Training Officer’s Report November 2019

Over the last twelve months many towers have continued to recruit and train new ringers and its encouraging to see the progress that many recruits are making under the guidance of the ringers who are giving their time and expertise to help perpetuate our art.

Chagford are making good use of their overhauled installation and have enhanced their facilities with the installation of a training dumb bell, and Jon continues to engage with the local school, something which it would be good to develop more widely, not necessarily to recruit directly, but to sow the seed of interest, which in time might grow into a desire to take up ringing. Kingsteignton have also had positive engagement with local schools and their numbers have now swelled to close on thirty now, which should an encouragement and inspiration to us all.

Several other towers have installed training bells, including Egg Buckland, South Brent and Kingsteignton. The training bell we have at South Brent has proved its worth and been excellent in not only the training of young or nervous ringers, but also useful in helping to address handling issues of our improvers and more experienced ringers.

The Association will early next year have its own portable training bell available for towers to make use of for training and education purposes and we will circulate more details regarding this in the new year. It will also be used for introducing ringing to the wider public at the Devon County Show and at other events around the county. We would welcome expressions of interest from anyone who would like to help with this wonderful opportunity to take our art to a wider audience and to encourage the next generation of ringers in Devon.

I can also report that members of the Association have once again been working with the Guild, giving assistance at rise and fall workshops hosted by them for their own members, I’m sure you’ll agree its good to have this cross party cooperation, recruitment and training is just one area where there is common ground between the two organisations and where there are benefits to be had from working together.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to thanks all those ringers across the county who give generously of their time to recruit and teach new ringers. Ringing only survives because of the dedication of those who are prepared to put something back into ringing which ultimately enables others to enjoy the comradery and pleasure that we ourselves have from ringing.

Graham Sharland