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Newsletter - July 2024

Greetings to all Guild members and I do hope your summer is passing satisfactorily – despite the vagaries of the British weather.

Several things to bring to your attention and note in this newsletter:-

Guild visit to the Isle of Purbeck - Thursday 18th July



With many thanks to James Mercer (Guild member – Swanage based) for his immaculate organisation, members and friends enjoyed a most worthwhile excursion around several Isle of Purbeck towers. We took in glorious scenery on the way and a fine lunch in the sun in the Fox Inn garden, Corfe Castle. We rang at Kingston (10), Corfe Castle (6), Swanage (8), Worth Matravers (6) and finished at Wareham (10). The ringing was of a good standard generally with Grandsire Caters and Little Bob Royal rung well on the 10s—we were less successful with Stedman.... Double Norwich and Stedman Triples went well at Swanage and good surprise minor and doubles rung on the 6s.

A disappointment at Wareham was the tenor rope slipping the wheel and we were reduced to ringing on 9. However, the Guild is never to be daunted. We still managed caters and a full nicely struck course of Purbeck Surprise Major. The latter we must confess was by chance and not forward planning given that an eagle eye spotted the ringing room curtains had Purbeck Surprise Major embroidered on them! Close inspection of the pattern showed this to be an easy Superlative variation...so we proceeded...the rest is history.

A great and enjoyable day out in excellent company.

2nd October 2024

We do hope that Guild members living in the near vicinity of the West Midlands can come along for all or part of this 3 day outing being organised by Tony Ellis – former Guild President. Could you let Tony know please your availability to join the ‘jaunt’ by **Friday 9th August** at the very latest and preferably before? This will enable accommodation arrangements and any tower fees to be determined. Ringing will be managed appropriately for all attending. We really need a minimum of 12 to 15 to make the outing worthwhile. Guild members and friends are most welcome:

Tony Ellis: a.ellis7@btinternet.com 01432 820759, 07894 085354

The likely itinerary from Tony is below. We are investigating coach/mini-bus travel possibilities between towers:

Monday 30th September

2.00 St.Paul Wood Green, Wednesbury 8/16cwt

3.00 Darlaston 8/14 cwt

4.00 Wednesbury 10/24cwt

5.00 Coseley 8/11cwt

Staying in a Premier Inn or similar near Dudley

Tuesday 1st October

9.30 Smethwick Old Church 8/7cwt

10.45 Harborne 8/12 cwt

12 .00 Edgbaston 8/10 cwt

Lunch

2.15 Moseley St Anne 6/7cwt

3.00 Moseley St.Mary 10/18 cwt

4.30 Rowley Regis 8/10cwt

(Some may want to go the Bullring where there is the Practice Night and an opportunity to ring on 16)

Wednesday 2nd October

9.30 Netherton 8/13 cwt

10.45 Dudley 10/20cwt

12.00 Brierley Hill 8/14 cwt

The Guild Low Week Tour 2025: Monday 29th April to Friday 2nd May

We mentioned this annual gathering of members and friends in the May newsletter but now is the time to get the dates in your diary for next year. Further details will be published in the autumn for a firm signing up for all or part of the week as you can manage.... But so far:

The 86th Guild of Clerical Ringers Low Week Anniversary Tour is looking to ring in towers over the week in the Lichfield, Ashby de la Zouch and Burton On Trent area, ie South Staffordshire and North West Leicestershire. A quarter peal or two apart from general ringing might also be managed. Premier Inn accommodation is being explored and coach travel, as usual, for the Tuesday to Thursday of the week will be arranged. Again, it is hoped that given a relatively central location nationally, this might attract a wider range of members generally from across the UK.

And finally on Guild 'gatherings'....

As with the Isle of Purbeck day above, it is hoped that 2024/25 will see other regional Guild ringing arranged by willing Guild members, particularly where there is a reasonable concentration of membership – SE, East, SW and Midlands come to mind. Do step forward please if you feel able to arrange a day's ringing, a quarter peal....or even a full peal. Ringing friends can be included on outings where there is a sparsity of clergy!



Guild Membership and Committee Changes

A warm welcome to new Guild members

So far this year we welcome five new members into the Guild whose names will be appearing in a reissued Guild Directory as members for election/ratification at the AGM held during the annual Low Week Tour:

Jamie MacLeod, who is warden at Whaley Abbey, Whaley Bridge in Derbyshire. He is keen that we try and arrange a Clerical Quarter peal there.

Rhona McEune was ordained deacon in Ely Cathedral on 30th June. She has already joined on us on many tours as a clergy wife. She is serving a curacy in the Anglesey Group of parishes.

Kevin Lovell is Vicar of Emmer Green in Reading.

Mark Hart, Rector of St Mary, Nantwich, “a novice ringer, getting hooked”; and

Simon Dommett, a vicar in the Bedford area, who anticipates doing more ringing...

You are all most welcome and we look forward to meeting you at Guild gatherings in the future, as can be arranged.

Congratulations to.....

David Grimwood and Dale Barton both this year achieving 50 years of ordained ministry. Of course, there may be others and if so it would be good to know please. And Michael Stephens – congratulations Michael on achieving 95 years of age in June. Michael may be our oldest ringing Guild member...unless anybody can say differently!

The Guild Directory

An updated online version of the Guild Directory was issued to members in May of this year. Paper copies went to those who requested. Tim Hawkings, our Guild Secretary, has received some amendments from you. If there are others not notified as yet, please let Tim know. His contact details are below with Guild Committee membership. We will issue a further edition in the early Autumn.



Bell Sunday 2025

The Guild with the CCCBR has set this for Easter 5, 18th May 2025. We will promote this again in a newsletter later this year, but put it in your diaries.

And Finally...

The Exeter September 2024 AGM of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers

Your Guild representative at the AGM this year will be your President. Contact details are below.

So, in conclusion do enjoy the rest of your summer and successful ringing in all respects.

All blessings and best wishes

Jon

Jonathan Rose, President, The Guild of Clerical Ringers



Enjoying the sound of our bell ringing at Worth Matravers, Isle of Purbeck

Guild of Clerical Ringers Committee

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