

## Report by the Communications Officer for 2018

This year we have had to respond to the introduction of new legislation in the form of GDPR, the European General Data Protection Regulations which came into force in May 2018. This required a review of how we currently process personal information and understanding how the new regulations affect us. Further information on this can be found on the website.

GDPR: <https://www.surreybellringers.org.uk/resources/gdpr/>

Privacy Policy: <https://www.surreybellringers.org.uk/j/privacy>

One of our priorities for communication is to significantly improve engagement with our membership. This requires a completely new look at the way we manage membership and the systems we use for this. At the AGM in May there was a motion proposed to change our membership process which received unanimous support. Further changes are being prepared for proposal in 2019. It is likely to take several more years to complete the changes we need to make.

Our website has continued to be maintained and developed during the year and is a valuable and well used resource for local ringers. During the year we have reviewed and restructured a lot of the information on our website and enhanced both our data protection and safeguarding pages. There has also been a major upgrade of the system used to provide the tower directory site <https://towers.surreybellringers.org.uk>.

The community of bell ringers on Facebook continues to flourish and thousands of ringers from all over the world are taking part in discussions and sharing information on the site. The Surrey Association has had a Facebook page since Nov 2011 which we use to share news and event details and publish performance details from Bellboard. Our follower numbers have continued to grow steadily over the year.

The main publicity campaign during the year has been in support of the CCCBR Ringing Remembers initiative which attracted national publicity. We have supported this with information and stories across all our media.

The Association newsletter continues to be published quarterly. Following a consultation on the future of the newsletter a decision was made to stop printing the newsletter for distribution to towers and publish as an online edition only. This change came into effect for the spring 2018 edition. This has allowed us to revise the format slightly and provide links to more online content. Feedback for this move has been very positive and download figures indicate the newsletter is still widely read. I'm extremely grateful to all who contribute articles to the newsletter.

Our district email groups continue to serve as the mainstay of our communications with members as well as a great community resource if you need to appeal for an extra ringer for a wedding or a quarter peal. If you haven't joined these yet please do. At the end of the year the SD group had 218 members and the ND group 203 members, a slight increase on the previous year for both. Information on joining these groups can be found at: <https://www.surreybellringers.org.uk/members/yahoo-groups/>

Finally, if you have any news, photos or information to share, have an idea for the website or want to comment on any of our communications please do email me: [communications@surreybellringers.org.uk](mailto:communications@surreybellringers.org.uk)

Chris Baldwin

**[www.surreybellringers.org.uk](http://www.surreybellringers.org.uk)**