Hereford Diocesan Guild Bell Restoration Fund

Registered Charity No. 508531

Guidance Notes for Grant Applications

Are you eligible to apply for a grant?

1) You must be in the Diocese of Hereford, or the towers of Glasbury, Talgarth, New Radnor, Welshpool or Knighton.
2) You must be a fully paid-up affiliated member of the Bell Restoration Fund.
   NB: Affiliation fees (as determined by the Trustees) are due on January 1st each year, and if not paid by March 31st you will be deemed to be arrears.

What expenditure can be grant aided?

1) Major restoration works undertaken by recognized bell-hangers for hanging church bells for full circle ringing.
2) Intermediate works that are eligible for a grant (and may require a faculty or archdeacon's certificate) would include the strengthening / repair of existing bell-frames, the addition of pits for extra ringing bells, welding cracked bells, recasting unsatisfactory bells, utilising second-hand bells, retuning, quarter turning bells, rehanging bells with new fittings (see proviso re maintenance), supply and fitting of new pulley boxes, fitting new bearings.
3) The transportation of bells, fittings and frames in connection with the above, to and from bell-hangers, welders, and the tower is eligible.
4) VAT on eligible works will be grant aidable, unless Government rules make it reclaimable via The Listed Places of Worship Scheme or a similar scheme.

What work can't be grant-aided?

1) Ring beams, floors, ceilings, trapdoors, electrical work, strengthening and general tower repairs (even if they are essential to the bell work), indirect costs such as faculty costs, architect's, structural engineer's or surveyor's fees, insurance of workers, separate insurance of the bells whilst they are out of the tower, bat surveys, archaeological surveys or other reports.
2) Maintenance work that would normally be carried out by the steeple keeper.
3) Replacement of ropes, stays, sliders, or the cleaning of old bearings.
4) No grant shall be made towards clock related costs, or chiming apparatus, or for any bells not set up for full circle ringing.

The value of grants awarded:

1) The size of any grant will be decided at a meeting of the Fund Trustees, but will depend on the amount of money available, the length of affiliation (and your tower's payment record), and the merits of your project. The Trustees will pay particular attention to the level of community support, as shown by the amount of local fundraising, also the strength of local ringing, to ensure that our funds support projects that provide genuine benefit for local ringing. Grants may be up to 10% of the cost of eligible work, based on the figures given in the application, but the actual sum awarded will be at the Trustees' discretion, and once made, the grant offer is fixed at that level. Grant offers are valid for two years, after which time a new application would be needed.
2) The grant will only be paid upon satisfactory completion of the work (as per the original application), and production of final invoices. The work will also be liable to inspection by a BRF Trustee, or a duly appointed representative. Payment of grants will only be by cheque, made payable to your PCC.
3) Applications for BRF grants must be received not later than one calendar month before our Annual General Meeting, and should be made in writing to our Secretary. The form must be fully completed, include all relevant paperwork (copies of quotations / reports), and be signed by an authorised representative of your PCC.