

Welcome to membership of the Guild

If you have joined as a Probationary Member, and you are just setting out on your ringing career, we hope you will persevere with your ringing, and soon be elected a 'full' ringing member of the Guild. If you are already a ringer, and are simply awaiting a chance to be elected a 'full' member, you are equally welcome.

All Probationary and 'full' members of the Guild are covered by the Guild's Public Liability Insurance. This provides generous cover against third party claims in the unlikely event of a mishap in the tower.

Good luck in all your ringing.

David Strong. (Guild Master)
Clare Griffiths. (Hon. General Secretary)

Probationary Members are normally elected by Guild members in their own towers. (They have no voting rights at Guild meetings.)

Full Ringing Members are elected at District or Guild meetings. Those in full time education or who are over sixty pay a reduced rate.

Life Members have either been full members for fifty years, or who have given special service to the Guild.

Associate Members are non-ringers who support the aims of the Guild.

Compounding Members live outside the territory of the Guild, either because they have moved away, or because they have been elected to membership before a peal attempt.

The Guild

The Winchester Diocesan Guild of Ringers was formed in 1879. When the old Winchester Diocese was split into three parts in 1927, the ringers in the two new Dioceses of Winchester and Portsmouth stayed together to form the new Guild whilst the ringers in the new Diocese of Guildford formed their own separate Guild. The present territory of the Guild dates from this time, and includes most of Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, part of East Dorset, and the Channel Islands.

Aims

To unite the Church Bell Ringers in the Winchester and Portsmouth Dioceses for mutual support consistent with:

- The promotion, in co-operation with the incumbents, of an appreciation and observation of the tower as part of God's House.
- The recognition of the position of ringers as Church workers.
- The encouragement of ringing for Divine Service, the cultivation of change ringing, and the preservation of the church bells in an efficient condition.

Districts

The Guild is divided into eight Districts:

Alton and Petersfield;
Andover;
Basingstoke;
Channel Islands;
Christchurch and Southampton;
Isle of Wight;
Portsmouth;
Winchester.

Guild Events

These are centred round an **Annual General Meeting**, which is normally held on the first Saturday in July in each District in turn. The officers of the Guild are elected at these meetings for the coming three year period.

Training courses in many aspects of ringing are arranged on a Guild-wide basis about four times a year.

Ringing competitions are held at various times throughout the year, and cater for ringing on six, eight and ten bells. An inter-district competition is also held.

Mid-Monthly Meetings are held on Wednesdays throughout the summer, and allow a mix of ringing and socialising for those able to attend.

A Guild Dinner is arranged every year.

Guild Services

An annual **Report and Handbook** is distributed to members each spring. A **Newsletter** is published twice a year, and is distributed to members via their towers.

There is a Belfry Stewardship committee which helps to maintain bells, and a charitable **Bell Restoration Fund** (independent from the Guild) that can give grants to assist with repair work.

A library is provided and maintained in the Winchester Cathedral ringing room.

Guild Website

This is found at www.wp-ringers.org.uk and gives information about events and people, news, and links to other sites.

District Events

Each District has developed differently, and each has its own characteristic programme of events.

Guild members are normally attached to a particular tower within these Districts, but may choose to be 'unattached'.

The number of Guild members in each District varies from less than one hundred to over three hundred (the total Guild membership is over twelve hundred), and the number of rings of bells in each District varies from less than ten to over forty (total some two hundred).

All Districts arrange:

- Ringing practices at various towers. These might cater for all abilities of ringing, or might be devoted to early-stage ringers or to special named methods.
- An Annual General Meeting and other Business Meetings throughout the year.

Most Districts arrange:

- Social events of various kinds, such as a dinner or a carol service.
- A ringing competition.
- Ringing outings to towers in other areas.
- Training events.

Some Districts have their own website and newsletter, but the events of all the Districts are listed in the Guild diary, accessed via the Guild website.

The Winchester District arranges volunteers to assist in the Cathedral refectory on specific days.

Useful Contacts and Websites

The Guild website (already mentioned)
www.wp-ringers.org.uk

The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers
(the umbrella international Ringers' body)
www.cccbr.org.uk

The Ringing World
(the weekly journal for Church bell ringers)
www.ringingworld.co.uk

Dove's Guide
(a listing of rings of bells throughout the world)
www.cccbr.org.uk/dove/dove.php

Pealbase
(an analysis of peals rung in recent years):
www.pealbase.co.uk

Information about learning to ring
www.learntoring.com
www.cccbr.org.uk/ringing/learntoring/

Sherbourne Teaching Aids
(useful booklets and other materials)
www.copson.btinternet.co.uk

Central Council Publications
(a comprehensive list of publications)
www.cccbr.org.uk/pubs/ccpb.php

Steve Coleman's ringing books
(books covering all aspects of early ringing)
www.ringingbooks.freemove.co.uk

Roger Bailey's Change Ringing Resources
(a private website)
www.ringing.info/



Welcome



The Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers

