

NEWS FROM THE GUILD

Celebrating our 140th Anniversary

Welcome to our Spring 2026 newsletter.

Thank you to everyone who has joined our 140th celebrations so far, it has been good to see how the anniversary can bring us together and inspire us to try something new.

Anniversary Ringing

So far 105 performances have been linked to our 140th Anniversary on Bellboard, there were 37 performances on the actual anniversary – 2nd March 2026, including one peal at Eye.

We were delighted that the **Hereford Ringing Course** embraced the opportunity to help us celebrate, bands of students, helpers and tutors recorded 24 touches of 140 changes over the weekend of the course – Thank you.

140 Firsts

The 140 firsts initiative has been enthusiastically taken up by some districts – notably Hereford, Church Stretton, Bromyard & Ledbury.

- 110 performances have been recorded so far marking 196 individual firsts
- including 65 different firsts in quarters
- **9 First Quarter Peals** : Congratulations to Luke Hollingsworth, Trevor Brackston, Catriona Lambeth, Rachel Simpson, Wendy Roberts, Giles Davies, Steve E Williams & Julie Chapman
- **1 First Peal** – Congratulations to Alice Pugh

Well done to everyone who has achieved a ‘first’ so far.

Some areas are using the initiative to help boost training. Remember to add your firsts to the event on Bellboard, go to <https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/event.php?id=22372>

Keep recording your ‘Firsts’ throughout the year – let’s see what we can achieve together. ‘140 Firsts’ Certificates (for March & April) will be presented to members who have achieved a first and attend the Guild AGM and Festival on 9th May – we’re looking forward to meeting you there. If you will not be able to attend and would like your certificate to be emailed please let us know.

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



Hereford Diocesan Guild

On Monday, 2 March 2026 in 2h 39

Eye, Herefordshire

St Peter and St Paul

Tenor: 8–1–0 in A♭

5140 Doubles (4m)

10 extents each of St. Simon's Bob and St. Martin's Bob. 11 extents and 100 of Grandsire and 11 extents of Plain Bob.

- 1 Chris Brackston
- 2 Sue Robinson
- 3 David J Thompson
- 4 Frances D Watkins
- 5 Andrew J Watkins (C)
- 6 Mark R Aston

Rung to commemorate the 140th anniversary of the foundation of the Hereford Diocesan Guild of Bellringers on March 2nd 1886.

Also rung in memory of John F. I. Turney, past Master of the Guild and John Croxton, a long-serving member of the Guild.

Tony Fuller would like to be associated with this peal.

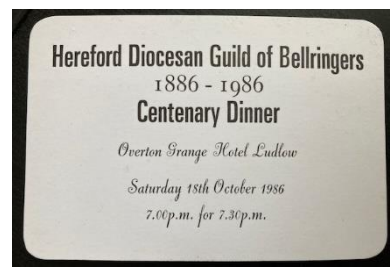
100th peal - 3.

We warmly invite all ringers to join us for the
140th Anniversary Celebration Dinner
at The Green Dragon Hereford on Friday 12th June.

Tickets cost £50.00 for a three-course dinner with guest speakers –

- **Our President – The Rt Revd Richard Jackson**
- **Our Vice-President – Mrs Valerie Roberts**
- **The Editor of the Ringing World - Mr Will Bosworth.**

Though not quite a once in a life-time event, it should be recognised that there are not many times we are able to celebrate an occasion such as this. Those of us who attended the Centenary Dinner back in 1986 are still able to recall the event very fondly. It was not your ordinary pub dinner, or just an evening out with friends, it was a special event marking a momentous occasion in the history of the Guild. So much so that some members still retain their tickets and menus from the evening.



Tickets for the Dinner can be bought through the membermojo store. The cost is £50.00.

If preferred, you can email contact@hdgb.org or phone 07702 799082 to buy tickets without going online.

Tickets should be purchased by 17th May to help with our event planning, and by 30th May at the very latest.

The Dinner is to be held in the Ballroom of the Green Dragon Hotel and should be a very special occasion.

Dress code is Smart Casual.

Any dietary requirements can be accommodated by the hotel.

Some towers have already booked their tickets and we know that some Districts are planning to have a table. Speak with your friends to see if you can share lifts to the event, or the hotel has offered a discount code to anyone who would like to book a room for the night – please email contact@hdgb.org for the **discount code**.

If you would like to particularly sit with your band, or group of friends please let us know.

We look forward to seeing you there for a memorable evening.

Badges

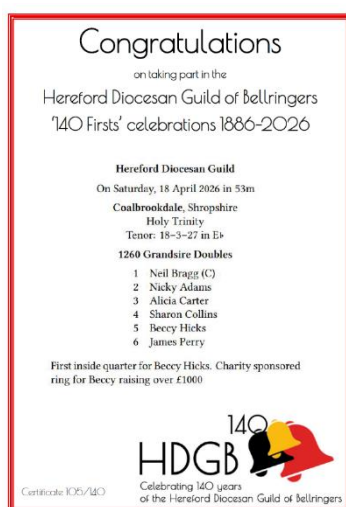


The **Limited Edition 140th Anniversary Badges** are extremely popular and are selling fast – we’ve just 52 badges left!

You can order a badge through the membermojo store, or some of the District Secretaries have a handful of stock.

They cost £3.00 each, or £6.00 inc P&P – go to [Hereford Diocesan Guild of Bellringers at membermojo](#) to buy online.

If we have stock available the badges will be on sale at the AGM on 9th May.



Special Mention

Whilst all of those who have achieved a ‘First’ deserve congratulations, Beccy Hicks of Coalbrookdale has raised over £1000.00 for charity by ringing her first quarter peal ‘inside’.

The band in action -



History of Ringing Booklet

Colin Lewis of Glasbury on Wye has written a booklet **‘Bells, Donors, Ringers and the Development of Ringing at St Peter’s Church, Glasbury on Wye Between 1838 and 2016’**.

If you have an interest in local social history, the development of change ringing, or the formation of the Guild, we’d recommend you get a copy.

It has been published by Mid Border Books of Dolau, and copies are available to purchase at a cost of £8.00 including postage. If you would like a copy please send a cheque payable to Colin A Lewis to 1 Old Station Way, Glasbury on Wye, Hereford, HR3 5JY.

District AGMs

At least two of the Guild officers were present at each of the District AGMs over 2025/2026. We really enjoyed the opportunity to meet with you, and hope that all members will feel able to talk to or email us on any matter that you’d like to bring to our attention.

Ring out for 1350 Years of Faith



Following the request from Bishop Richard in our January newsletter, it is great to see that special ringing has taken place in both Shropshire & Herefordshire.

Most recent was a quarter peal at Leominster rung prior to a special evening service of celebrations to mark the 1350th anniversary of the foundation of the Diocese of Hereford in 676 AD.

Leominster, Herefordshire
St Peter and St Paul
Sunday, 19 April 2026 in 47m
1259 Grandsire Caters
1. Tim D Hollinghurst
2. Michael Parker
3. Jennifer A Ferguson
4. Paul J Marshall
5. Rosie Marshall
6. Nicky Aubrey
7. Neil A Pirie
8. Mark Pugh
9. Chris Pickford (C)
10. Ian Ferguson

With a band made up of members from across 4 districts it was great teamwork.

The service of celebrations was also a huge collaboration with choirs from Acton Scott, Almeley, Apedale, Archenfield, Ariconium, Burghill, Cardington, The Cider Churches, Cradley, Craven Arms, Eardisley, Fownhope, Hereford, The Hop Churches, Kington, Leominster, The Maund Churches, Much Wenlock, Presteigne, Ross-on-Wye, Wellington and the Pyons, Weobley, Whitbourne and others taking part.

There will be many more events in our churches throughout the year – please try your best to take part and mark the occasion with ringing.



Archbishop of Canterbury to visit Hereford Diocese in October 2026

The Diocese has very recently shared *'the exciting news that the Archbishop of Canterbury, The Most Revd Dame Sarah Mullally, will make a two-day visit to the Diocese on Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 October 2026. This is a part of a series of pastoral visits to dioceses in the province of Canterbury during her first year in office.'*

'There is an opportunity for everyone to welcome the new Archbishop to celebrate the life, mission and witness of the Church across Herefordshire and South Shropshire as part of our Year of Celebration. The visit underscores Archbishop Sarah's commitment to engaging with people from across the breadth of the Church of England at a local level and to listen to the joys, challenges and hopes of those serving in diverse rural and market towns.'

As details of the visit emerge, we hope that it will be possible to welcome The Archbishop with the sound of our bells.

Safeguarding

Thank you to our Safeguarding Lead, Jason, who arranged for a Leadership Safeguarding Course for bellringers to take place recently.

The recently appointed Diocesan Safeguarding Training Officer, Nikki Roberts, led the session which was relaxed, informative, open and very worthwhile.

If you have any queries or worries at all about safeguarding please do contact safeguarding@hdgb.org or if you have safeguarding concerns in your parish environment you should contact your Parish Safeguarding Officer, Incumbent or the Diocesan Safeguarding Team at safeguarding@hereford.anglican.org



Update from Ross-on-Wye

Unfortunately, we still have no news on how long the Ross bells will be silent. The steeple has been examined by our architect and structural engineer, copious photographs have been taken and measurements taken. We await the results of extensive diagnostic work and know that it will be expensive and take time.

In the meantime, we are able to ring with other local towers and had our AGM in the Millrace Walford in January. In fact, the meal was so successful that we decided it needed to be repeated. Here we are in a fantastic local pub with plenty of space for a large group, wonderful food and a lovely opportunity to catch up on news and events!

Elizabeth Walker

News from Bridgnorth District

Bridgnorth District AGM

Our District AGM was held at Much Wenlock on 7th February. We had a good turnout, with ringers from Bridgnorth, Broseley, Coalbrookdale, Chetton, Much Wenlock and the wider Guild in attendance. This was followed by a ringers' tea, BRF raffle and the meeting.

New Management Committee Rep

Richard Rogers from Much Wenlock has kindly agreed to take on the role of District Management Committee Representative.

Next Event

23rd May - Bridgnorth District Monthly Practice @Chetton

- We love to be able to tell you about what is happening in the Guild, so please get in touch and tell us your news, thoughts and ideas.
- When did you last visit a different tower, try going to another practice, or ringing with new people? Experienced ringers are often only too happy to help learners take their next steps, newer ringers will benefit hugely from ringing different bells - so be brave, get out there, make a difference and find new friends!

Notices



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

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

- ❖ Rosemary Lawley (Highley)
- ❖ John Croxton (Clunbury)
- ❖ John Turney (Hopton Heath)
- ❖ John Hope (Almeley)

May they Rest In Peace.

Each of these members contributed significantly to their communities and the Guild throughout their lives.

Reverend Canon Rosemary Lawley grew up in Kinver and served as vicar for many years at St Oswald's Kidderminster. Rosemary was made an honorary canon at Worcester in recognition of her dedicated work with the church in 2015, and retired to Highley. The Kidderminster Shuttle published tributes - 'Her kindness, faith and unwavering love shaped so many lives', she was a 'source of quiet strength to everyone who knew her'.

John Croxton of Purslow, later Clunbury, was a familiar friendly face to many ringers across the Guild and the country. John had been a member of the Guild since 1963 and first appeared in the annual report as the Ringing Master, Secretary & Treasurer of the Clun District. Later, John rang with his wife Victoria and their children Tara & Tim. Throughout his membership John was a stalwart and enthusiastic member of the Guild, taking on many roles through the years, including Central Council representative from 2004-2019. John was also a supporter of the Hereford Ringing Course, and loved to meet and socialise with ringers from far afield.

John Turney of Hopton Heath was an innovator and a natural-born teacher. John began ringing when he was a pupil at Hereford Cathedral School in around 1961. John became a Life Member of the Guild in 2023 having completed 50 years membership. During that time John held many roles at district and Guild level, he was Guild Master, Education Officer, Central Council Rep. serving on the Education Committee. He was tower captain at Ludlow inspiring the project that led to them being augmented to 10. John was an accomplished ringer and a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths. One of John's most notable achievements may be the creation of the Marches Teaching Belfry at Hopton Heath together with his wife Jan. They pioneered the use of full-scale simulated dumb-bells as a teaching tool, running countless courses, and teaching many people to ring.

John Hope MBE lived, worked and served the community in the Almeley, Woonton and Eardisley area all his life. John joined the Guild in 1951, and was a member for 75 years. He was elected a Freeman of the Guild in 1997 in recognition of his service to the Guild. John rang 512 peals, of which 495 were for the Hereford Diocesan Guild. His peals included a record peal of 15000 changes of Doubles at Eardisley in 1974 which was sponsored in aid of the church roof. John was a member of Almeley Parish Council and was awarded the MBE for his services to local government in 2005, he was also a churchwarden at Almeley for many years and a school governor for more than 20 years.

Our thoughts are with their families as we remember them with gratitude.

Ringing for weddings

Since our last issue an additional 24 towers responded to tell us about their wedding fees. Although the responses received so far still represent only a very **small sample** of towers across the Guild, they reveal some useful patterns and highlight areas where greater consistency may benefit both towers and ringers.

What We've Learned So Far - A broadly consistent picture

Most towers fall within a familiar range:

- **£20–£30 per rope** is by far the most common rate.
- A number of towers apply **extras**—usually £20 or £30—this is normally retained as a contribution to tower funds

Some reported variations include

- The **Cathedral** (£50 per rope) reflecting their particular context.
- **Holmer** includes a larger fixed extra fee (£70), bringing its total to £250.

Before & After ringing

Several towers distinguish between:

- **Single-session ringing** (before *or* after a service), and
- **Full-duty ringing** (before *and* after).

Some towers **double the fee** for full-duty ringing. This is an area where we probably need more information – clearly a payment of £20 for ringing both before and after a wedding means that the remuneration is below minimum wage, as the time taken is likely to exceed 2 hours (plus travel time and expenses).

To build a clearer picture, we would welcome further submissions from towers that have not yet responded. The more data we gather, the better placed we will be to offer a clear picture that will enable you to discuss wedding fees with your PCC with a degree of confidence.

If your tower has not yet shared its information, please consider sending it in. Even a brief reply helps strengthen the overall picture. Email contact@hdgb.org

Ringers in the News



We are very proud that our Guild Master, Sue, featured in a national publication, *Womans Weekly*, at the end of January.

Sue and two other ringers explained how they discovered bellringing and how their love for bellringing influences their lives. Sue particularly highlighted the enjoyment she gets from teaching people to ring, and how ringing is a hobby that can be enjoyed by young and old alike.

Publicity highlighting the benefits of ringing is always good news, think how you can share your news with your community, the wider area, and even nationally.

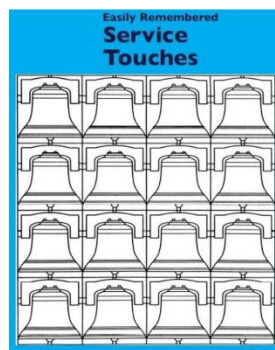
News from Clungunford

We recently heard from Clungunford that the bells will be out of action for a while whilst the church undergoes repairs. They said - *Unfortunately, our tower has developed a number of cracks in the masonry - there is no risk of the tower collapsing, the cracks were first reported in the Quinquennial reports of the 1970s and there is no indication of any recent major deterioration. However, the PCC has decided that we should have the cracks repaired, to prevent further ingress of rainwater and before any damage is done to the bell chamber or bells and mountings themselves. It will be quite a substantial piece of work, as the roof of the tower itself is in need of attention as well.*

The church was keen for a quarter peal to be rung prior to the tower closure, and so a band from the Church Stretton District rang 1296 Burnaby Delight Minor on 20th March (St Cuthbert's Day) to launch the tower restoration work. We hope the work progresses smoothly, and that the bells will be back in action soon.

Service Touches

Does your tower ring a special 'Service Touch'? Our last piece of ringing as the majority of the congregation is arriving is often judged more than you might think. Although most non-ringers will have no idea what method we might be ringing, they can very easily spot the difference between a good rhythmic piece of ringing and uneven striking or clashes as ringers make mistakes. Ring what you know, and will sound the best, place your band on specific bells if that generally improves the standard of ringing.



John Harrison's website <https://jaharrison.me.uk/thb/9-4.html> has a 'Tower handbook' page. He offers a lot of useful advice for new or inexperienced Tower Captains, including a section on service touches, and the importance of differentiating between ringing for service, or on a practice night.

If you would like to learn some new short touches to call before service, you might be interested in 'Easily Remembered Service Touches'. This small book is available from the Guild bookstall or online at <https://shop.cccbr.org.uk/product/easily-remembered-service-touches/>

Heritage Open Days (HOD) – Registration now OPEN!

The Central Council writes – This year, HODs are teaming up with leading family history website [Findmypast](https://www.findmypast.com) for this year's festival theme, Everyday Histories. From factories and kitchens to dockyards and gardens, they'll be uncovering the stories that shaped everyday life across England. The [Findmypast](https://www.findmypast.com) team is offering support to help create unforgettable events – including a free 3-month subscription for 100 organisers! Find out more about '[Everyday Histories](https://www.findmypast.com)' on their website.



What a great opportunity to add bellringing to the Everyday Histories stories, past and present, and to hold tower open days over the HODs between **11-20 September 2026**.

To register your event and get promotional materials, go to <https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/get-involved.html>

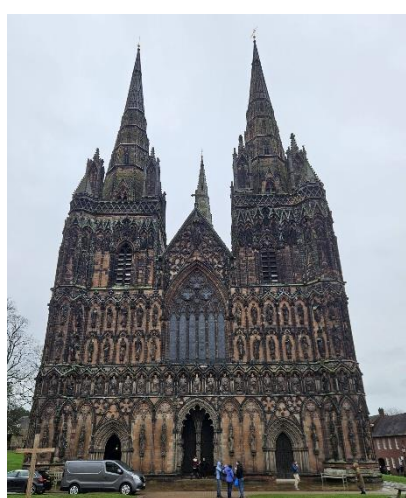
Don't forget, if you're opening your tower, there are plenty of free bellringing resources available at <https://cccbr.org.uk/resources/publicity-material/>

Burghill Bell Ringers' Annual Outing 2026

When I was asked if I would like to go on Burghill's outing to Lichfield, I said "yes" straight away and paid my deposit quickly, because although I knew I wanted the experience I also knew that with apprehension I would talk myself out of it.

The first church we rang at was St Michael and All Angels in Penkridge. This was an 8 bell tower, so already I was out of my comfort zone of 6 bells. However being surrounded by a friendly good team made all the difference and I soon relaxed into ringing. Next came my first ringing on 10 Bells, at St Luke's Cannock. I liked seeing so many ringers all around the chamber and with clear instruction from Jason I soon had good control.

We had another three towers after lunch, all 6 bells. After our final tower we made it to our Airbnb property for the weekend in Lichfield



Next day we were mainly ringing around Litchfield. From 11.30am to 12.25pm we had the honour of being able to ring at Lichfield Cathedral. A beautiful, majestic building. We rang for their 12:30pm service. It felt special, although for me a little scary knowing it was for the service and that the town would hear. Again, it was wonderful to see everyone around the chamber's ten ropes and with the encouragement of Kris and Jason, and a very able team around me – I did it!

During the four days away, we rang in twenty churches in total! I enjoyed viewing the churches that were open. I especially enjoyed learning Plain Bob Doubles and having the chance to run one of the ringing sessions, which was at All Saints Church, Kings Bromley. We stayed in a large 9 Bedroom house in Lichfield where we shared meals, laughter, games, handbells, a few

drinks – mines a gin – and yes homework from Kris!

I gained a lot of confidence and experience handling different bells by going on this trip away, which would not have happened without having the experience of being surrounded by a really friendly good band and patient ART teachers.

Will I go again? – "Yes" here is my deposit because I'm excited, not apprehensive.



Steffi Ellis, Wellington



Bell Sunday – 17th May 2026

In 2026, St Dunstan's Day falls on Tuesday, 19th May; therefore, this year Bell Sunday takes place on the nearest Sunday, 17th May.

Have the ringers at your church thought about how you could get involved? The Central Council offers a wide range of suggestions for simple ways that ringers could be more present, visible, and develop relationships with the wider church outside of the tower. Visit <https://bellsunday.org/> for inspiration.

We'd love to hear what your church does, and how you tell your congregation about what we do.

Date Touches

Paul Marshall has kindly composed some 'Date Touches' of 1886 changes of Stedman that can be used to mark our 140th Anniversary.

Date Touches to Celebrate the 140th Anniversary of the HDGB

1886 Stedman Triples by Paul Marshall

1234567	1	3	4	5	6	7	8	12	13
6315427	-	(6)							
3425167	-	-	-	-					
4165237	-	-	-	-					
1235647	-	-	-	-					
3546217	-	-	-	-	-	-			
5216437	-	-	-	-					
2436157	-	-	-	-					
A									
4156327	-	-	-	-					
5346127	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B									
6523417				2A					
5623147				B					
6143257	-	-	-	-					
1253467	-	-	-	-					
1234567	-	(2)							

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

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

Complib no 155142

1886 Stedman Caters by Paul Marshall

123456789	1	2	3	5	6	9	15	17	
361572894	s		-	s	(8)				
651273984	-	-		-	s	s	-		
125376498	-			-			-		
532471869	-			-			-	s	
125374698				14A					
123456789	s	(2)							

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

Complib no 155143

Clifford & Kington District News

The Aymestrey ringers, with the help of some friends, have extended their practice sessions to include St James Church, Wigmore which is now part of the Mortimer's Cross Benefice. This not only gives them experience of ringing on different bells but also ensures that Wigmore bells continue to be rung. The efforts of the enthusiastic band are much appreciated and they hope to encourage more people to join them in their endeavours.

With the clocks going forward our monthly District Practices have now transferred to Saturday evenings. There will not be a practice in May as it is Guild AGM month but June will see us ringing at Clifford, always a lovely place to visit on a summer evening. In July we visit two towers, King's Pyon and Dilwyn, again in some beautiful countryside. These practices are open to everyone so do please come and join us.



Recruitment & Training

1) Mini MCM 31st January

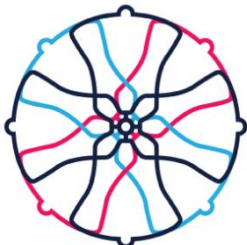
A mini-Management Committee Meeting took place online on Sat 31st January.

There was wide-ranging discussion about the need for training and recruitment, and how we can help, support and learn from one another. Jason Walker presented a very useful slideshow illustrating how to use social media (Facebook) to reach a wider audience when posting online. Without some proactive preparatory work, we can often only reach an audience of those who already follow us rather than reaching the non-ringing public and new recruits we need. If you would like a copy of the slideshow please email contact@hdgb.org.

2) Marketing Materials

If your Tower or District is holding a recruitment event such as a tower open day please get in touch to find out how the Guild can help and support you with this. You could talk to your District Secretary or Management Committee Rep, or email contact@hdgb.org to find out what material you could use or borrow to help make the event more eye-catching (and to save you some hard work).

3) Ringing Recruitment Network



THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH
BELL RINGERS

The 3Rs (Recruit, Regain, Retain) CCCBR Team is setting up a network of people to share good ideas and success stories through regular online meetings, taking place every 2 months. These will feature a short talk from a guest speaker, followed by Q&A and general discussion around the topic of the talk. The first speaker will be Angela Dawes from Sussex County Association, who will talk about "Battle & Sedlescombe Tower Recruitment Campaign - or, what we did, what we learnt, and how to deal with too many recruits!". As a taster for the talk, have a look at the short video of their event: <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1B4Vh9UUiD/>

Visit <https://cccbr.org.uk/resources/recruitment-and-retention/> for more resources/

HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF BELLRINGERS 140th ANNIVERSARY – GUILD FESTIVAL & AGM Saturday 9th May 2026

General Ringing
9:30 – 10:30 – Holmer (6, detached tower)
10:45 – 11:45 – Hereford St Nicholas (8, closed church)
12:00 – 1:00 – Hereford All Saints (8)
Café-style Service at 2:00pm AGM in St Peters Hall 3:00pm

Everyone is welcome to join us at our Festival and AGM which will be based at Hereford St Peter from 10am. We are very grateful to the Diocese who have granted permission for us to ring at St Nicholas pending the sale of the church.

Attractions at St Peters include the Peals on Wheels Mobile Belfry, History display, Refreshments, Handbells plus morning Tower Tours to view the unringable 5 in an oak frame c1500 (small charge in aid of church funds)

For more details (inc parking info) email contact@hdgb.org



News from Ledbury District

Report from the AGM

The Ledbury District Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday, 7th February. The agenda included, amongst other things, the transfer of some of the District Officer roles and responsibilities.

Outgoing District Secretary Chris Jones, with his usual diligence, was keen to ensure that affairs were handed over promptly and in good order. So much so that he had produced and shared the draft minutes within an hour of the end of the meeting. These are published here in full:

'Full, comprehensive and accurate minutes of Ledbury District AGM, Feb 2026

Apologies: Lots

Attendees: Lots

The meeting started. Several people talked. Several decisions were made. More importantly, lots of tea and cake was consumed.

Just as importantly, there was ringing afterwards.

The only issue of note was that Chris Jones stood down as Hon Sec and his successor was duly appointed as Judith Faux. She will complete these minutes in due course.

Chris Jones (ex-Hon Sec, just off to the Cayman Islands with all the funds of Ledbury District)

Minutes approved by C. Jones alone.'

Footnote: We think he was joking about running off with our money, but we have removed him as a signatory to the bank account just in case!

Happy 140th Birthday to the Guild

We have very much enjoyed participating in the various events and initiatives to celebrate 140 years of the Hereford Diocesan Guild of Bellringers.

Bridgnorth – St Mary Magdalen

Alan Reade of Claverley brought our attention to an article on Shropshire Live about St Mary Magdalen Church in Bridgnorth. The church had been inspected by Oliver Architecture and their report highlighted three critical areas of concern : Extensive Dry Rot; a Heating System 'beyond repair'; and poor Thermal Efficiency. Reverend Suzan Williams hopes the report will generate discussions and conversations between the church and people of Bridgnorth. As the church is central to the community it is hoped that any future restoration project for the building will be 'managed by local people, for local people'.

It is clear, however, from the Bridgnorth Bellringers Facebook page and website that the ringers are dedicated and working very hard. A major refurbishment has taken place thanks to a generous legacy from Derek Crockson – it looks like a fantastic job. Well done all.

The ringers in Bridgnorth ring at both St Marys and St Leonards. As St Marys were out of action they rang in special celebration on our anniversary – 2nd March. Thank you!



Coming up — we'd love you to join in!

A few diary dates for the next couple of months—plus a couple of ways you can help make them a success.

Guild Festival & AGM — Saturday 9th May

By now you should have received the paperwork for the Guild Festival and AGM on Saturday 9th May. If anything hasn't reached you, just let us know and we'll sort it.

Do come along if you can—whether you're there for the ringing, the chat, the activities, or all three! And please join us for the group photograph at **1.30pm**.



If you need to know where you can park all day -get in touch

Guild Dinner — Friday 12th June

Full details are on page 2—do join us if you can; it wouldn't be the same without you.

Guild Competition Day — Saturday 18th July (Bromyard)

We'd love teams from every district at our Guild Competition Day. It's a great chance for ringers of all ages and stages to get together, have a go, cheer each other on, and enjoy a really good day of ringing.

- **Morning:** Novice Challenge (open to any band or cluster — not district-based)
- **Afternoon:** Inter-district competitions
- **All day:** Activities and plenty of opportunities to ring and socialise

Keep an eye out for the posters—and if you fancy it, start pulling a team together.

Guild Survey — have your say

We've been working to improve communication between the Guild and you, our members—and we'd really value your thoughts. With bellringing facing some big challenges (an ageing ringing population and fewer volunteers to teach new recruits), your feedback will help shape what we focus on next.

We'll be sending the survey to all members soon. When it arrives, please do take a few minutes to reply—and feel free to give your tower a nudge too.

Tower Open Day — volunteers needed

2024's Tower Open Day was a real success—thank you to everyone who helped. This year we're planning to open towers in the east of the Diocese, and we'll need a few volunteers to lend a hand with stewarding. If you can help, please drop us a line at contact@hdgb.org.

And of course, it'd be lovely to have plenty of friendly faces on the ropes—welcoming visitors from near and far to enjoy our wonderful bells (and the countryside!).

News from Bellboard & Facebook

- A quarter peal was rung at Holmer to celebrate the 80th Birthday of Keith Davies of Burghill. Keith taught Dave Powell of Holmer to ring.
- **There's still time for a spring clean** – Holmer ringers gave the tower a very thorough clean ahead of welcoming the Hereford Ringing Course.
- An interesting video about a visit to John Taylor's Bellfoundry can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GpaNijzRaJI>
- Several ringers from the Guild attended the 2026 ART Conference at Loughborough.
- You can see all the 'firsts' rung so far by going to <https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/event.php?id=22372> the list is ever growing
- Bromfield bells featured on Radio 4's Bells on Sunday on 8th March, you can still listen at https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m002scmc?fbclid=IwY2xjawRWDmtleHRuA2FlbQlxMQBzcnRjBmFwcF9pZBAyMjIwMzIxNzg4MjAwODkyAAEef2VabAcD7NSq0FlpZCY8vvpLkHccvieo1RwbXf8qgvSBGrd38WtvcACe3gw_aem_Df2vDI2Wj7FTTgActQ3xyw
- Church Stretton District definitely enjoyed the cakes at their new format practice at Leintwardine
- A peal of Elio Leandros Delight Major was especially devised and rung to celebrate the birth of Elio, second son of Nadia Kourra and Dan Jones – Congratulations
- Hereford Cathedral welcomed pupils from the Cathedral School to the belfry and an opportunity to try ringing



140
HDGB  Celebrating
140 Years
Bellringing

Hereford Diocesan Guild of Bellringers

**140th ANNIVERSARY
GRAND PRIZE DRAW**

<p>MAJOR PRIZES INCLUDE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two cases of beer – Wye Valley Brewery • £50 Marks & Spencer voucher • Guided tour for 4 – John Taylor Bellfoundry • Two film tickets – The Courtyard Theatre, Hereford • Luxury hamper • Case of assorted wines 	<p>ADDITIONAL PRIZES INCLUDE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distillery tour for 2 – Ludlow Distillery • Tour for 2 – Three Counties Vineyard • Light pull – Avon Ropes Ltd <p style="text-align: center;">Raffle Tickets just £1 each</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">...with more prizes to be announced!</p>
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RAFFLE TICKETS £1 EACH

EVENT DETAILS
 Draw: Friday 12th June 2026 at 9pm
 Venue: The Green Dragon Hotel, Hereford
 email: contact@hdgb.org

Charity Number: 1105766 Licence Number: SLOT1502
Printed by: StubbsTickets.com

Raffle Tickets are available to buy in the membermojo store, from district officers or email contact@hdgb.org

Bell Restoration Fund

Sue Hack of Bodenham is one of the Trustees of the Hereford Diocesan Guild of Bellringers Bell Restoration Fund (registered charity No.508531) and is planning a fund-raising sponsored walk on **Thursday 20th August**. The walk is in the planning stages at the moment but is likely to be 12 miles long with ringing around the route. Sue is hoping to raise at least £1000.00 for the BRF so will need your support. Sue would welcome any walkers (sponsored or not) who would like to join her for all, or part of the route, on the day. Look out for news of how you can sponsor Sue, or if you would like to help, or donate please contact her on **07968302737** or email sue@peasgreen.co.uk