

Bath and Wells Diocesan Association of Change Ringers – Association Treasurer’s Post

Pen-Picture for Liz Lane

I was born and bred in Somerset, a member of the Hebden family, I learned to ring aged 9 in my home tower of Axbridge. I rang my first quarter peal aged 11. Those who knew my godfather Geoffrey Hebden and know my uncle Mike, will know that ringing is in the family heart and soul, together with a strong sense of duty and tradition.

During the 1990s I lived in Bath where I rang at St Mary, Bathwick and Bath Abbey. As is the form in Bath, my ringing included a significant number of quarter peals. After living abroad and in Hampshire and having children, I returned home to Axbridge in 2008 where I resumed ringing.

My reason for standing for the Association Treasurer’s post is that I, along with the rest of you, acknowledge the future for the Exercise looks uncertain, with an increasingly aged membership. I feel that it is right for the Association leadership to have a slightly younger member! I want to represent the average ringer who enjoys their Sunday ringing and the social aspects of the practice night. The appeal of the Association needs to be all inclusive and not perceived as the preserve of the elite ringers.

What qualifies me to stand as treasurer? I have 27 years experience as a civil servant managing contracts which involves spending public money. The treasurer’s role requires:

- a. Numeracy - I studied accounting as part of my chartered institute of purchase and supply qualification and regularly evaluate company balance sheets to establish financial health. I am authorised to negotiate and sign contracts valued up to £10M, which includes me evaluating price quotations by checking that costs have been allocated correctly using accounting methodology and that the costs are reasonable.
- b. Decision Making – spending public money is governed by a number of Regulations and policies, which can be complex and require full compliance. Part of my job is to interpret and apply these rules to business cases so that that the best value for money decisions are made. I often help newly employed business graduates to learn and develop in their jobs because I am considered to be professional and pragmatic in my application of the rules.
- c. Accountability – My job requires that I create a robust audit trail for all decisions. This means I pay attention to detail, recording those details to substantiate my decisions. I am conscious that I am spending other people’s money and must be able to demonstrate diligence.

If I were a stick of rock I would have Somerset and ringing written right the way through, I want to serve as treasurer because I want the Association to flourish into the future in being the collective mind of ringers in Bath and Wells.