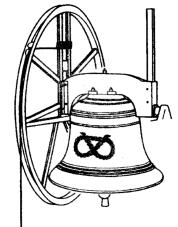


Clappertrappings



Newsletter of the North Staffordshire Association of Change Ringers
Ringina the changes across the county

www.nsacr.org.uk

Autumn 2020



SALLY FORTH!

Welcome to the Autumn edition of ClapperTrappings from myself (Helen) and Lydia.

I find myself smiling wryly as I read the last note from me to you all for the Summer edition of ClapTraps, with plans for events out the window, talk of the 'new normal' and discussions as to how we kept ourselves connected in our Towers when there was no ringing. So as we tiptoe our way back into the towers seeking the limited resumption of ringing, our skills have been further challenged, particularly as writers of Risk Assessments, and we continue to be IT whizzos on Zoom and Ringing Room! The adoption of our members to engage in the necessary PPE has commenced, (if indeed you are one of the lucky towers able to recommence ringing) and although many people have found it difficult, it is not about to prevent us from

ringing, we have embraced it as part of our new normal, and ringing with gloves and mask has to be with us for a while.

We hope you enjoy this autumn edition, and it comes with our best wishes, Helen Thurstan, and Lydia Ernest, Editors.

CENTRAL COUNCIL BUSINESS

Report from our Central Council Reps

This year's Central Council weekend, which would have included a mini roadshow, was due to be held in Nottingham from 4 – 6 September but Corona virus has made this impossible.

The AGM will be held via zoom on the morning of Saturday 5 September, followed by the Ringing World AGM in the afternoon.

Jan and Tim Hine

RINGING MORE CHANGES

Tim Hine tells me that he and Jan were elected as Central Council Reps in December 2013 and that they intend next year to be their last year in office – they will be standing down at the AGM in 2021. It would be good if someone would consider volunteering for the position of Central Council Rep 3 at this year's AGM – this position has been vacant for several years and it would give the new Rep some insight into what goes on, whilst Jan and

Tim were still in post. There is paperwork on our website which gives you an idea as to what it means to be a Central Council Rep. We also pushed the PR Officer for the Central Council into giving us her view of that all-important role. She told us:

"I'd say that a Rep has to ***be themselves and reflect their views on the Council.***"

She went on: "There are three main requirements to being a Central Council Representative for your Society:

- 1) Holding the Council's Executive to account;
- 2) Assisting with the work of the Council if appropriate;
- 3) Promoting the Council and its work."

I know that Tim and Jan have done a great job representing NSACR at the Central Council, and they have another year to complete before the big thank yous come from us, and perhaps the huge hurrahs explode from them. On a serious note, however, they both told me that in their opinions, being our Reps at the Central Council gave them a chance to meet and work with friendly and interesting people from all over the world and to make things better for ringers.



From my own point of view, I would think that working with Simon

Linfold and his team would also have a great appeal. I cannot imagine that in his wildest imaginings Simon thought his first year as President would involve an awful lot of negotiation, much paperwork, a focus on Risk Assessments and the worst bits of all, NO RINGING! NO TEACHING!

He has led perfectly, and we have always been very aptly informed as to what the Central Council and the CofE have agreed for Ringers, and what is important from Public Health England. We may have groaned at some of the last minute changes that came out, but that's just the way of it at the moment and having that Central Council Rep helping to keep our members and our website up-to-date with crucial information was so important, and will remain so.

So, it would be good to get a Central Council Rep ensconced this year, and then give us a few months to look for the replacements for Jan and Tim. Think about it, and you know how to find Jan and/or Tim if you would like to talk it out with them.



RINGING OUR WORLD

Will Bosworth is the fairly new Editor of 'Ringing World'. Lydia approached him for a biog, and asked him a couple of questions about what brought him to the editing of a little known magazine (well, little known outside our 'ringing world' that was failing 5 years ago). Both Lydia and I, probably many of you, suspect that is going to change. We already have a different 'feel' to the Ringing World and we have high hopes for the future.

Here, Will talks candidly about his aspirations, his career and why 'Ringing World'.

Funnily enough I never planned that I wanted to be editor of a bellringing magazine. I chose to study music at

university because it was my only A-level subject (among sciences) that I thought I might still be interested in after learning it for three more years. Those three years turned into five (and a lot of ringing) but I still didn't know what I wanted to do next. When I got to know people well enough, though, I'd admit that what I really cared about was bellringing – but who gets to earn a living doing that? I went and worked in a school for a few years and I loved working with young adults, but I wasn't cut out to stand in front of a class of teenagers. (Teachers are saints.)

After going back to university to think about cross-rhythms in Brahms' music for three years (seriously), I needed to make ends meet, just as a job as Editorial Assistant came up at *The Ringing World* ... and I enjoyed it straight away. I get to work with words all the time. I get to correct other people's mistakes (not usually a very welcome thing to do), and think about how you get all the important information over to someone in as little time as possible. I currently mix being Editor of *The Ringing World* with being a paid member of the choir at Peterborough Cathedral.

No job is always a dream, of course. A weekly bellringing magazine isn't a business idea the Dragons would think was a dead cert, and you-know-what hasn't helped. It's no fun when we get things wrong – everyone sees the mistakes, and you can't take print back again. (I think 'RW Busines Plan' in large letters was my most embarrassing typo ever.) And words are tricky beasts. Sometimes it's very hard to get your feelings over in writing when you know you could do it so easily over a beer.

Most of the time, though, it's a great job.



Will Bosworth, Editor, Ringing World

Sometimes it seems too good to be true that I get paid to think about postbox collecting, why one bellringing method is actually another one with chunks snipped out and turned upside down, and what James Joyce's fearsome book *Ulysses* has to do with eating a big curry before a quarter peal. We've just received this year's calendar into the office (Sorry, shameless plug – just £9!) and seeing it in the flesh when you've looked on a screen for so long is really satisfying. We're halfway through publishing the fifth series of David Smith's Education Column, which is a set of articles for teachers, tower captains and learners all the way from rounds to surprise minor and beyond. Recently we had a series by Gareth Davies on the history of ringing for elections. If you thought when 'Ringing for Brexit' was around that ringing is never political, think again. During lockdown we started a weekly puzzle page, and if you like Sudoku you might like our 'Methodokus'. I'm excited that we're publishing several a

Articles by a Central Council group looking at women in ringing. Did you know that

about one in ten quarter peal bands are all-male, but only about one in two hundred quarter peal bands are all-female?

The response when we first went into lockdown and people knew we might be struggling to fill the pages was jawdropping. There are so many people doing good things in ringing at the moment – you had Simon Linford in your last newsletter issue, who just seems to have new projects spilling out of him like nobody's business. I'm proud that we organise the annual RWNYC, and every year I come across more people working tirelessly to encourage young ringers who really enjoy it. One of the best parts of the job is being inspired by how much time and energy ringers put in for what they love. If only we're doing the right things with everyone's enthusiasm, surely there's no question that ringing will be fine.

So my plans for the future? Sorry – just like my career, my Ringing World plans aren't worked out to every detail, but there are some important elements. The RW will be helping a thriving community of ringers, providing information, education and fun (sometimes all at the same time), in lots of different ways to ringers – on paper and with technology. And the ringers know that it's a good idea to support it and keep communicating with it because of the good it does for ringing. How do we get there? Umm ... give me another few years to think about it ... I've got to go and proofread that business update ...

OUR SUBS ARE DUE

Message from David Simpson

Next year's subscription letters have been posted out to all towers. Under the current conditions it may not be possible for Tower Correspondents to collect the subs from all their tower members.

Can we ask members who are not attending their towers to send in their subscriptions direct, either by cheque or bank transfer.

Subs are £10 adults and £5 for juniors (under 18s).

Cheques need to be made payable to "North Staffordshire Association of Change Ringers" as banks now require the name in full.

To pay by direct credit please send to NSACR: Sort code 77-27-21 Account 35715060 and email membership confirmation to:

membership@nsacr.org.uk.

Many thanks!

A CAUTIONARY TALE

from Phil Gay

As you all know, the gradual restarting of ringing as lockdown relaxes is being done in accordance with guidelines drawn up by the Central Council and agreed with the Church of England and Public Health England. But I believe it is the case that at least one tower has been closed down because of ringing in a non-compliant way. So we should all make sure that our ringing arrangements do comply, not just for our own benefit but to ensure that ringing and ringers do not fall into disrepute. Irresponsible ringing now could

result in a longer period of restriction for all of us.

HONOURABLE CLOCKWINDER?

In the July edition of the Countryman magazine there's a letter from a fellow who until recently was the Honourable Clockwinder at St. Cleer Parish Church near Bodmin Moor. He says tradition has it that the community clock winders hold the title as the 'Honourable Clock Winder' and are entitled to hold their annual general meetings either in the clock room, at the top of the church tower or on the church roof.

So for the last 30 years or so Jim Plant has had a title and didn't even know it.....a bit like the 'Honourable' Arthur in Dad's Army. *So, are you an 'Honourable'? If so, enjoy those meetings.....*

NEWS FROM THE TOWERS

Hoar Cross - Annual Report Derek Giddins, TC

Some of you will know that Hoar Cross has a very fine heavy ring of 6 bells, however due to the lack of weather proofing to the openings, ie, no louvers or similar protection the bells and their fittings are very much open to the elements. With this in mind and earlier this year, I had a site meeting with the church warden who is very proactive and also invited two companies to visit and discuss the issues we have regarding the weatherproofing of the bells. Estimates were subsequently received and presented to the church but with the present lack of income due to the current

pandemic situation this is very much on hold possibly till 2021.

During 2019 we had our usual high numbers of weddings, Sunday service ringing has been rare over the past two years due to other tower commitments of our neighbours who help us. However, since the return to ringing after the lock down we have been able to ring after service with the help of our ringing neighbours; because of good spacing between ropes and a large ringing circle we have all put our face masks on, sanitised our hands and ensured that each of the six ringers had their own bell to ring at all times. We have managed PB Doubles or Grandsire on Sundays, what a treat!!

Without doubt the highlight of ringing at Hoar Cross over the past year was a very fine peal of Doubles rung by the Abbots Bromley Band.



Above: the band that rang first after-service ringing when lockdown was finally lifted back in July.

Kidsgrove - Christine Sherratt

No ringing is going on at present at Kidsgrove as the church service is being broadcast on Zoom from the vicarage and the time has been altered to accommodate that.

The band remains a shared facility with All Saints, Church Lawton, and fortunately

we take turns of four on alternative Sundays, to ring there. Both of our newest ringers are part of the band, as well as Peter from Astbury. We miss Raymond, who always joined us after ringing at Tunstall, who some of you may know. He has now settled permanently in the Peterborough area. Our loss is their gain.

Stone – David Simpson, TC

At Stone, we started a weekly zoom meeting for the band as soon as ringing had to stop.

These meetings have proved very successful and enjoyable. There has been between 8 and 12 members joining in each week. Beside a general chat and a catch up on the week's events, we take it in turn to run a quiz and we have a session on Ringing Room.

In early July, Alex put together a risk assessment document covering our return to ringing, which was sent to the Vicar and PCC.

At the same time, we raised all the trap doors in the tower by a couple of inches to increase the air flow.

We started ringing again for morning service on Sunday 12th July. We ring 5 bells: 2,4,6,8,10. We only allow 5 ringers in the tower for service ringing.

This means that ringers are scheduled to ring every other Sunday on a strict rota basis. Everyone wears a face mask and we limit the ringing to 15 minutes.

Butterton–Maggie Risby, TC

Everything at St Bartholomew's has gone quiet, no ringing, no practices.....I can say that the bells had their post installation inspection on Wednesday 26th August. Taylors came, albeit 18 months overdue, to carry out the

inspection. The big announcement is that the mats for the floor of the ringing chamber have arrived at last and are ready to put down.

Cheadle, St Giles–Jim Plant, TC

In the August edition of The Countryman there's an article on Taylors Bell Foundry. (along with a photograph of St Peters in Alton). The Victorian foundry needs urgent repair works, and there's a restoration project to raise £1 million to help secure a future of the bell foundry.

I tolled the Tenor bell 75 times to commemorate the 75 anniversary of VJ Day.

Nothing more happening at St Giles Parish Church other than keeping the Clock going on time and turning the calendar over every month in the belfry which only I see. :-[

Best Wishes everybody and keep safe!

Dilhorne–Jackie Kent, TC



Above: Jackie, checking all is well in the bell tower.

So, rather than the 'Damsels' we wondered if we should



rename ourselves.....the masked bandits? All Saints Damsels rang with pride on 15th August for VJ Day, marking the 75th Anniversary of the end of the Second World War. Emotions were high as the band remembered the forgotten army in Burma. The Damsels also rang on that day for the 70th birthday of the Princess Royal.

The ringing band for VJ Day:



Back, L-R = Jackie Kent, Linda Wait, Helen Thurstan

Front, L-R – Gill Smith, Margaret Carnall, Susan Mason

Keele–Phil Gay, TC

Lockdown has had broadly the same effect at Keele as in other places, but slightly differently for the two towers. Our last service ringing at St John's was on March 15th, when we decided that we would not practise the following week although lockdown had not been announced. Woodlands Wednesday also decided not to meet on March 18th. But Woodlands bells have not been silent, as Ro and I have rung three every Sunday morning at the time when we would normally be going up the road. Our regular repertoire has been raise in peal, call changes, plain hunt and lower in peal. Pretty basic you will say, but not trivial when one of us is ringing two bells. We have chosen to ring bells 3, 4 and 5 of the

eight, which are a proper three and not too heavy. When we ring three at Keele church, our preferred method is Stedman, but we haven't yet been bold enough to try that yet at Woodlands. On August 2nd we entertained visiting ringers – Simon, Eleanor and Charlie Linford. I have been working with Simon as a member of his working party which is putting together plans for a new mobile belfry, and he wanted to try out some bells of similar weight. We were able to ring socially distanced rounds on six, albeit a slightly unusual one, with Phil and Ro ringing 1, 2 and 3, and the Linfords ringing 5, 6 and 7.

Soon after lockdown we heard the sad news that Dan Viggars, a member of the Keele band, had died. He had been in poor health and unable to ring for several years. We weren't able to go to his funeral, and memorial ringing will have to wait.

On August 3rd we heard that there would be a service at Keele on the following Sunday, and we decided to ring for it. Steve Mellor, Ro and I rang call changes on 2, 4 and 6, which was much appreciated by the congregation. Emails to the rest of the band revealed that all but one is happy to come ringing again, three at a time. We rang for a service again on August 23rd with a slightly different band, John Digan ringing instead of Ro, who was taking care following a cataract operation. We will rotate the band each time so that everyone gets a chance to ring.

I think it is important to keep members of bands in touch with each other even if we can't ring together. With the Keele band this has been by regular phone calls and emails, with a small amount of face-to-face socialising as restrictions have been

relaxed. Woodlands Wednesday have had regular zoom meetings at the time when we would normally be ringing, with some of the group doing Ringing Room. Keyboard ringing is not something I enjoy, so I stay for the chat and then go away. But I have been able to do some ringing with two other Woodlanders. Paul and Ruth Jopp are keen handbell ringers, and on June 19th they visited Woodlands for a socially distanced handbell quarter. On July 8th I paid a return visit to their house at Little Eaton near Derby and we rang another one. These two quarters were rung as practice for a third one, rung at Woodlands on August 18th, which was the sixtieth anniversary of my first peal. All three quarters were of Plain Bob Minor. The Jopps' house has something in common with Woodlands – both have a ring of bells in the garage.

Keele (Woodlands), Little Eaton (5 Brooks Hollow) and Keele (Woodlands)

June 19th, July 8th and August 18th

1260 Plain Bob Minor

1-2 Phil Gay

3-4 Paul Jopp (cond)

5-6 Ruth Jopp

Ringers' gardens have a reputation for being a bit neglected, but this year that is much less the case. Our garden and orchard at Woodlands are in the best condition they have ever been, and have given us a lot of pleasure, both for working and relaxing. The pond we created two years ago is full of wildlife, and we are hoping soon to receive two hedgehogs from the local rescue centre. Keeping the garden tidy has been aided by weekly visits from Howard Smith, a member of the Newcastle band who regularly supports the Keele practice.

And finally.....

The first service at All Saints Madeley was on Sunday September 6th, and call changes were rung by Josie Martin, David Midgley and Phil Gay. They have also been booked to ring for a wedding on the following Saturday. Not quite normal, but on the way!

RED, WHITE & BLUE

Jim Plant, TC of St Giles Parish Church in Cheadle, is also famous around those parts for his donkeys. Over the years they have turned out to remember and to celebrate and to give much enjoyment and pleasure to lots of people.



VJ Day 50th Anniversary, Cheadle High Street



Jim and
Frankie, VJ Day
75th
Anniversary

Jim also tells us that he had an old friend who had retired from Thomas Bolton's who was very good at rope splicing, so he got him to splice the ends of an old 'Sally' together for his donkeys, Mighty and Poppy.



Above: these two lovelies are 'Mighty' & 'Poppy' wearing their Red White and Blue collars made from old bell rope in 2002.



Left: Jim with 'Mighty', 2002

A

A PORTABLE TREAT

We have some great news! The Central Council is planning to build a mobile belfry. This is going to be a really exciting project, and will allow us to broaden the experience of bell ringing everywhere. Earlier this year, Council President, Simon Linford published his Strategy for the Future, which included the greater use of mobile belfries to promote ringing. To

further this idea he set up a working party, and invited our very own Phil Gay to join it.

Phil is very well equipped to take part in such a project. In 1990, he proposed that the Council should build a mobile belfry as a Centenary project, but the timing was simply not right. However, Phil forged ahead with the idea of the mobile belfry and a few years later the Association built the Lichfield Diocesan Mobile Belfry, which is very popular, and has had numerous outings all over the county and beyond! (You may remember Lucy and Ray's adventures with the Mobile Belfry from last year's ClapTraps?)

Phil tells us that after much discussion, the preferred design which emerged was something he has had in mind for a long time – a tower which is the body of a tipper trailer. He also said that there is a strong possibility that it will be built within a year – so watch this space.

For those of you unaware, The Lichfield Diocesan Mobile Belfry (L MDB) is a mini ring of 6 bells. The bells are mounted on a trailer and can be assembled in a couple of hours. The Association has used them at the County Show to promote ringing across the County, and the belfry can be hired for other events. If you'd like to find out more, or would be interested in volunteering to support the events with the mobile belfry, please have a look at the Association's website.

FUNDRAISING

www.easyfundraising.org.uk

Lisa Horritt has set up the North Staffs Bell Restoration Fund (the charity part of our Association) on easyfundraising.

How does it work?

Every time you shop on line, or via the App, the retailer gives a small percentage of what you spend back to the Charity to say thanks for the support. So, whether it's buying clothes for the kids, a new washing machine, paying your car insurance, buying a new holiday, undies from M&S, a new kettle from John Lewis, all of your purchases will help towards (in our case), the North Staffs Bell Restoration Fund. This allows people to get a donation to our charity when they do their online shopping.

What do you have to do?

There are 2 ways to get involved:

1. Register via the web:

www.easyfundraising.org.uk

2. Use the App

Every time you make a purchase after registering, the Association gets a percentage back - this varies per retailer.

One person has already raised over £25. If we could get just 10 more people doing this it will all add up. So please, get involved. Leaflet at end of newsletter too.

The graphic features a colorful, abstract background with confetti-like shapes. At the top right is the EasyFundraising logo with the tagline 'feel good. shopping'. Below the logo, the text 'Help us raise FREE funds for' is written in a large, stylized, handwritten font. Underneath this, in a box, is the text 'N Staffs Assn of Change Ringers BRF'. Further down, another box contains the text 'every time you shop online' and 'Just search for us on easyfundraising.org.uk'. A smaller box below that states '4,200+ online stores will give us a free donation when you shop with them - at no cost to you!' followed by a list of logos for various retailers including M&S, Clarks, Booking.com, Currys PC World, Argos, Viking, Sky, Just Eat, eBay, Debenhams, and Npower. At the bottom, there are download links for the app on Google Play and the App Store, and a footer with social media icons and user statistics: 'Over £32 million raised', 'Trustpilot 5 stars', and '2 million users'.

CORNER

The Bells, Edgar Allan Poe

I have shamelessly simply taken one verse of this poem because it's the one I like the best, and it's something I am looking forward to, and I bet all of you are too!

Hear the mellow wedding bells,
Golden bells!
What a world of happiness their harmony
foretells!

Through the balmy air of night
How they ring out their delight!

From the molten-golden notes,
And all in tune,

What a liquid ditty floats
To the turtle-dove that listens, while she
gloats

On the moon!

Oh, from out the sounding cells,
What a gush of euphony voluminously
wells!

How it swells!
How it dwells

On the Future! how it tells
Of the rapture that impels
To the swinging and the ringing
Of the bells, bells, bells,
Of the bells, bells, bells, bells,
Bells, bells, bells - To the rhyming and
the chiming of the bells!

It's
a
beautiful Sunday
morning and all through
the city, the bells are
ringing, they are ringing so
steady. Down by Saint
Peters, the church so proud.
The bells are ringing, they're
ringing so loud. In a home
nearby, a babe can't sleep. The
bells are ringing, they're ringing so
deep. On the streets and in the alleys,
we know what the dogs are feeling. The
bells are ringing, they are really pealing.
Down at the church, the priest smiles and shrugs.
The bells are ringing, but he wears earplugs.

It started off so well, but that last line!?
How rude – of course this wasn't about
North Staffordshire ringers!
Nevertheless, someone *please* find us a
better ending!

CARNALL PLEASURES

Simple Recipes from Lockdown Towers

Whilst we still have some sun, here's a
very simply recipe for you to show off
with!

EASY LEMON ICE CREAM

3 unwaxed lemons
150g icing sugar
400ml carton double cream
2 tablespoon cold water.

Method:

Finely grate the zest from 2 of the lemons,
then squeeze the juice from all 3 into a
bowl alongside the zest and sugar; stir to
combine, then set aside for 10 minutes.

Whip the cream with the water until soft
peaks form, carefully whisk into the
sweetened lemon juice and zest. Spoon
into a shallow container, cover and freeze
for 3 - 6 hours. (There is no need to stir
the mixture to break up the ice crystals)

Transfer the ice cream to the fridge, 30
minutes before serving to soften slightly.

Tip: this works well with oranges as well.

You can use the juice of just 2 lemons if
you prefer it not too lemony.

Enjoy this recipe from my Dessert Island,
just not-quite-so-Locked-down

CONTINUITY WITH CLAPPERS

For those of us with the maintenance
responsibilities in towers, Phil Gay tells us
that over the last few years a number of
towers have had clappers re-bushed at
the Baldwins Gate workshop of H E
Butters and Co. This workshop has now
closed, but Graham Barnes who worked
there now works at Huntaway
Engineering Ltd, and he will be able to
continue with clapper work.

**For further information phone Rob
Siddall on 01782 791600.** An advantage
of having the work done locally is that it
can usually be fitted in between Sundays,
and of course there is less travelling.

www.huntawayengineering.co.uk

QUIZALICIOUS

Puzzle your brain

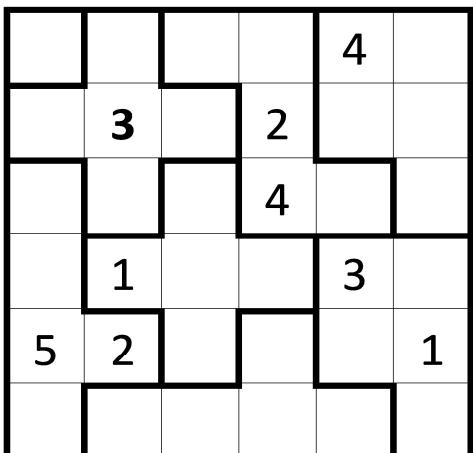
In an attempt to help the Alzheimer's
Society and to keep my brain going, I
donate some money monthly and they
send me some puzzles. I took the bull by
the horns and tried Sudoku. This one
took me a while, but my friend who is
very good at Sudoku, did it in 10
minutes.... How fast can you do it?

8			3			2
	6					8
	2	4	6	5		
	8	9	3	1		
1						8
	9	8	7	6		
	1	6	8	7		
	4					9
9			5			1

For those of you that are new to Sudoku, here's the objective. Fill the 9x9 grid made of squares (shown below) so that each row, each column, and each full 9x9 square use the numbers 1-9. While solving the Sudoku puzzle you can only use each number one time in the square, column, and row.

I also came across this Suguru puzzle, which is the one with the digits 1-5 in, that you might like to try. I was baffled!

For the Suguru puzzle, you have to fill in the grid so that each cell contains a digit. A bold outlined cluster of two cells contains the digits 1 and 2, a cluster of three cells contains the digits 1, 2 and 3, and so on. No same digit appears in any neighbouring cell, not even diagonally. Good luck!



Answers on the website soon.....

EVENTS

Picking up the theme I started with, the events I have for you are all online and via Ringing Room.

To get involved you will need a Desktop or Laptop computer, with a broadband connection. Laptops are ideal, but PCs and Apple both work. Tablets, phones and iPads are not as suitable as you will need a keyboard to ring a bell. If you are using a desktop, you will need a webcam and ideally a headset, although a microphone can be used.

You will all be in contact online using "Zoom", which allows us to see and hear each other and to split into smaller groups.

The ringing part will be using a website called "Ringing Room". Ringing Room allows the ringers to all see the same set of ropes. Ringers are allocated to a particular bell which they ring by pressing the space bar.

To take part in this meeting please email Chris Adams as you will need to receive a link to the Zoom meeting. Contact Chris on deputyringingmaster@nsacr.org.uk

If you are new to online ringing, then please contact Chris as early as possible so he can arrange a 1 to 1 session to help you get set up, and to answer any questions you may have.

Saturday 5th September 7pm, with 7.30-9pm Ringing Meeting [Evening Meeting - Online](#)

The following events are all online practices and you will need to contact Chris in order to get involved.

Wednesday 9th September [Ringing Room Practice](#)

Friday 11th September [Online Doubles Practice](#)

Wednesday 16th September [Ringing Room Practice](#)

Friday 18th September [Online Doubles Practice](#)

Wednesday 23rd September [Ringing Room Practice](#)

Friday 25th September [Online Doubles Practice](#)

Wednesday 30th September [Ringing Room Practice](#)

Friday 2nd October [Online Doubles Practice](#)

Saturday 3rd October [Quarterly Meeting – Barlaston - UNDER REVIEW](#)

All information above and in more detail can be found on the website.

RECRUITMENT

I know that not everyone shares our passion for ringing bells, but in our country, when I hear the sound of bells, it makes my heart sing, whether I am a part of it or not. Church bells ringing out for a practise, a Sunday morning service, or a wedding, are joyous sounds and make you feel a part of that ‘occasion’, even if you are not actually ‘part’ of it. It’s wonderful, whether it is done as a celebration or a practise, or a Sunday morning service; you hear rounds, call changes, lots of bells or a few, or the sound comes at you with the clever, complex methods that have been practised for centuries. Even for a funeral, with the bells partly muffled, and the tolling of the bell for the age of the

person whose service it is, you feel part of that moment and you are drawn in.

So, when the bells fell silent across Britain in March, it was a sad affair. **No ringing.....no teaching.....most importantly.....no recruitment.**

The Central Council has, quite rightly, recruitment as one of its strategic priorities, and I would say that it is so important, it should be central to every Association, Guild, Tower plan for the future. This is something we as an Association cannot ignore. As soon as we are able, Corona-Virus restrictions wrestled with and overcome, we need to develop a strategic plan that has longevity and retention embedded in it, and then implement it.

I had talked with one or two Tower Captains about the possibility of recruitment amongst students, about us going into universities as an Association, perhaps with the mobile belfry if that was possible, during Fresher’s Week. That was before the world went mad and everything stopped. But it is something we can think about for the future.

If you have any other successful recruitment and retention ideas, plans, projects that worked in the past, please share with us.

If we are to sustain ringing, now more than ever, we need to recruit the younger generation. It’s not enough to quote exercise, mental agility and a visit to the pub. What is really going to get those young people’s attention in this new world?

Helen Thurstan, Editor

CORONA VIRUS UPDATE

Limited ringing can restart immediately provided it is in accordance with the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers guidelines and agreed with the local incumbent.

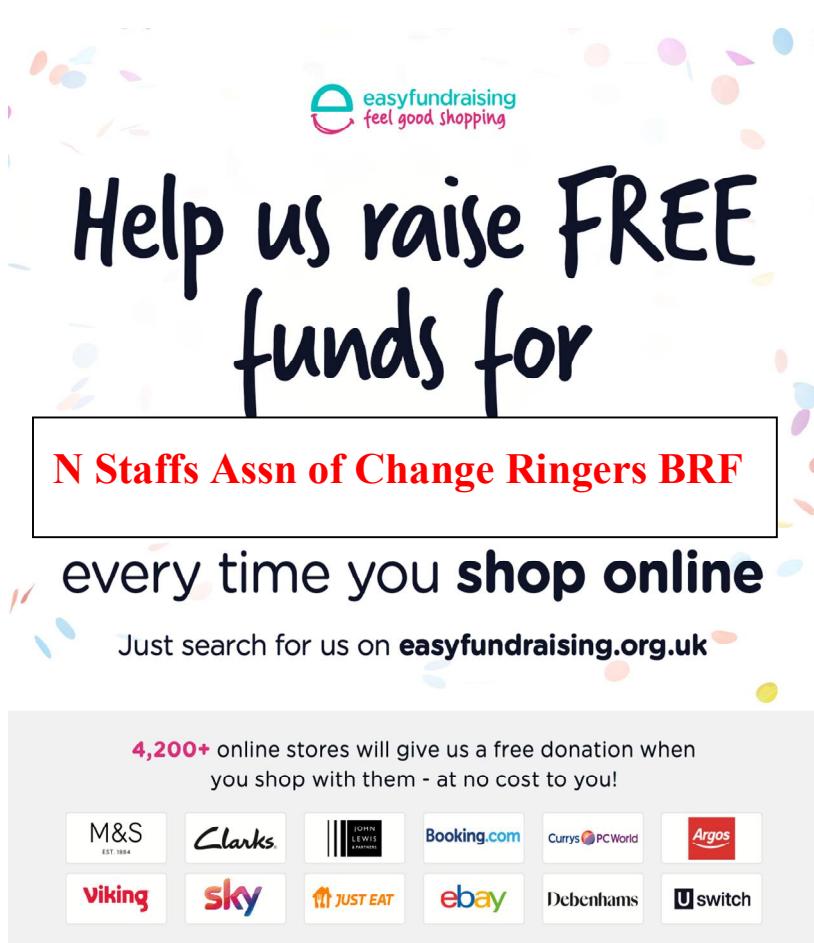
The latest guidelines have been produced after consultation with Public Health England and agreed with the Church of England.

For the full information, latest updates and guidance, and for details on running safe ringing sessions, see:

<https://cccb.org.uk/coronavirus/>

Keep up-to-date by visiting:
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