



Northern District

Officer Reports for Annual District Meeting 15 January 2022

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Last Updated 10 January 2022

District Master

Following the lifting of anti-Covid restrictions in July 2021 the Northern District Saturday practices resumed in August. Four Saturday meetings were held, at Mitcham, Merton, East Molesey and Richmond, but the December meeting at Battersea was postponed because of concerns about the omicron Covid variant. Another Saturday meeting is due be held at Banstead on the morning of the ADM but at the time of writing it is not clear whether or not this will be able to go ahead. My aim is to continue with these monthly practices in 2022. I appreciate that not everyone is in a position to join District events at present, but the Saturday practices have been well attended and enjoyed by those who were able to come.

I am very happy to report that other District and Association practices have also resumed. The Northern District surprise major practices on the third Friday have re-started, and so have the all-comers 12 bell practices at Croydon on the first Tuesday of the month. A new District initiative launching this month is a regular practice for ringers who are competent on 6 bells and wish to start or develop their ringing on 8. The first of these "8's Great!" practices will be held at St John's Merton on Thursday 27th January (Covid permitting) and is already fully booked. If you are interested in attending in the future please do let me know.

All District practices are advertised on the Events calendar on the Association website.

At District practices we are implementing the anti-Covid procedures specified in the risk assessment of the particular tower we are visiting. The practice organiser will continue to send an email via Membermojo shortly before each practice to let everyone know what is required at each tower.

Most local bands in the District have lost ringers during the pandemic. Other ringers intend to return to ringing but are not yet in a position to do so. This means that most bands are short of ringers for Sunday service ringing and practices. I know that many District members are already busy helping out other bands. Please do continue to do this, and if you happen to have a free evening do consider visiting another tower's practice – but please remember to check beforehand whether the practice is accepting visitors.

I would like to thank the District committee, the Association Master Noel Gibbin and all the other members who organise ringing events and practices in the Northern District area. I would also like to thank all the ringers who turn up for Sunday service ringing and local practice nights and keep ringing going at the grass-roots level. Without you we wouldn't have a District or an Association.

It's great to see ringing re-started. I wish you all a Happy New Year's ringing.

Pam Donovan
6 January 2022

Treasurers Report January 2022

Finances:

Unable to create final figures for 2021 due to lack of data. This will be produced as soon as possible.

We began 2021 with £6064.26 made up of current account £3874.92 and £2189.34 in the COIF account.

Total subs collected during the year £1113 less the levy awarded to the main Surrey account.

We have had no expenses during the year.

Note: 2022 subs via preferred payment method MemberMojo

Membership:

Current membership figures are

Paying members	236
Life members	61
New/rejoined members	11 see list
Lapsed members	approx. 25

David Whitehead
District Treasurer

New Members

Clem Richards
Maggi Chick
Beverley Blanning
Louis Wild
Patrick Hughes
Graeme Booth
Hilary Browning
Edward Gosden
Kate Corney
Bogumila Myers
Piers Myers

BELFRY REPAIR FUND ANNUAL REPORT

The past year has seen some revival of demands on the resources of the Belfry Repair Fund, with the planned works on Croydon Minster coming to fruition and some urgent repairs being made later in the year at St Peter & St Paul, Lingfield. Hence, while overall income was steady year-on-year, total funds ended down for the right reasons.

Donations from towers bounced back to an extent as ringers reconvened. However, a retained preference for computerised meetings no doubt contributed to the drop in cash collections. The Numbers Club continued to grow, reaching 195 numbers by the end of the year and increasing its contribution to the BRF by 5%. Thanks are due to Kate Wills for donating the funds to buy a top-up of balls for the extra numbers. Sadly, Brockham Bonfire was a part of the entertainment sector that did not emerge from the lockdown last year. However, the Association Quiz, held in early May, was a new entrant and a very welcome source of funds, contributing £224. Kate Wills was also active in the purchase of clothing – encouraging others to place their orders, from which the BRF made a modest turn. A small but generous core of regular donors persist and are to be warmly thanked. Finally, an update on interest earned in the deposit account realised a surprisingly healthy amount – overwhelmingly from rates in place before March 2020.

Proposals for future applications for funding have been aired in locations from Betchworth to Egham to Roehampton. At the time of writing, however, no formal applications have been presented. Croydon Minster may have required some further remedial work, for which a promise of assistance is in place.

The fund ends the year at just over £18,600 having begun it at around £21,000. Of this, more than £15,000 is held on deposit and slightly more than £3,000 in the Barclays current account.

The committee, comprising Malcolm McAlister, Gail Terry, Russell King, Kate Wills, Noel Gibbin and Sid Bensberg, have been active in discussions of projects and awards as well as in the running of the Numbers Club and the compilation of clothing orders.

Donations were received during the year from the towers of St John's, Caterham, and Reigate; and the PCCs of Beddington, Oxted and St John's, Egham.

Malcolm McAlister

Training Report.

Following a quiet start to the year I am pleased to report the Training Group has been able to offer courses for the end of 2021 and has put a programme together until the middle of 2022. As the end of 2021 approaches the 2022 programme is starting, due to the resurgence of Covid, to look a bit less likely however we remain hopeful.

The 2021 Training Programme ended with an ART module 1 (bell handling) refresher course in December which was very well attended by 9 Association Members and 3 others (from Middlesex, Kent and Sussex). The previous events in November of Plain Hunt/Plain Bob doubles were equally successful and followed the Returning to Ringing theme.

The 2022 programme will continue with the idea of helping Association Members help others and "Returning To Ring" activities. The Training Group recognises that many towers are not able to ring to their full potential, particularly towers with 8 or more bells actually ringing on fewer bells. The courses in the early part of 2022 will focus on encouraging basic skills and take place in towers with well-ventilated areas. There will be courses on Plain Hunt on 5, Grandsire and Plain Bob doubles, Plain Hunt on 7 and Ringing Up and Down in Peal. There will also be an ART Bell handling course (Module 1) and ART Change Ringing update course (for those that have attended a Module 2F (foundation) course and want to know the additional elements covered in the Module 2C (Change Ringing) course.

The Training Group is supporting the Districts with holding regular basic practice sessions which are far more beneficial than 'one off' Training Days which have now been discontinued. These courses focus on basic level ringing and listening skills. They are currently running in the Southern District and it is intended to run similar events in the Northern District.

Training Events are scheduled to be held on the first Saturday in the month although with Bank Holidays there will be a few gaps during the year e.g. June due to the Jubilee Holiday. Events are listed on the Association Website events calendar and booking to attend is on the Training Group section of the Association website.

The Training Group will be pleased to hear from Members of Training Events which they would like us to arrange. Please let either a Training Group Member or a District Officer know so we can include what is wanted in future programmes. Unless we are told what is wanted, we will provide what we think is needed!

My thanks go to the whole Training Group and in particular to Trisha Hawkins, Paul Beeken, Paul Flavell and Noel Gibbin for all the work they have done.

Ian Griffiths.

December 2021.

Communication Report

I recently offered to stand as Communications Officer and, although I have not yet been elected, I have been helping with some of the communications activities notably the Surrey Association newsletter.

I hope that everyone has seen the [newsletter](#) that was published just before Christmas . The plan is to publish the newsletter quarterly as we used to before the pandemic. The next one should be out just before Easter so please send any news and photos to communications@surreybellringers.org before the end of March

Chris Baldwin, who has been our communications officer for many years is continuing to look after the website and Alan Cooke manages the Facebook page

Please do make sure you use these resources as they contain a wealth of information about Surrey Association Events, training materials, personal achievements etc. If you are organising events, please remember to post the details on the website events page.

One of the major activities over the last year or so has been the introduction of MemberMojo. A comprehensive report from the development group who worked on this system was included in the winter newsletter so I won't repeat it all here. However, the key points are that we now have an online membership system which has allowed us to streamline communications and improve the collection of annual fees as well as enabling compliance with the UK General Data Protection Regulation.

We currently have about 460 members registered on MemberMojo. This means that there are quite a few of you who have not yet registered so please do so to make sure that you don't miss any important communications. You can also use MemberMojo to communicate to the wider association for example, if you are looking for ringers to help with weddings etc.

If you have any feedback about how we can improve communication, please let me know at communications@surreybellringers.org

Jackie Harrison

January 2022