Dinner.

ACTION - District Secretaries & Reps to encourage ticket sales and 'district tables'

The 140 Firsts project has been enthusiastically taken up by some of the districts; certificates are issued to those achieving firsts.

On the 2nd March anniversary date, 37 performances were recorded on Bellboard, with a total of 80 performances overall so far.

The Master asked for a volunteer from each district to ensure that they are represented at the Guild Competition Day.

ACTION - District Secretaries & Reps to ensure competition entries from each district

Details of the Open Day on 3rd October will follow.

11. Finalise Guild AGM Agenda (appendix 5)

The draft agenda for the AGM was agreed, with all in favour.

12. Any Other Business

Anthony Ellis spoke to express his concern at a potential change to the ethos of the Central Council. The Central Council has traditionally been an umbrella organisation for all Guilds and Associations. To fund paid administrative help for the Ringing 2030 project an increase in affiliation fees has been put through. Whilst the time-limited initial project had been identified, Anthony is worried that this may

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signal a change from an umbrella organisation to a secretariat. If this should happen Anthony has concerns about where the money may come from.

Anthony advised that he did not have a problem with the proposed short-term employment within the Ringing 2030 project, or the aims of the project itself.

The Central Council has budgeted for the expenditure from its reserves, but if the Executive should decide that they need more, continued administrative help, then the reserves will not last indefinitely, and the money to fund the cost of employment would likely come from further increased affiliation fees.

Anthony asked what do we want from the Central Council – do we want it to be a traditional umbrella organisation, or an organisation with paid staff that ‘runs ringing’?

Anthony explained that the Central Council had never paid staff previously, but having done so once, this may set a precedent for the Executive to slip through further expenses. Anthony believed there should be a major debate in the Central Council to decide the future direction of the Central Council and how it is going to operate.

Nick Cronin said that he had heard that there is a lot of disquiet around the country at the Central Council becoming an employer.

Anthony said that he has given this matter a lot of thought and proposed that we could submit a resolution to the Central Council from the Hereford Diocesan Guild expressing our unhappiness that there appears to have been a major change in the direction of the Central Council and how it operates.

Nick Cronin said that he would be willing to second the proposal, and that without a challenge the Central Council may continue to employ more.

Val Roberts said she also had concerns over the issue.

Anthony has been in communication with the Secretary of the Central Council and felt that the Central Council only issued a business plan as a last resort. He also has a concern that there have been proposals that every ringer could be a direct member of the Central Council.

Judith Faux said we should ask what we do, and what we do not want the Central Council to do. If what we want them to do requires some modest paid employees, then we should be prepared to fund it, but it needs to be clearly demonstrated first, that the action meets our needs.

The Secretary pointed out that ringing is facing a crisis, and it is increasingly difficult to get volunteers to make any commitment or take on a role, so she has some sympathy for the Central Council trying a different route.

Anthony said that any decision to take a different route, should only be made after discussion with the wider ringing community, and a proper debate about the role of the Central Council in relation to the Guilds.

Nick Cronin said that, if we do not support the Central Council, we always have the option to withdraw our affiliation, but it is hoped that it would not come to that.

The Secretary suggested that Anthony could draft a resolution, and that we could then consider to potentially reach an agreement for it to be submitted in time for the next Central Council meeting.

The Peal Recorder suggested that as there is now a vacancy for a CC Rep, we should nominate a replacement.

Alan Reade spoke to highlight the excellent work that is undertaken by the Central Council, Anthony responded that he fully agreed, but that it was the future direction of the Executive of the Council that concerned him.

The resolution would need to be submitted at least 6 weeks before the Central Council AGM in September. It was agreed we could meet this timescale and could approve the resolution at our AGM.

The Peal Recorder proposed that Fran Watkins be nominated as a Central Council rep. Nick Cronin seconded. All were in favour. Fran stated that she would be willing to stand but would ask members for other nominations in the next newsletter, if there were no other nominations forthcoming, she would stand.

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ACTION- Anthony to draft a resolution & send to the Guild Sec for distribution and consideration by MCM members

The Secretary then reminded all districts to submit an article for the next newsletter which is due to be published at the beginning of April.

ACTION - District Secretaries & Reps to submit articles from districts

13. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on 10th October.

There was some discussion about the timing of the meeting, a vote was taken and an afternoon time slot was preferred.

The meeting closed at 5.00pm

In order to raise funds at the Anniversary Dinner by means of a Charity Raffle, a SLOT licence has been obtained from Herefordshire Council. This allows us to sell tickets in advance of the event to non-attending members, online and to members of the public.

OFFICIAL



Directorate/Division: Economy and Environment
Team: Licensing
Please ask for: Licensing
Our Ref: SLOT1502
Direct Line: 01432 261761
Email: licensing@herefordshire.gov.uk
Date: 4 February 2026

Mr Kristoffer Perruzza
14 Leasown
Burghill
Hereford
HR4 7SA

Dear Mr Perruzza,

**GAMBLING ACT 2005
SMALL LOTTERIES REGISTRATION – EXPIRY OF LICENCE 1 FEBRUARY 2027
HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF BELLRINGERS
REGISTRATION NUMBER - SLOT1502**

We acknowledge receipt of your registration in respect of a Small Lottery – Non Commercial Society.

We have accepted your application and your registration number is shown above.

There is no requirement to register on an annual basis however you must pay an annual fee to continue to be registered. **Annual fees must be paid within the period of 1 month before expiry of the licence.**

PLEASE NOTE: WE DO NOT SEND OUT REMINDERS. THE ONUS IS ON THE HOLDER TO KNOW THE EXPIRY DATE.

Should the fee not be paid by the anniversary of your registration, your registration will cease and you will be required to make a new application. The cost of the Annual Renewal Fee is currently set at £20.00 and the cost of the New Registration is £40.00.

A return in respect of a small lottery must be sent to the local authority during the period of three months, beginning with the day on which the draw (or the last draw) in the lottery takes place. **It is also a requirement to include a copy of the minutes authorising the appointment of the signatories of the returns.**

We have attached a link below to the Gambling Commission website which advises you on how to run a small lottery: [How to run a small society lottery.](#)

Yours sincerely,



**LICENSING TEAM
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & TRADING STANDARDS**

Licensing Section, Herefordshire Council, Plough Lane, Hereford, HR4 0LE
www.herefordshire.gov.uk | facebook: [hfdscouncil](#) | twitter: [@hfdscouncil](#)

RHU11511 – Registration Acceptance Letter

Issue 6 (07/2025)

We need to formally agree and minute the authorisation of two appointed signatories of the return.

Appendix 2 – Officer’s Reports

Guild Master

Guild Master’s Report to March 2026 Management Committee Meeting

February 2026

The trustees and guild officers have worked extremely hard over the last year to establish a strong framework on which we can build the kind of Guild we want for the future of bellringing in our Diocese.

We have implemented some major changes, a membership management tool, rule changes, fundraising capabilities, financial planning – including re-structuring our spend to enable us to offer financial support in essential areas, an education programme, recruitment and teaching initiatives, integrated safeguarding into our policies and practices, started a communications review, revised the annual report format & enjoyed one of the highest attended AGMs for many years.

For 2026 there is a programme of events planned to celebrate our 140th anniversary year. If you or your tower has yet to participate in any of the activities on offer, please support your guild by getting involved.

What next?

Kris Perruzza has decided to step down as a member of the trustees and as a Guild officer. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Kris for his massive contribution, his enthusiasm and energy will be greatly missed. We will therefore be welcoming new faces into the Education Officer and Master Elect roles, and we are looking forward to the ideas and initiatives they will bring to the table.

First and foremost, we need more ringers. More ringers will bring a much richer ringing experience for all of us. More practices, more Sunday service ringing, more people engaging in all types of ringing activities, more potential guild officers, more scope to engage with wider communities. Teaching someone to ring is such an amazing thing to do and if one to one teaching from scratch is not for you then all teaching initiatives need support e.g. arranging the sessions, being the other presence in the room (safeguarding), theory teaching etc. We know all the benefits that bellringing can offer so let’s shout about them and get people learning.

Working together is crucial for our survival, forming teaching hubs which are adequately supported, offer regular sessions, provide a welcoming positive environment must be the way forward and the guild can help.

Sue Robinson – Guild Master

Guild Secretary's Report to March 2026 Management Committee Meeting - February 2026

2025 was a very busy year, and I hope that our members have enjoyed the opportunities that the Guild has provided. I know a small number of people have worked extremely hard to try to encourage and accommodate ringers all over our huge geographical area. No one ringer can do everything, and it seems that we increasingly rely on the goodwill, and energy of a tiny minority of our membership.

There are two interlinked topics that I would like to draw to the management committee's attention.

1) The Guild is a Registered Charity

The HDGB became a registered charity in 2004. We have a set of aims of charitable purposes as laid out in the front cover of our Annual Report.

Many of our members are not aware of our charitable status or mistakenly believe that the charitable element is the BRF only. The BRF is a separate charity with its own, different, set of charitable aims and Trustees.

The Executive Officers of the Guild are Trustees and, together with the Management Committee, they are legally responsible for ensuring that the Guild meets its charitable aims for the public good.

The Charity Commission website displays the following information –

Activities - how the charity spends its money

Church Bellringing-training and education. Grants for bell restoration.

- ***How do we fulfil these aims?***

The management of the charity is in the hands of the Trustees **and you** – the Management Committee.

- ***What can we do?***

Traditionally the Guild has focussed on holding practices and meetings for our existing members, with a couple of notable exceptions we have not made any grants specifically towards education or recruitment. If the Management Committee feels that we should continue as we always have done, then I suggest that we should reconsider our charitable status.

- ***Are our members and officers invested in and supporting what we are doing?***

Generally, our members are unwilling to volunteer for any posts, and attendance and engagement at the district AGMs during the 2025/6 season so far has been poor (less than 25% of available membership).

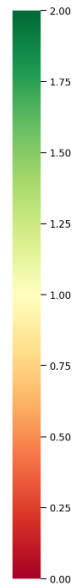
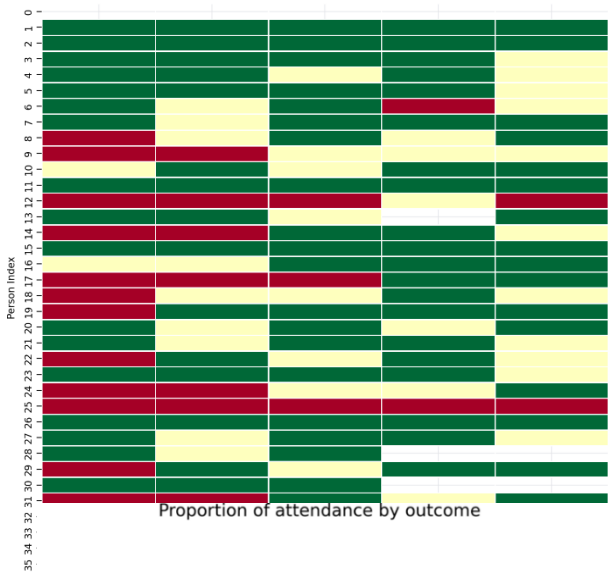
At many meetings there is a common practice to propose 'all existing officers *en bloc*' to continue in their existing roles. I would like this practice to stop.

I have reviewed attendance of MC members at Guild meetings since Oct 2024 and some officers are regularly not attending, which could indicate that they are uninterested and are not contributing to the management of the Guild. There will always be genuine reasons why a member may be absent on occasion, however **continuing to elect a member who has shown no interest or commitment to their post is contributing to the ineffectiveness of the Guild and detrimental to the future of ringing.**

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Attendance Heatmap (Present=2, Apologies=1, No Response/Absent=0)



Attendance register by role

Read horizontally

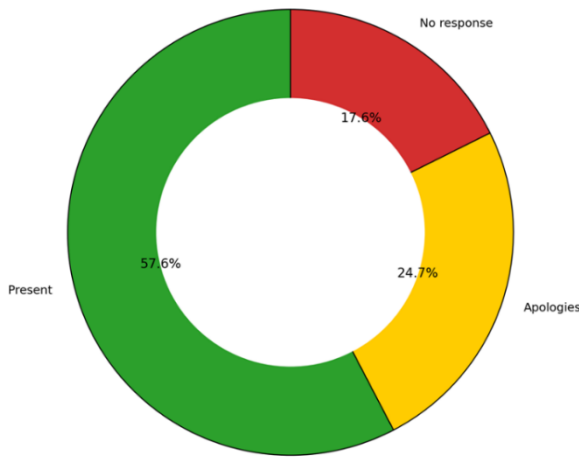
Green - attended

Yellow – apologies for absence

Red – no response

- 3 officers have attended NO meetings
- 3 officers have attended only 1 meeting
- Together this represents approx. 20% of the MC

Overall attendance of MC members at meetings is 57.6%, with 24.7% apologies and 17.6% no response



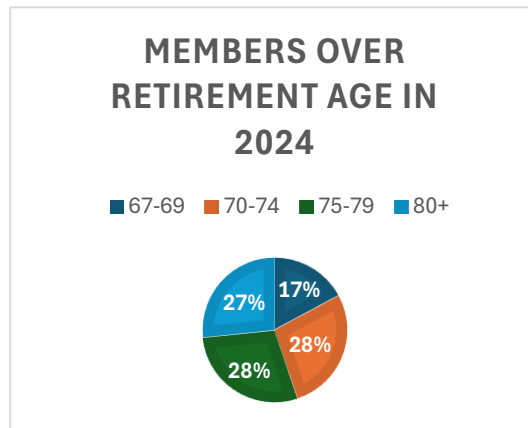
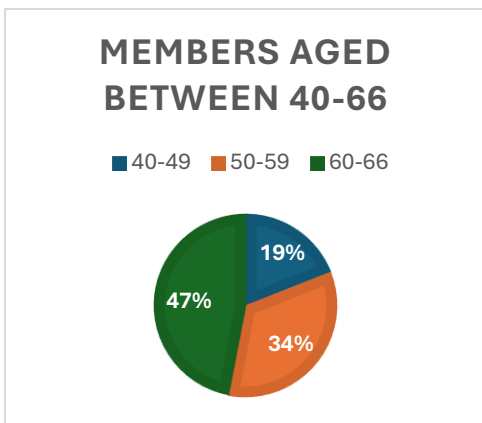
- Can the Guild as a Charity operate effectively on his basis?
- Does the structure of the management committee need to be reviewed?
- Do we have the right roles, and the right people in them?

2) Analysis of membership (as at 15/02/2026)

Age range taken from membermojo	Count of Age Range	% of Membership
Under 18	8	1.3%
18-39 years	41	6.5%
40-66 years	257	40.8%
over 67	324	51.4%
Grand Total	630	

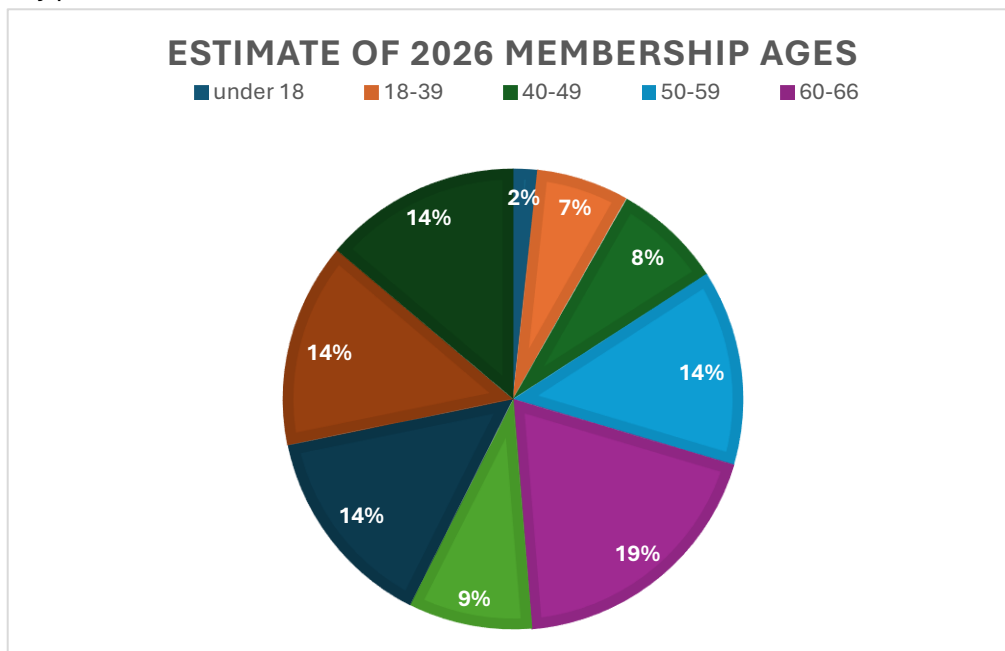
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Analysis of past member records from 2024 suggests that



Using these figures as a guideline we can estimate our current membership is made up as follows –

Key points:



- 9% of members under 40 years
- 28% of members in their 60s
- 14% of members each in their 50s, 70s, 80s

A number of members have advised that they are not renewing due to age/health issues.

I am aware that of members who have renewed but are no longer ringing – several members who have probably taught hundreds of people to ring between them are in nursing homes.

Anecdotally many members do not support practices or events in the winter because they do not like to drive at night.

Realistically it is likely that we will lose at least a quarter of our membership in the not-too-distant future, a quarter of our membership may already be inactive.

I have analysed the available information on those who have not yet renewed for 2026

- 19% of those who have not renewed had been a member for more than 25 years but
- 22.6% of those who have not renewed were elected during 2025
- 42% of those who have not renewed had been a member for less than 2 years

This highlights that as well as losing members due to age, we are also struggling to keep new recruits interested.

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This problem is not unique to the Hereford Diocese – it is an **urgent national problem**.

In this report I have tried to highlight some of the issues we are facing. I have spent a great deal of time working and talking with fellow trustees, officers and members discussing how we can improve the prospects for ringing in the future, and work for the benefit of our members now. I believe we have made some positive strides in reaching our membership and are beginning to build new relationships.

It can be hard to know where to focus our efforts, attention is required in **every area – recruitment, retention, education, personal development, achieving excellence in ringing, fellowship between ringers, care of bells**.

In reviewing the minutes of all Management Committee Meetings and AGMs since 2004 it is clear that there have been great ideas and enthusiasm from many of our guild officers, but in almost all cases ideas and projects have not been carried through whether through a lack of connection with the districts, member apathy, or simply because the traditional mechanisms of running the Guild mean that opportunities are lost.

Is it time to redefine what our members can expect from the Guild? How can we connect with our members, Tower Captains, PCCs and Incumbents to inspire them to help us turn the tide of ringer loss and apathy?

I would ask you all, as members of the Management Committee, to seriously consider the information above. Please take the opportunity to stop and think whether we, as a Guild, can do anything to try to halt the decline, or whether we should continue to operate as we have done.

I would be pleased to receive any responses to this report. You might like to send these in writing before the meeting or feel that another meeting to discuss the issues raised is needed. You may think that we have no cause for concern and disagree with my assessment.

Please let me know.

Fran Watkins

Guild Treasurer

Treasurer's Report 2025

2025 has been a strong year financially, with the Guild achieving a surplus of £3,400. This improvement has come from a 12% increase in membership subscriptions across all districts, along with reduced expenditure. As a result, we now hold reserves equivalent to two years of operating costs, placing us in an excellent position as we enter the Guild's 140th anniversary year, which includes a full programme of events—many requiring advance financial commitment.

The introduction of MemberMojo last year has also made a significant difference. Going into 2026, we can now collect subscriptions directly from members, simplifying renewals for members as well as tower captains, district treasurers, and the Guild Secretary. It has also streamlined preparation of our Gift Aid return, for which we are awaiting an HMRC payment of approximately £1,000.

Our strengthened financial position means I can say something you don't often hear from a treasurer: we have money to spend. If districts have initiatives—particularly around recruitment or activities aligned with our charitable objectives—please contact the Guild Management Trustees to discuss potential support.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere thanks to everyone who has assisted me throughout the year. A special thank you also goes to our Independent Examiner for reviewing the accounts, ensuring accuracy, and providing invaluable oversight.

Mark Aston

Peal Recorder

During our recent trustees' meeting, I brought up the idea of increasing the peal fee from 50 pence to £1.00 per person. It's been quite a while since we last adjusted the fee—back in 2006, we moved from 20 pence to 50 pence. I also noticed that in a nearby Guild, peal fees are set at £2.00 per person.

I suggested we raise the fee for Non-Resident Life Membership from £2.00 to £5.00 as well. Right now, we have £192.00 sitting in a separate Guild account just for peal fees.

On another note, I proposed that we use the money collected from peal fees to create a Tower Maintenance Fund. This fund would really help us in our mission to offer grants for bell restoration which is one of the aims of our charity. To clarify, this would be separate from the Hereford Diocesan Bell Restoration Fund, which has its own focus.

I also believe that this new fund could be a great resource for towers to purchase new ropes, pulley blocks, and other items that aren't covered by the grants from the Hereford Diocesan Bell Restoration Fund. It could really make a difference!

Andrew Watkins

Report Secretary

Report secretaries' notes:

The preparation of the 2025 Annual report and 2026 Handbook is now well advanced.

The cover is prepared, the advertisers have all agreed to place their adverts for another year, including the Loughborough Foundry for the 2nd year.

The revised format for the AR is being applied to try to make the whole experience more logical and useful.

The Guild Secretary has had a major input as the revised rule, privacy policy and district tower updates using 'membermojo' have all fallen on her shoulders.

It is anticipated that the proof copy should be available for the Management Committee meeting.

Neil Bragg March 12th 2026

Education Officer/Master Elect

As the Master Elect, I have engaged with many members and attended meetings, AGM's and practices before becoming the Education Officer. In doing so, I had identified some areas that I felt needed further support and where it would be best to invest our limited resources. We cannot support every individual's needs. We should focus on key skills that make a difference in improving the standards of ringing and support fundamental skills such as bell handling, rounds, called changes, plain hunting, 8 bell ringing, and leading, as this enables bands to ring confidently for Sunday services.

It has been a busy year. With the support of a dedicated, small team of experienced ringers, I am pleased that we were able to provide: 5x Learners sessions (Cradley/Clunbury/Tenbury Wells/Hereford, St Nicholas/ Weston Under Penyard).; 1x Triples/Major practice (Stoke St Milborough) A second Triples/Major practice at Eardisland had to be cancelled due to severe flooding.; 1x Doubles practice (Bridstow); Coffee morning/ Open practice (Cleobury Mortimer); ART M2 (Ledbury).

These sessions are only possible thanks to the generosity of the experienced ringers giving up

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their free time. I had hoped to deliver more sessions across the guild, but with limited resources and support, it was not possible.

There has been a lot of great work across the guild in recruiting and teaching new ringers. I thoroughly enjoyed the recruitment day at the Cathedral Close in Hereford. The mini-ring was a great opportunity to promote bellringing and engage with the public; at least 250 people came to have a go, including young children. Let's hope some seeds were sown that could lead to some ringers of the future.

I have been working with district officers, towers, clusters, and individuals who have contacted me to support them in achieving their collective and personal goals. It has been a privilege.

Kris Perruzza

Public Engagement Officer – No report received

Belfries Officer

2025 has been a year where a few inspections, reports written and advice have been carried out. Inspections have been carried out at Cradley, King Caple, Mathon, Pencombe and Richards Castle.

I have helped out several times at **Kings Caple** to tidy the belfry and floors leading to the ring of six. Kings Caple are notorious as being somewhat difficult to ring and this comes from the fact the bells have had sporadic spells of ringing on them. The bells are a mixture of dates and bell hanging work least not in 1992 when the two tenor bells being rehung by Eayre & Smith. Kris Perruzza and Mike Williams have also helped with the undertaking of cleaning the belfry. Work to improve the go of the bells will take place in 2026 when the weather and light improves.

Richards Castle are in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust and Tracy Genever local Community Officer for the organisation contacted me to look at Richards Castle, an inspection has been carried out and some minor work will need to be done to make the bells ringable.

Cradley - an in depth inspection will be carried out this year to work out why the bells are not satisfactory in the go. It comes as though the bells are a new installation the bells do not flow or feel difficult to get accurate striking on them. This leads that when most bellringers talk about bells being awkward it a reflection of three variables within a ring of bells that causes the difficulties. "Oddstruckness is actually a combination of where the clapper is centred in the bells, often we say the bell is slow at handstroke and therefore quick at back, but you can get bells that feel slow or quick at both strokes, this is caused by the other two variables. The first of these two variables in the speed in which a bell turns in relation to the position of the bell in the ring. This is called the swing time and if a bell has a slow swing time it needs to effectively be checked in at both strokes to ring in the correct place. The second variable can cause the same affect and that is the clapper throw, it is the speed in which a clapper travels the bell in relation to the swing time. The clapper throw can affect whether a bell easily goes up false or the clapper ends up on the wrong side of the bell when raised. Cradley seems to suffer with some of these problems and possible can be addressed like that of Worcester Cathedral or Tewkesbury Abbey.

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I am keen to hear directly from towers with issues however large or small, I have been phoned up about advice like getting clappers repaired as in the case of Woolhope, etc and always here to help.

Also I am happy to run training sessions on belfry maintenance and am currently booked to carry out a session in Bromyard district.

Ashley Fortey

Tower Stewardship Advisor

Following the appointment at the 2025 AGM of Jason Walker as Guild Safeguarding Lead, detailed policy and guidance notes on safeguarding matters and the upgraded Church of England safeguarding training requirements have been prepared and are posted on the Guild website, including FAQs and the scope of risk assessments HDGB Tower Stewardship Advisor's Report 2026 required to be carried out by ringing leaders at Guild events.

Tower Captains are advised to liaise with local clergy and PCCs to ensure compliance with CofE and Guild Safeguarding policies. The Guild Safeguarding Lead is available for assistance at any time, including events at non-CofE or cross-border locations where for example particular insurance conditions may apply.

Summary Advice to Tower Captains on stewardship subjects remains available for reference on the Guild website.

Alan Reade, Tower Stewardship Advisor

Safeguarding Lead

Safeguarding

Since taking on the role of the Safeguarding Lead for the Guild, I have been working alongside the Diocese Safeguarding Team to work out what training is required for whom. As stated in previous write ups, the PCCs are responsible for the ringing and those in tower captain/ringing master roles in their towers. The Guild's responsibility is for those with District and Guild roles.

If you are a tower captain or ringing master and have not been approached by a church official such as a Parish Safeguarding Office or your incumbent, in regards to training and DBS checks, please go and speak to them.

The Diocese Safeguarding Team have allowed me to deliver face-to-face training sessions for the 'Basic Awareness' and 'Foundation' courses. Domestic Abuse is still an online only course for the time being.

I have recently started working with Nikki Roberts (the new diocese safeguarding trainer), to put together a more bespoke leadership training programme for bellringers, with the hope that I will be able to deliver this, which will make life a little easier.

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On 16th January I delivered the Basic Awareness course at Pencombe, with a number of members from across the guild attending. Everyone was engaged and positive feedback was received from a number of them that attended. If you feel this is something your tower, or district would like for its members then please get in touch.

Remember, the safeguarding courses are not “pass or fail” type courses, they are interactive. They don’t expect you to have any safeguarding experience prior to attending and are designed to give you tools to help keep our towers, districts and guild safe and welcoming places for all. Safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility.

Jason Walker

Webmaster

HDGB Webmaster Report March 2026 for MCM 28th March

Website and email accounts hosting

During the last year, the Guild website hdgb.org was moved from Yahoo/Turbify to a new platform hosted by Hostinger.com. The transfer went smoothly and the website is working much better and faster on the new host.

At the same time, new Guild email accounts were set up for everyone hosted by Microsoft – we now have 27 email accounts allocated. As the Guild is a registered charity, this is completely free of charge under the Microsoft “not for profit” scheme. The emails are working well, and a vast improvement on the Yahoo/Turbify system.

The Yahoo/Turbify account is now closed and old email accounts and history have been permanently deleted. Overall, these changes have made a significant cost saving.

If anyone still needs help, please let me know.

Website development

It is most satisfying to have received favourable comments on our website both from members and visiting bands.

Fran, Sue and Nicky have suggested some website layout improvements which I started to work on, but was overtaken by the hosting moves (above). I will continue work on these changes as time allows and have created a development copy of the website for consideration. This is at <https://dev.hdgb.org/> (password PulltheSally – pink background intentional to distinguish from the live when I’m editing!). Menus have been restructured, but the front page is only sketched out ideas. It is also a few months out of date. Some improvements have already been incorporated into the live website.

Any more suggestions for improvements are always welcome, but as always, some things are easier to achieve than others and all are subject to available time!

Still on the back burner is adding all the missing 3/4 bell and unringable towers for completeness. Does anyone have any views on this?

Nick Chapman, webmaster@hdgb.org. March 2026

Central Council reps.

Sheffield Central Council Report.

In September 2025 the Central Council met at Sheffield where all four of the representatives of the HDG were present.

The day begins with the Annual meeting of the Ringing World. In the absence of the Chairman of the Ringing World Committee Elvira Anderson led the meeting.

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We learnt that the Ringing World's both income and expenditure were down on the previous year's figures. The paper subscriptions for the publication continue to decline but there has been a modest rise in the number of people who have taken out a digital subscription. The main sources of income remain the subscriptions but a very significant sum is the donations made by those who ring quarter peals and some peals.

It was suggested that if every tower took out a subscription the Ringing World's financial position would be strengthened.

This raises the question yet again about the future of the Ringing World as a paper version in a world where younger people are no longer finding their news reading newspapers as former generations have done. We heard again the suggestion that the Ringing Worlds could become a monthly publication.

Bellboard, which is part of the Ringing World, continues to offer a very important resource for ringers but does need an upgrade so that it remains useful for ringers and to provide protection from AI bots.

We were reminded that the Ringing World organises the annual Young Ringers event which has been a great success. So far, the HDG has not taken part in this event and it would seem that our young ringers are missing out on a very significant experience.

The meeting expressed its thanks to Will Bosworth and his team who make the Ringing World the useful asset that it is.

The Central Council Meeting was better managed this year. Tina Stoecklin was chairing the meeting for the second time and because all the reports of the working groups were circulated before the meeting much time was saved.

After attending four Central Council meetings in person and one online version I have come to realise that most of the decision making has already taken place. The Executive of the Council works out beforehand what has to be achieved at a Council meeting and then formulates a way to implement the policy. It is what any large organisation has to do and those who attend the Council generally approve what the Executive is proposing. In many ways the the annual meeting of the Council is little more than rubber stamping the the work of the Council's executive committee. However, having said that the Council is worthwhile because there are working groups who are advancing the cause of ringing throughout the year and their work is invaluable. The most significant work of the Council I believe is the Ringing 2030 strategy plan. which has three pillars, the first being Marketing, the second Recruitment and Development and the third, Environment. I would urge you to go on to the Council Website and see how these pillars can be of help to you and your band.

One issue that was only alluded to at the meeting was the idea that the work for the Ringing 2030 strategy plan required the payment of someone to do the work. In the budget for 2026 published since the meeting the sum of £11,000 has been allocated for this. I believe this is a major departure for the Council and should have been debated at the 2025 meeting. The money for this work will come, I believe, from the affiliation fees paid by the Guilds and Associations. I would like to know whether this is just a temporary period when the Council employ someone to perform these tasks or if this to be a permanent practice. If it is there will be more demands placed on those who pay affiliation fees. This state of affairs needs to be monitored

The Sheffield meeting's main business was a review of Governance which came out of the failure the previous year to deal with affiliation fees for small ringing societies and University societies. The result is that small societies will not have to make a contribution for each member but be able to pay an annual sum to retain their membership of the Council. The meeting in 2026 will take place in Rugby and there will be ringing activities in that are over the first weekend in September. These activities give ringers an opportunity to meet and share experiences and will recommend members of our Guild to make the relatively short journey to take part in those activities.

Anthony Ellis

Appendix 3

Nominations for Guild Officers

Role	Name	Proposed by
Master Elect	Mark Gilham	Bromyard District
Secretary	Fran Watkins	Hereford District proposed all those willing to stand again ' <i>en bloc</i> '
Treasurer	Mark Aston	Hereford District proposed all those willing to stand again ' <i>en bloc</i> '
Peal Recorder	Andrew Watkins	Hereford District proposed all those willing to stand again ' <i>en bloc</i> '
Report Secretary	Neil Bragg	Hereford District proposed all those willing to stand again ' <i>en bloc</i> '
Education Officer	Tim Hollinghurst	Bromyard District
Public Engagement	Nicky Aubrey	Hereford District proposed all those willing to stand again ' <i>en bloc</i> '
Belfries Officer	Ashley Fortey	Hereford District proposed all those willing to stand again ' <i>en bloc</i> '
Tower Stewardship	Alan Reade	Hereford District proposed all those willing to stand again ' <i>en bloc</i> '
Webmaster	Nick Chapman	Hereford District proposed all those willing to stand again ' <i>en bloc</i> '
Central Council Reps	J Anthony Ellis Tyler Edwards Andrew Watkins vacant	Hereford District proposed all those willing to stand again ' <i>en bloc</i> '
Clerical Representatives	Barney Bell J Anthony Ellis Nicky Seabright vacant	Hereford District proposed all those willing to stand again ' <i>en bloc</i> ' Hereford District proposed all those willing to stand again ' <i>en bloc</i> ' Ledbury District
Independent Examiner	Ruth D'Avanzo	Hereford District proposed all those willing to stand again ' <i>en bloc</i> '

Ongoing –

- Master – Sue Robinson
- Safeguarding Lead (appointed by Trustees) – Jason Walker

Proposals received from the Trustees

a) Change to peal fees and Non Resident Life Member subscriptions

As outlined in the Peal Recorder's report (appendix 2) during the Trustees meeting held on 16th Jan 2026 the current peal fees were discussed. It was **proposed that we increase the peal fee to £1.00 per ringer, and that the Non-Resident Life Membership increases to £5.00**

b)

(i) Formation of a Tower Support Fund

The Trustees meeting discussed the purpose and use of peal fees. The Peal Recorder proposed that the funds could be set aside for a tower maintenance fund. Further discussion resulted in a unanimous proposal from the Trustees that we create a **Tower Support Fund**.

The fund to be managed by a group made up of volunteers from the Management Committee, to include the Treasurer.

The aim would be to provide match funding for a tower to purchase items that would not be eligible for a grant from the *Hereford Diocesan Guild of Bellringers Bell Restoration Fund (registered charity 508531)*, but that would demonstrably meet the Guild objectives. Any application of a grant from a tower/PCC would be expected to outline how the purchase would be used to further the aims of the Guild. The criteria for awarding grants would be developed by the Tower Support Fund Committee, it was suggested that there should initially be a monetary cap (10%/20% of funds) of the amount of grants available until the fund was established fully.

(ii) Agree amount of donation to the Hereford Diocesan Guild of Bellringers Bell Restoration Fund (registered charity 508531)

Should the Management Committee should vote in favour of the formation of a Tower Support Funds as above; and as the BRF had not made any grants during 2025; the Trustees recommend that we make £0 donation to the BRF and transfer the equivalent amount £400 to the Tower Support Fund instead.

The Trustees would be willing to consider any approach for a donation from the BRF should their circumstances change as a result of grants made.

c) Letter from the Trustees to recommend rule changes.

The following letter was issued by the Trustees in line with Rule 20b.

To all Guild Members

From the Guild Secretary, on behalf of the Trustees.

Whilst sending historic rule changes to the Charity Commission it has become clear that some rule changes which were adopted had not followed the correct procedure as outlined in rule 20b and, according to the Charity Commission, the changes should be disregarded.

All the changes relate to **Rule 7c** where we have added in additional non-executive officers, and subsequently those officers' role descriptions in **Rule 8**.

In order to rectify this, we propose the changes as described below. The changes will mean we do not need to alter the rules whenever we make a slight alteration to a role name or description, or decide to appoint another Non-Executive Guild Officer in what might be a temporary, or time-limited role.

Every change made to the Guild Rules must be notified to the Charity Commission as per Rule 20 (f). Following any decision to amend these rules a copy of the revised rules, together with a copy of the minutes of the meeting at which they were adopted, shall be sent to the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

The Trustees propose the following rule changes:

Current Rule

7(c) Non-Executive Officers. The Guild may appoint such Non-Executive Officers as it sees fit:
(i) the Master Elect;
(ii) the Public Engagement Officer;
(iii) the Guild Belfries Officer;
(iv) the Tower Stewardship Advisor.
(v) the Webmaster
(vi) the 'events co-ordinator'.

To be replaced with:

Proposed Rule Change:

either Version(i)

7(c) Non-Executive Officers. The Guild may appoint such Non-Executive Officers as it sees fit.

or Version (ii)

7(c) Non-Executive Officers. The Guild may appoint such Non-Executive Officers as it sees fit. A list of non-executive officers will be published annually

And

Current Rule

8 Duties of Officers.

(g) The Public Engagement Officer: shall promote the work of the Guild.

(h) The Guild Belfries Officer: shall organise training courses in belfry maintenance and, when requested, give informal advice on routine maintenance of bell installations in Guild towers.

(i) The Tower Stewardship Advisor: shall issue guidance to the Guild on tower management, with particular reference to insurance, complaints about noise, protection of children and vulnerable adults, health and safety, fire risk assessment and Church and common Law.

To be replaced with:

Proposed Rule Change:

8 Duties of Officers.

Remove current sub-clauses (g) (h) & (i) and insert

(g) Non-Executive Officers: The duties of the Non-Executive Officers will be published annually.

On behalf of the Trustees



Fran Watkins

Guild Secretary

Draft Agenda - Annual General Meeting - 9th May 2026

St Peter's Church Hall, Hereford

1. Welcome & Opening prayers
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of previous AGM
4. Matters arising
5. Correspondence
6. Long Service Awards & election of Life Members
7. Election of new members
8. Officers Reports (adoption of accounts)
10. Election of Executive Officers – Guild Secretary, Guild Treasurer, Guild Education, Peal Recorder & Report Secretary
11. Election of Non-Executive Officers – Master-Elect, Belfries Officer, Public Engagement Officer, Tower Stewardship Advisor, Webmaster
12. Election of Clerical Representatives
13. Election of Central Council Representatives
15. Approval of nomination for Independent Examiner
16. Peal Fees & Non-Resident Life Membership subscription (see Rules 5a & 17 c)
17. Rule Changes: 7c & 8
18. Tower Support Fund / Agree Donation from Guild to Bell Restoration Fund
19. Awarding of the Centenary Shield
20. Awarding of the George Cousins Cup
21. Invitation for the 2027 AGM, 8th May – an officer from Church Stretton District
22. Any other business – at the Guild Master's discretion.

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