

News Of Our Vice-Presidents

During 2015 we have had a number of changes in the Vice-Presidents of our Association.

Rt Revd Ruth Worsley became the new Bishop of Taunton when she was consecrated at St Paul's Cathedral on 29 Sep 2015, and in her welcome service at Wells Cathedral her first task was to admit and licence 9 people as readers. I wrote to congratulate her on her appointment and to welcome her to the area and on behalf of the Association and invited her to become a Vice-President. She wrote back, "I happily accept your invitation and look forward to strengthening relationships and supporting and encouraging you and your members whenever the opportunity arises." We look forward to working with her.

Bishop Ruth takes over from Peter Maurice, who retired in April, having been Bishop of Taunton for nine years; before that he was Archdeacon of Wells. He and his wife Liz have moved to Kent, and we wish them well.

The Dean of Wells, Very Revd John Clarke, also retired in 2015, and a number of us rang a quarter peal on the Cathedral bells to mark his final Sunday service in November

On 6 Oct many of us gathered for the funeral of Prebendary Henry Warren at Broadway Church. He had made a great contribution to the Association over many decades; amongst other things he was the Master of the Association from 1957 – 1985. May he rest in peace.

Tim Hawkings

Some Thoughts from the Master

Over the last year or so discussions about the future of change ringing have been taking place throughout the exercise from the ground level up to the national Central Council. In order for it to continue and flourish we need people – of all ages – to discover the joy of ringing. Finding ways in which people can learn and grow in an effective and safe way is clearly central to the life and health of our Association. These discussions need to continue. As we do so it is important to be pragmatic about what is working best in your area. It may be a local tower, or a group of towers or a Branch that is best able to nourish and sustain new ringers. I would encourage you to put your energy where it most counts.

The Association was founded some 125 years ago to promote good practice and high standards. One of its first concerns was how to foster the ringing of bells for Christian prayer, worship and celebration. Thank you to those of you, who are working hard to make sure that your bells are rung regularly for Sunday services. One of my concerns is how we maintain good relationships and creative links between ringing chambers and clergy and PCCs.

Thank you to all the officers at Association and Branch level for all the work you put in. Sometimes it must seem quite a thankless task. The lion's share of running Association business is done by the General Secretary, Jay, and by the treasurer, Charles, and we are indebted to them for the hours that they put into their roles.

I am very grateful too to Barrie Hendry for answering the call to have an Association Safeguarding Officer, to see that the appropriate care is given both for children and adults and good practice is in place. He has already put much thought into what that role needs to include.

This is my eighth and last year as Master. It has been a huge privilege to be part of the Association in this time. I have come into contact with many wonderful people across the Diocese, but I have decided that it's a good time for some fresh impetus and wish my successor well, whoever that may be.

Please come to the AGM on Easter Monday and make your voice heard.

Tim Hawkings

GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

2015 saw the 125th anniversary of the Association and this was celebrated in fine style on 30th May with a service at North Petherton followed by lunch at the Walnut Tree opposite the church. We were delighted to welcome Bishop Peter and his wife on this happy occasion. Thanks go to Joan Hopwood, assisted by Charles Pipe-Wolferstan, for making the arrangements.

The Discussion List was used to canvass ideas to bring the aims of the Association into the 21st century. However 99% of the comments made referred to other matters such as recruitment, retention of ringers, training, where to find information, succession planning and issues that should be addressed at Branch or tower level. This was then overtaken by the Central Council's Change Ringing for the Future initiative which again failed to achieve positive results and is being reviewed by the Council. However, the majority of the Association officers have now reviewed and updated their Terms of Reference and generic job descriptions have been circulated for Branch Officers. Those searching for information should look at the Central Council website (www.cccbr.org.uk) and the Diocesan site – (www.bathwells.anglican.org) as well as our own site.

Local ringing has again made media headlines, albeit fairly locally. We congratulate Dennis and Margaret Whatmore of Pitminster on their Points West appearance and to the band that rang the record length at South Petherton – featured

on local TV as well. Shepton Mallett bells seem to hit the local newspaper frequently and there has been good coverage of the restoration at Evercreech.

All your representatives attended the Central Council meeting in Hull. Richard Newman, who will be standing down in 2016, is on the Ringing Centres Committee, Roland Backhurst is on Towers and Belfries and I am Secretary of the Bell Restoration Committee so we are amongst the most active societies affiliated to the Council. 2016 sees more opportunities for ringing and more challenges. Let's make the most of these.

Jay Bunyan

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

Despite all the recruitment effort that has been taking place, net membership figures have fallen again in all but 3 branches.

Progress has been made this year on the membership database, and we now have a version which can be viewed and updated on screen. Many thanks are due to Michael Horseman, who oversaw the change from paper records to the new system, and spent many hours 'tidying' the database and making sure it is now as accurate as possible.

It would be a great help if all branch Secretaries/Treasurers could arrange their membership list returns in alphabetical order, as it makes the task of checking so much easier.

Jenny Astridge

TREASURER'S REPORT

There has been significantly less take up of funds made available for the education budget, and help towards the installation of simulators and training equipment. Hence it has been possible to transfer a larger sum to the Bell Fund, on which there have been considerable calls of late.

Charles Pipe-Wolferstan

B&W DACR Reasons given for leaving (not renewing annual membership)	2015											
BRANCH:	Axbridge	Bath	Bridgwater	Cary	Chew	Crewkerne	Dunster	Frome	Glaston	Ilchester	Taunton	
Died			1	3				3	3	1	1	12
Moved Away / x-fetred to NRLM	1	3	1		3	2	3		1	1		15
Retired or given up as old & creaky							2	4		2		8
Given up for other reasons		2			9	1	3	1	6			22
Still ringing but not paid sub.				2	1	1						4
Lost interest												0
No reason given	9	5	6	15				3		10	12	60
Total	10	10	8	20	13	4	8	11	10	14	13	121
Moved to another tower or Branch		1			1	1		2	4	4	1	

GENERAL FUND - INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
Year ended 31st October 2015

2014	INCOME	2015	2014	EXPENDITURE	2015
£		£	£		£
14,768	Branch Membership & Badge Sales	14,499	150	Central Council Subscription	150
-99	(less Branch Expenses)	-198	575	Central Council Reps Expenses	600
-141	(less Branch Ringing World Notices)	-123	300	Ringing World Notices - Association	0
14,528		14,178	16	Expenses: Gen Sec - administration	55
	125th Anniversary Lunch Tickets	1,044	84	Gen Sec - Membership	33
1,1682	Peal Booking Fees	399	0	Treasurer	0
19	Sales of Report and Badges	11	65	Peal Sec & Asst	0
165	Advertising	0	54	Report Editor	0
50	Donation via General Fund	18	0	Education Officer	0
51	Bank Interest Received	66	0	Deputy Education Officer	0
196	Income / (expenditure) on Books	0	43	Webmaster	94
		0	2,498	Cost of Annual Report (2,280 copies)	2,475
<u>0</u>	Other	<u>0</u>	350	125th Anniversary Lunch	820
			302	Insurance Public Liability	312
			6,000	Training (incl. YROY)	2,000
			10	Central Council Library Subscription	10
			1,646	Other (Hire of Chapel for GC mtg)	15
			<u>4,050</u>	Transfers to Bell Fund	<u>16,000</u>
<u>16,495</u>	Total Income	<u>15,716</u>	<u>16,143</u>	Total Expenditure	<u>22,564</u>
			<u>352</u>	Surplus Income over Expenditure	<u>-6,848</u>
<u>16,495</u>		<u>15,716</u>	<u>16,495</u>		<u>15,716</u>

GENERAL FUND – BALANCE SHEET
As at 31st October 2015

2014	LIABILITIES	2015	2014	ASSETS	2015
£		£	£		£
	Accumulated Fund:			Cash:	
12,606	Balance at 1st November 2014	12,958	12,337	Natwest Bank - Current	5,612
<u>352</u>	Less excess of expenditure	<u>-6,848</u>	12	Natwest Bank - Capital Reserve	0
			0	Natwest Bank - Special Reserve	0
			0		0
			441	Bristol & West - Books Fund	441
			0	Cash in Hand - Books	0
			160	Ringing World Account	49
			8	3.5% War Loan	<u>8</u>
<u>12,958</u>	Balance at 31st October 2014	<u>6,110</u>	<u>12,958</u>		<u>6,110</u>

ANALYSIS BY BRANCHES OF MEMBERSHIP FEES, EXPENSES AND RINGING WORLD NOTICES

Branch	Members in 2014	2015 compared to 2014	Members at 31st Oct 2015	Subscriptions Received	Expenses claimed	RW Notices	Net Receipts	Net Receipts
	No	No	No	£	£	£	£	%
Axbridge	209	-14	195	1,560	0	0	1,560	100
Bath	156	7	163	1,347	0	0	1,347	100
Bridgwater	140	-2	138	1,104	20	36	1,048	95
Cary	204	-17	187	1,496	0	8	1,488	99
Chew	228	13	241	1,928	0	5	1,923	100
Crewkerne	97	-1	96	768	0	0	768	100
Dunster	144	4	148	1,184	78	74	1,032	87
Frome	162	-14	148	1,184	0	0	1,184	100
Glaston	106	-5	101	808	34	0	774	96
Ilchester	168	-8	160	1,280	66	0	1,214	95
Taunton	232	-2	230	1,840	0	0	1,840	100
Totals	1,846	-39	1,807	14,499	198	123	14,178	98

BELL FUND TRUSTEES' REPORT 2015

There have been recent large sums paid from the Bell Fund with some more to come. However, since last year's deficit of nearly £9k we can see an improvement upwards of £14k owing to generous donations from individuals, from most branches and a larger transfer from the General Fund. I should also mention the Association Quarter Peal Month which has been successful in raising funds.

On behalf of the Trustees, I would like to thank all those making donations or involved in fund raising activities.

Charles Pipe-Wolferstan
Treasurer to the Trustees

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS BELL FUND FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st OCTOBER 2015

Title of the Charity

The Bath and Wells Diocesan Association of Change Ringers Bell Fund. Charity Registration Number 273962. Inland Revenue Reference XN 44116

Objectives

1. The provision of grants towards the repair, renovation or augmentation of bells and their fittings (excluding ropes or masonry).
2. The provision of a free advisory service on the maintenance and repair of church bell installations.
3. The provision of instruction to bands of ringers in order to promote the art of church bell ringing.

Beneficial Area

The Diocese of Bath & Wells

Governing Instrument

Rule 12 (formerly Rule 11 until 1980 and as amended 19 April 1976) of the rules of the Bath & Wells Diocesan Association of Change Ringers, which states:

'A Bell Fund shall be administered by the General Committee to provide grants towards the repair, renovation or augmentations of bells and fittings (excluding ropes or masonry), advisory service expenses and instruction fees. Applications for assistance from the Bell Fund should be made to the General Secretary by incumbents or PCC Secretaries.'

Trustees

The General Committee of the Association for the time being as listed on page 2 of the Association Annual Report.

Treasurer

The Treasurer of the Association, Mr C H P Pipe-Wolferstan, 2 Brightstowe Road, Burnham-on-Sea, TA8 2HW, is also Treasurer of the Bell Fund on behalf of the Trustees.

**BELL FUND – INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31ST OCTOBER 2015**

(Registered Charity No 273962)

2014	INCOME	2015	2014	EXPENDITURE	2015
£		£	£		£
632	Covenants & Gift Aid Standing Orders	602	307	Insurance - Tower Advisers	334
209	Tax refund on covenants & Gift Aid	331	0	Expenses – Tower Advisers	0
5,225	Affiliation Fees	5,210	20	Expenses – General Secretary	0
			0	Expenses – Treasurer	0
2,284	Interest Received	887	25,102	Grants to Towers - <i>see separate list</i>	12,510
0	Training Days net proceeds	0			
0	CD sales net proceeds	17		Refund of overpaid affiliation fee	15
716	Other	50			
3,006	Donations - <i>see separate list</i>	3,251			
<u>589</u>	Quarter Peal Month	<u>887</u>			
12,660		11,235	<u>25,429</u>		<u>12,859</u>
<u>4,050</u>	Transfer from General Fund	<u>16,000</u>	<u>-8,719</u>	Surplus for the Year	<u>14,376</u>
<u>16,710</u>		<u>27,235</u>	<u>16,710</u>		<u>27,235</u>

BELL FUND - BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST OCTOBER 2015

2014	LIABILITIES	2015	2014	ASSETS	2015
£		£	£		£
	Accumulated Fund:			Cash:	
76,625	Balance as 1st November 2013	67,906	12,494	NatWest Bank - Current Account	81,869
-8,719	Surplus (deficit) for the Year	14,376	1	NatWest Bank - Capital Reserve	0
			411	CBF - Deposit Account	413
			55,000	Fixed Rate Bond	0
			0	Cash in Hand	0
<u>67,906</u>		<u>82,282</u>	67,906		82,282

THE BELL FUND HAS CONTINGENT LIABILITIES FOR UNPAID GRANTS PROMISED TO TOWERS OF £53,750

NOTIFICATION HAS BEEN RECEIVED THAT WORK HAS STARTED IN TOWERS WHERE THE COMMITMENT IS £11,500

DONATIONS TO THE BELL FUND

Axbridge Branch

Worle	30
Donation from ½ yrly mtg and tea	30
Donation from teas	80
Donation from 50-50 club	<u>200</u>
	<u>340</u>

Bath Branch

Bridgwater Branch

Branch Donation	285
Donation from meetings	<u>136</u>
	<u>421</u>

Cary Branch

Donation from Skittles Match	168
Donation from teas	25
Donation from Striking Competition	53
Branch Donation	<u>264</u>
	<u>510</u>

Chew Branch

Branch Donation	<u>73</u>
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<i>Crewkerne Branch</i>	
Branch Donation	<u>50</u>
<i>Frome Branch</i>	
Farmborough Ringers	50
PCC Litton	50
PCC Whateley	<u>50</u>
	<u>150</u>
<i>Glaston Branch</i>	
Branch Donation	202
Branch Donation	<u>250</u>
	<u>452</u>
<i>Ilchester Branch</i>	
Branch Donation	<u>250</u>
<i>Taunton Branch</i>	
Branch Donation	<u>678</u>
<i>Others</i>	
David Bromwich	300
Piglet Society	<u>4</u>
	<u>304</u>
TOTAL	<u>3,229</u>

CONTINGENT LIABILITIES – OUTSTANDING

GRANTS

Backwell	10,000
Kilmersdon	4,500
Taunton St Mary Magdalene	12,000
Wedmore	10,000
Badgeworth	2,750
Curry Rivel	1,900
Evercreech	3,000
South Petherton	200
Templecombe	4,000
Whitestaunton	<u>5,400</u>
	<u>53,750</u>

GRANTS PAID TO TOWERS

Barton St David	820
Christ Church Walcot Bath	7,500
Crocombe	2,250
Puckington	<u>1,940</u>
	<u>12,510</u>

BALANCE AVAILABLE FOR FUTURE GRANTS

Cash at Bank & in hand per Balance Sheet	82,282
Less Outstanding Grants	<u>53,750</u>
Income Reserve	<u>28,532</u>

Balance available for Future

Grants	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cash in hand per Balance Sheet	58,000	60,538	77,998	76,625	67,906	82,282
less Outstanding commitments	19,700	16,285	23,060	18,310	46,760	53,750
Balance available	<u>38,300</u>	<u>44,253</u>	<u>54,938</u>	<u>58,315</u>	<u>21,146</u>	<u>28,532</u>

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association of Change Ringers' Bell Fund

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31st October 2015

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 43 (7)(b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes considerations of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all

evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - To keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the act and
 - To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the act, have not been met:or
2. to which in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Owen J Cullwick JP
Burnham on Sea, Somerset, 22nd November 2015

BELL FUND TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 1 Grant aid for the repair, renovation and/or augmentation of rings of bells will normally be available to all churches paying an affiliation fee to the Association that will, on completion of the grant-aided work, contain rings of three or more bells in full change ringing order.
- 2 Grants offered from the Bell Fund shall only be paid on condition that:
 - The Association Tower Adviser has carried out an inspection before an application is submitted to the General Committee.
 - The work has been properly authorised under the Faculty Jurisdiction or Archdeacon's Permissions (if required) before work commences.
 - Application for grant aid is made *before* commencement of work.
 - The work is commenced *within two years* of the date of approval of the grant, after which date the offer lapses.
 - The work, as detailed at the time of application, has been completed to the satisfaction of the Association Tower Adviser.
- 3 Any changes to the original specification/quotation are to be notified to the General Secretary and, if necessary, a new grant application submitted.
- 4 A list of churches in the Diocese not eligible for grant aid from the Bell Fund is to be maintained by the Association Treasurer. Churches so listed are to be informed of their ineligibility should they submit an application for a grant.

Updated at the General Committee Meeting of 6th March 2010.

TOWER ADVISORY SERVICE

The Association's Tower Advisory Service provides a free initial inspection and report service to all affiliated towers within the geographical area of the Diocese of Bath & Wells. The primary objective is to provide impartial advice on the state of the bell installation and tower. When grant aided work is complete, a final inspection will confirm that the work is of a satisfactory standard and grant monies will be released. It is a condition of receiving a grant from the Bell Fund that an Initial inspection is carried out before work is scheduled to begin.

Whilst the management of a bell tower is most frequently delegated to the Tower Captain and his or her band it is important that we recognise the Parochial Church Council (PCC) principal officers as the "owners" of everything within the church. Inevitably the request will often have originated from the Tower Captain and he or she will remain fully involved in the process. Inspection and grant requests should be made by a principal PCC officer to the Association General Secretary, who will then arrange a Tower Advisory Service inspection as appropriate and advise the PCC on their eligibility and the process to apply for a grant from the Bell Fund.

More practical advice will be found on the Association's website under the Tower Advisory Service entry.

TOWER ADVISER'S REPORT

The seventeen inspections and reports undertaken in the last Association year were allocated and carried out on a geographic basis by myself, Roland Backhurst and Bernard North, to whom I am grateful. Roland continues to represent the Association on the Towers and Belfries Committee of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers and also represented us at the Church Building Council at the Bell Advisers Conference in Winchester in July.

I gave a presentation on the work of our Tower Advisory Service at the Central Council Bell Restoration Seminar held at Horsington in September.

Of the seventeen inspections carried out twelve were Initial visits, requested by PCCs prior to any work being undertaken; the remaining five being final inspections to confirm the completed work prior to Bell Fund grant money being released.

The twelve initial inspections included specific recommendations for maintenance and refurbishment works at Stanton Drew and Bath Abbey. Minor maintenance issues were identified at Stogursey, Westbury-sub-Mendip and Bath Widcombe. Minor housekeeping tasks were suggested at Horsington and Brompton Regis. More extensive repair

and re-hanging work was recommended for Enmore, Marksbury and Badgworth. Maintenance work and a plan to augment to ten bells was supported at St Marys, Bridgwater.

The single bell hung for full circle ringing at Flax Bourton was declared safe for chiming only until maintenance work is undertaken.

The five final inspections saw work completed at Nailsea, where the re-hang on new headstocks and bearings was complete. The back five bells at Barton St David had been re-hung on new headstocks with refurbishment of bell gear. Refurbishment work was found satisfactory at Croscombe and Puckington. The new peal of eight bells, tenor 13cwt in G, at Christ Church, Walcot, Bath was found to be excellent.

The Tower Advisory Service section on the B&WDACR website has links giving suggestions for suitable reading material, and in particular I would recommend the booklet "Schedule of Regular Maintenance" as a good basic overview for those aspiring steeple keepers who wish to keep their bells in good order.

John Hallett

BELL FUNDS OFFICER REPORT

The main fund raiser this past year was the Quarter Peal month which raised £1,117 which is brilliant and a special mention should go to Bath, Bridgwater and Taunton branches. Some towers who were unable to raise a band for a quarter peal marked the event by ringing 125 call changes and thus taking part in our celebrations for the 125th anniversary of the formation of the Association. Thank you to those who made this another successful year.

Next year the Quarter Peal month will coincide with the Queen's national celebration for her 90th birthday. The month will run from 16th May until 18th June; do you think we can beat this years figure? As an incentive the bell ringer who rings the most quarters, during quarter peal month, will receive £100,- it could be you?

Margaret Lee

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Additions during 2015 have included John Gilbert's 70-page history of the bells and ringers at Long Ashton, a DVD of The Ringing World from 1971 to 2000, another DVD telling the story of Annie's Ride round the towers of the Taunton Branch in 2014 to raise funds for St Mary's, and books from the late David Buckley's collection on the bells of Westminster Abbey, St Paul's, York Minster, and Coventry, Peterborough and Truro cathedrals.

As before, the Association library is kept at St Mary's Church, Bridgwater, and is available to personal callers by appointment with me, most conveniently on Monday practice nights, and to postal, telephone and e-mail enquiries at any time. The catalogue, updated annually, is on the Association website, and I can supply a paper copy on receipt of a stamped addressed envelope.

David Bromwich

YOUNG RINGER of the YEAR 2015 - 2016 Competition Results

This year saw a new group of young ringers competing for the award as most of the previous group had either become too old to take part, or, having competed for several years, had decided that it was time to step back and give other young people a chance. Once again our Association's young ringers worked incredibly hard to collect as many points as possible for this competition, with outstanding results. Well done to all those who took part, and to those who supported and encouraged them.

Position	Name	Points	Tower	Branch
1st	Nathan Bartin	221	Limington	Ilchester
2nd	Mark Bartin	211	Limington	Ilchester
3rd	Daniel Anderson	209	Lympsham	Axbridge
4th	Linnet Tutcher	161	Batheaston	Bath
5th	Ashley Tutcher	149	Batheaston	Bath

Good luck to all the young ringers working hard for their points for next year's competition. Many thanks, also, to the people supporting them, for they play a very important part in the progress, success and enjoyment of our young ringers.

Jill Hansford

EDUCATION OFFICER'S REPORT

The Association continues to make excellent progress on many educational fronts. For the third year the Association participated in the National Youth Striking Competition and ran an Association Inter-Branch Youth Striking Competition; another three Ringing Centres are being planned or developed; another eight Association members completed the first half of their training as teachers of ringing and two have gained accreditation as ringing teachers; and the provision of courses in branches continues at a high level.

A band of Young Ringers represented the Association in the Ringing World National Youth Striking Competition again this year. This was held on 11th July in Oxford, at St Thomas the Martyr, an eight bell competition

for the Whitechapel Trophy. The competition is open to bands of ringers aged under 19 on the day of the competition. Bands may choose to ring Major, Triples or Call Changes. This year 19 teams took part, with the Gloucester & Bristol team winning the method competition, and the Bedfordshire team winning the call change competition and retaining the Whitechapel Trophy. The Bath and Wells Association team rang call changes and was placed 14th equal. This was a young team, and all but one of the team will be eligible to compete again next year. The members of our team were: Lauren Ashford from Hutton, Mark Bartin and Nathan Bartin from Limington, Tobias Dando from Templecombe, Marcus Ham from Axbridge, Kaitlin Jarvis from Lympham, Ben McGurrell from Yatton, Matthew Norman from Wilton, Matt Salthouse from North Cadbury, and Reece Wilkinson from Hutton. As well as taking part in the competition the young ringers had a great day out, rang at lots of the Oxford Colleges, got to know each other better and made new friends. Thanks to all the leaders, parents, friends, etc, who supported the young people for this event, to the Association and the Edna Grabham Memorial Education Fund for the financial support, and to the organiser Jan Wyatt.

The Association Inter Branch Youth Striking Competition was also held for the third year. This was organised at Horsington in the Cary Branch on September 13th. Young ringers from the Axbridge, Cary, Ilchester and Taunton Branches took part. Besides the main competition an extra competition was organised to ensure that all the young ringers had the chance to ring at least three times. In this competition there were two boys' bands, a girls' band, a young ringers' method band and an oldies band. The inter-branch competition was won by a band from the Taunton Branch whose ringers included Sylvie Burrows, Toby Burrows, Bradley Flinders, Scott Flinders, Harriet Manning, Matthew Norman (Conductor) and Elisabeth Willis. The extra competition was won by the young ringers' method band. This was an excellent achievement and the first time that the young ringers have beaten the Oldies band. The team were Scott Flinders (Taunton), Lewis Hurry (Ilchester), Nathan Bartin (Ilchester), Matthew Norman (Taunton), Matthew Salthouse (Cary) and Bradley Flinders (Taunton). The competition was expertly judged by Mike Hansford who also presented the Matthew Higby Trophy to the winning team. Many thanks are also due to Anna Joyce for masterminding an outdoor barbecue, complete with tent to beat the inclement weather, and making all the other arrangements at Horsington. Lots of thanks are also due to all those who helped to cook on the barbecue, make cakes, serve teas, write certificates. Also the Edna Grabham Memorial Education Fund for funding the event, and all the parents and friends who transported and supported the Young Ringers.

A lot of very hard work is being done to increase the number of teachers of ringing within the Association. The national Integrated Teacher Training Scheme (ITTS) is being used. There is now a Mentor or Mentors working with a group of New Teachers in most branches. This year 39 new teachers and 5 mentors have been working on the first module of the course, and 17 New Teachers and 8 Mentors have been working on the second module of the course. Six new teachers have completed Module 1 – Christine Dunn from the Cary Branch, Margaret Furner from the Bridgwater Branch, David Hammonds from the Ilchester Branch, Nicki Lang from the Bath Branch and Julie Oliver and Gary Sears from the Dunster Branch. Two Mentors have also completed Module 1 – Roger Fox from the Ilchester Branch and Robert Perry from the Bath Branch. Two teachers have completed the award - Bob Boulton and Paul Yeomans from the Taunton Branch, making a total of 6 Mentors and 10 Teachers who have completed the award from within the Association. More Module 1 Courses will be held next year and very pleasingly there is a continual waiting list for this course.

As part of the ITTS Course the New Teachers and their Mentors have to teach new ringers. The ringers they teach are able to take part in a progressive scheme called 'Learning the Ropes'. This is divided into five levels which take the learner from basic handling and raising and lowering a bell in Level 1, to ringing a quarter peal of Plain Bob Minor and calling 120 changes of a chosen doubles method in Level 5. This year 14 Level 1 certificates were awarded in the Association, 11 Level 2, 7 Level 3, 3 Level 4 and 2 Level 5; making a total of 82 Level 1, 64 Level 2 certificates, 27 Level 3 and 16 level 4, and 4 Level 5 since work on the award began. Only 29 Level 5's have ever been awarded in this country. Ceris Armstrong (Sampford Brett) and Matthew Norman (Taunton) have joined Lily Carswell (Cary) and Kaitlin Jarvis (Axbridge) in achieving this outstanding level.

The number of courses organised in the Association by your Education Officers during the year has continued at a high level. The Axbridge Branch has maintained the programme of courses started the previous year, joining the branches that already have very well-developed yearly programmes. These courses cover a complete range of skills from bell handling to surprise minor and triples and major. The popular Association Listening Skills course was once again held in the Frome Branch at Chilcompton.

The development of Ringing Centres to facilitate the extra teaching and courses happening within the Association has continued. In addition to the eight Ringing Centres that are now being used regularly there are at least four more towers/branches either planning the development of a Ringing Centre or already working towards its completion. The Education Officers have already agreed financial support for at least three of them should this be required. If you would like help to develop your tower as a ringing centre please let your Branch Education Officer know.

Once again this year the number of young ringers' practices, events and outings held in many branches has been maintained at a high level. The Axbridge and Chew Branches continue to hold joint monthly practices throughout the year; and the Taunton Branch holds practices during every school holiday, which are regularly joined by ringers from the Dunster and Bridgwater Branches. Young ringers are also very active in the Cary and Ilchester Branches.

The Association Young Ringers Award is now in its fourth year. This is intended for younger ringers at the start of their ringing lives to encourage them to progress and to build the skills necessary to enter the Young Ringer of the Year Competition. It provides graded tasks in three modules which take the young ringer from being a complete

beginner to being able to raise and lower a bell in peal and plain hunt to a variety of methods. This year 21 young people took part completing an average of five tasks each.

The number of young ringers in the Association has been maintained at a high level. It is especially pleasing to see them becoming leaders and teachers within their branches. George Wyatt became the youngest Central Council Representative in the country; Tobias Dando continues to be very active in the Cary Branch. Tom Mitchell is Deputy Ringing Master and Andrew Bawden is Deputy Education Officer in the Dunster Branch. Both Jonathan Chapman and Tobias Dando have completed Module 2 of the ITTS and received accreditation as ringing teachers, the first young ringers in our Association to do so. It is also brilliant to see young ringers ringing their first peals. Matthew Norman achieved this great milestone this year, joining Lily Carswell, Kaitlin Jarvis and Tom Mitchell who rang their first peals last year. These are excellent achievements, and we look forward to seeing more of our young ringers' active in this way in the future. For this to happen it is very important that we all continue the excellent work of encouraging young people into our towers.

Branch Education Officers meet three times a year. If there is something that you would like them to address please tell them!

I would like to finish by thanking the Education Officers for their hard work and the progress they have made in their branches throughout the year.

Jill Hansford

EDUCATION ACCOUNTS TO 31/10/2016

Income for the year ending 31/10/16

Income for year ending 31/10/15	£	Expenditure for year ending 31/10/16	£
Young Ringer Award returned (Young Ringer no longer ringing)	15.00	Young Ringer of the Year Competition Prizes	265.00
ITTS Module 2 course fees	165.00	Young Ringer Awards	530.00
ITTS Module 2 lunches	55.00	National Youth Striking Competition in Oxford (Travel and Expenses)	254.00
1/2 of budget received	2,000.00	ITTS Module 2 course fees	180.00
		ITTS Module 2 lunches	50.58
Total Income	2,235.00	ITTS Hall Fees	25.00
Opening Balance	<u>1,928.40</u>	Closing Balance	<u>2,858.82</u>
Total	<u>4,163.40</u>	Total	<u>4,163.40</u>

EDNA GRABHAM EDUCATIONAL FUND

Trustees: Helen Beaufoy, Christopher Cox, Jill Hansford, Andrew Howard

The year has seen the Trust perform in a generally suitable manner, and it continues to grow - whilst modestly - in a financially satisfactory way.

The main thrust continues in the way in which it was set up, namely sponsoring young ringers in their endeavors to become proficient in ringing. The trustees decided that during 2014 they would move the focus of the main sponsorship somewhat. It was decided to sponsor the young ringers activities rather than the prize for best young ringer. This has meant help with travel to competitions and other activities.

The web site for the trust can be found from a link with the Association or by clicking on "Treblesgoing."

The main issue this year has been the continued investigation of the possibility of amalgamating with the Association. This would mean that a separate training arm of the Association would be formed as a registered charity in a way similar to the Bell Fund.

In closing it should be borne in mind that members are always welcome to make application to the Trust for grants to help young ringers progress further. Monies are modest but the trustees do like to use the funds of the Trust.

Andrew Howard