

## Trustees Annual Report- The President

My first priority when coming into Office in 2015 was to run a 'Health Check' on the state of the Guild – its current status, what was going well, what needed to be done to ensure at least a status quo, and what would help to ensure that after three years the Guild would be in as good a position as it was then, or even better. I would like to think that it's improved – but do not take credit for that. The Guild is all about people and it is you, the Membership that has kept this Guild alive and very much kicking. I thank you all for your support and enthusiasm for initiatives put forward both through your local Districts and from the Guild Committee.

Health & Safety, Safeguarding, and Caring for Bells have featured prominently in matters discussed this last year and as much information as possible has been sent out to Incumbents and PCCs, not only to highlight their responsibilities to you and your band but also to 'educate' those PCCs and Incumbents where there are bells but no ringers. There are nominated Officers on the Committee for advice in any of these areas – see website, [www.coventrydg.co.uk](http://www.coventrydg.co.uk)

The CRAG report was published too late for discussion at the Guild AGM but we hope we have circulated the details of the Central Council Meeting in May, so that you can judge for yourselves the metamorphosis that is taking place 'at the top'. We wait with bated breath to see the proposals for 'Individual Membership' and the effect that will have on the Membership of the Territorial Guilds like ourselves.

Southam, Priors Marston, Bidford, Pillerton Hersey, and Bishop's Itchington – to name but a few – have benefitted from Advice on their bells given by Guild Officers and some also, financially, through the BRF. The Draw Club continues to financially support the BRF and we thank all those who support the venture.

The Training Strategy has out-topped itself this year and a 'fourth dimension' to it added. The unstinting support of more experienced ringers is the key to the progress made by those taking part in the scheme and again we are very grateful to this merry band.

Attendance at District Practices, District Meetings, Guild Meetings, and Striking Competitions etc. still fluctuates, but on the whole there are pockets of very good work being done. The turnout for the 'King Richard 111' tour was beyond expectations and showed the diversity of age and experience within The Guild. We now have a number of Octogenarians ringing regularly in our Churches and a young 8 year old underpins the opposite end of the spectrum. It would be an interesting exercise for the incoming President to take a stock of ages across the Membership!

2018 Sees many significant ringing opportunities – Archbishop's Visit, Diocese's Centenary, Royal Wedding, End of WWI. Much planning needs to be undertaken Nationally, across the Guild and in your local towers. I hope you will give your usual support to all initiatives that are planned.

Finally, I could not have done what I have done over the three years without the wonderful help and encouragement I have had both from the Executive Committee and the General Committee.

Joy Pluckrose

## Trustees Annual Report- The General Secretary

The variety of activities available to members across the Guild continues to increase. The support for hosting the Lichfield Mobile Belfry at the Kenilworth show is one example. Members from all districts were involved in assembling, running and dismantling the belfry over a sunny weekend in June. The position of the belfry at the entrance to the show enabled us to attract the public to see church bell ringing and have a go.

Two Guild Social Meetings were held during the year; in January we met at Church Lawford before progressing to Wolston for more ringing and some delicious cakes. The second in July was a themed outing to Leicester where 5 towers were open during the day. Both were well supported by members from across the Guild.

The AGM was held at Wellesbourne, with the learners who had attended the Guild Training Mornings ringing quarter peals at local towers before the meeting. Four quarters were recorded, including some ringing their first quarter peal. 12 new members were elected as members of the Guild. The Quarterly Business Meeting in October was held at Brinklow. This was preceded by the 8 Bell Striking competition where 2 teams from each district competed in this good natured competition. Congratulations to the Rugby A team on their success.

Two other Striking competitions were held during the year. Attendance at the 6 bell competition in March has continued to increase. The Guild Youth Team gave their best performance so far at the Ringing World National Youth competition in Birmingham. They finished 7th out of a field of 19 teams.

The Guild Newsletter continues to be published 4 times a year and is sent to all towers keeping them informed about future events and containing reports on different activities. After a number of years producing the newsletter, Freda Bennett and Margaret Ingman decided to retire. Thanks for all your hard work and a warm welcome to Rosemary Spencer for taking on the role.

The number of towers opening their doors as part of the Heritage Open Weekend continues to increase. The event offers an opportunity for the public to visit Church towers and learn more about bells and bell ringing.

The annual Carol Service continues to be the most supported event of the year. Nearly 100 members attended the service at St Mary's Warwick. Both Warwick towers were open for ringing and the theme of the football match played in the trenches in 1914 marked a link to next year when we will be commemorating the Centenary of the end of WWI. The Ringing Remembers campaign was launched in November and the challenge to recruit 1400 new ringers from across the Country has appealed to the public imagination.

The addition of a new peal of bells in Pillerton Hersey was a wonderful ending to the year. The news, we received in December, of a substantial legacy to the Guild could mean we will be able to help additional towers and bells for many years to come.

Annie Hall

## Towers and Belfries Committee

The major work that involved members of this committee and its supporters was late in the year when Pillerton Hersey bells were returned for installation as a minor five (the scope of the original scheme having extended since its inception) and now adds to the Guild's ringing resources. In the middle of the year the new wooden headstock at Priors Marston was installed and ensures they are again in a fully ringable condition. The thanks received formally from the PCCs etc. on completion of such schemes does indicate that many places genuinely appreciate the help this committee and supporters provide. There are currently no other major schemes in the pipeline. This no doubt indicates the state of finances of many churches.

Support continues to be given by various members to the upkeep of bells by undertaking routine basic maintenance. There are several pockets of good practice spread across the count, but very sparse elsewhere. There appears to be a limited geographical radius around the active members of the committee where advice is sought (or often given unsolicited!). Even if relatively minor work is being undertaken by any of the bell founders/hangers, having someone along to help (even if they think that they are not very skilled) can ease their professional job and give insight into a tower being more self-sufficient for future maintenance. If such help shortens the time taken for the job then the costs can be lowered. This type of approach was successful during the year when the tenor clapper at Stretton-on-Dunsmore was replaced by a different design - the resolution of an issue that had been apparent almost since their augmentation.

With Keith Chamber's involvement on Diocesan Advisory Committee, plenty of notice and advice is given of what parishes may be up to that involve major work. The impact of the Whitechapel Bell Foundry ceasing trading has still to be seen, although they did not get much work from this area for various reasons. Ropes are an area frequently mentioned and feedback on the various suppliers would be welcomed so that others can be better reassured of what sort of quality and service they will receive. Although the workload for the committee is not an onerous one, indeed from the above it is obvious more can be taken on, it is made easier by having more people involved in its work. Many of the members are less agile than they were and their enthusiasm for work is increasingly tempered by knowing their physical limitations. We would welcome some younger help to squeeze around the tighter bell frames we encounter. Having people spread widely across the county considerably assists having a potential expert not far away and getting advice or work done far more likely to happen.

Andrew Alldrick Tower and Belfry Committee Chair

## Trustees Annual Report- The Ringing Master

The Six Bell Striking Competition held this Year at Berkswell gave all those competing a real challenge and so, when the Warwick "A" band was awarded First place, all agreed that a good performance had been achieved.

The District Eight Bell striking Competition held at Brinklow, proved to be a really good afternoon with Rugby "A" team achieving a very high performance in First place, followed closely by Warwick "A" team. Colin Lee from the Oxfordshire Guild judging the event for the first time, was more than impressed by the overall standard of all the bands competing.

Can I thank again both Berkswell and Brinklow Bands for laying on a most enjoyable afternoon for the 2 Guild Striking Competitions. The teas and cakes were of the highest quality and enjoyed by all those that attended.

For the third year in succession the Guild entered a team in the Ringing World National Youth Competition. This year they rang changes and almost made the final. Better luck in 2018 and thanks for everyone for supporting Coventry Spires.

Our 3 District Ringing Masters have again achieved very successful Saturday meetings and training Days throughout the Year. So many of our new ringers have enjoyed and gained many new skills from these ringing sessions.

This has been our Second Year of Saturday Morning Training sessions, with many new starters and the continued further skills development by those that started in the First Year, so leading to First in Quarter Peals by so many of our new ringers. This has been achieved by the commitment shown by our team leaders and helpers for each of the Three Towers used in the Guild.

Now Guild Ringing Aims for 2018

1. More First Time Learners to be Recruited
2. Saturday Teaching Mornings to be continued
3. Surprise Major and Minor practices to be continued for all Districts

Mark W Sayers -Guild Ringing Master

## Trustees Annual Report-The Treasurer

Guild membership, as measured by those paying subscriptions during the year, decreased slightly in 2017, as there were a significant number of members paying their 2016 subscriptions a little late. The total paying their subscriptions last year was 510, against a revised 2016 figure of 551, the drop in numbers being fairly well spread throughout the Guild. At the time of preparing the accounts the Guild's paying membership in 2017 was split thus:-

District	Senior	Junior	Total	Towers
Coventry District	125	3	128	21
Rugby Deanery	102	8	110	14
Warwick Archdeaconry	254	14	268	37
Unattached	4	—	4	—
Totals	485	25	510	72

There are also 6 active life members resident within the Guild taking the resident membership to 516. My grateful thanks go again to George Wrycroft, Gerald Trevor and Sally Idle for their invaluable help in the collecting and recording of your subscriptions over the last 12 months. If you have not paid your subscription for 2018 by the time you read this (adults £10; juniors £2) I would urge you to send the money to one of these three as soon as possible.

This year the General Fund, despite increased expenditure on training and officers' expenses, ended up with a surplus of over £1,100. There was less expense involved for newsletters and the Youth Team and no one-off amounts spent and the £5 element from subscriptions for the Bell Repair Fund came to £2,635. The Guild has reserves of £11,593 which is roughly equivalent to 3 years income which the Trustees regard as acceptable. This amount covers for any unexpected falls to income or years in which expenditure is above the norm.

The Bell Repair Fund brought in over £4,000 during the year, largely due to the element of adult subscriptions collected during the year, and the excellent surplus (£540) from this year's Draw Club – thanks to Joy Pluckrose and Chris Worley for running this over the last 12 months. In 2017 £7,100 was donated to two towers, including the highest amount we have donated thus far - £6,500 to Pillerton Hersey. The news received at the beginning of 2018 that a large sum of money left in a legacy with the Diocesan Trustees, the income from this being available for use by the Guild Bell Repair Fund, means that very meaningful donations can now be given to churches considering work on their bells and fittings in future years.

The Bell Repair Fund has reserves of £27,825. These have benefitted from the decision by the members to raise the annual Guild subscription and allocate the increase to the Fund. The very nature of the Fund means that the donations it makes to churches vary from year to year according to repairs, maintenance issues, and enhancements that occur and qualify for support. The donations made from the Fund vary from a few hundred pounds to several thousand according to the work needed. In simple terms with over 100 towers with bells in the Guild the

Fund is equivalent to less than £300 per tower. The Trustees realise the level of the Fund is dependent on its income from the Coventry DG and its income is dependent on the number of

subscribing members. The Trustees regard the current level of reserves as adequate but note that any exceptional demands for support could quickly deplete them.

Thanks must go to David Leafe for examining this year's accounts and for his advice to the Guild trustees. Finally if anyone else is interested in looking after the Guild's finances please say so as it really is time that someone else took over – after all I've been doing this for 39 years now!

Simon Rogers – Hon Treasurer

The Coventry Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers		Charity number 517977		
Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2017				
	Unrestricted funds	Churches Conservation - designated fund	Total funds 2017	Total funds 2016
<b>Income</b>				
<i>Subscriptions</i>				
Coventry	1,256	-	1,256	1,346
Rugby	1,056	-	1,056	1,026
Warwick	2,548	-	2,548	2,344
Unattached	40	-	40	100
Late/Early	460	-	460	89
Non Resident	15	-	15	70
Gift aid recovered	635	-	635	643
<b>Total subscription income</b>	<b>6,010</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6,010</b>	<b>5,618</b>
Peal fees	-	-	0	39
Donations	-	30	30	27
Annual Report income	15	-	15	5
Building society interest	27	-	27	29
<b>Total income</b>	<b>6,052</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>6,082</b>	<b>5,718</b>
<b>Operating costs</b>				
Annual Report	292	-	292	305
Central Council Subscription	120	-	120	120
Churches Conservation Fund	-	-	0	-
Maintenance Group Insurance	348	-	348	345
Newsletter costs	209	-	209	288
Officers' expenses	565	-	565	36
Peal Books	-	-	0	370
Peal write up costs	-	-	0	(66)
PR, website etc	36	-	36	36
Training	640	-	640	355
Youth Team	120	-	120	210
<b>Total operating costs</b>	<b>2,330</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,330</b>	<b>1,999</b>
<b>Donations</b>				
Element of subscriptions due to The Coventry Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers Bell Repair Fund	2,635	-	2,635	2,370
The Coventry Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers Bell Repair Fund	-	-	0	2,000
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>4,965</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,965</b>	<b>6,369</b>
<b>(Deficit)/Surplus of income over expenditure for the year</b>	<b>1,087</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1,117</b>	<b>(651)</b>
Total funds at 1 January	9,602	874	10,476	11,127
<b>Total funds at 31 December</b>	<b>£ 10,689</b>	<b>£ 904</b>	<b>£ 11,593</b>	<b>£ 10,476</b>
<b>Statement of assets and liabilities at 31 December</b>				
Coventry Building Society			9,839	9,397
Cash at bank and in hand			1,623	255
<b>Total cash funds</b>			<b>11,462</b>	<b>9,652</b>
Ringling World balance			131	181
Gift aid recoverable & sundry debtors			-	643
Less - Due for peal write up costs and sundries			-	-
<b>Total funds at 31 December</b>			<b>£ 11,593</b>	<b>£ 10,476</b>
<b>The accounts were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on January 28th 2018 and were signed on its behalf by:</b>				
	<i>Simon Rogers</i>	Trustee and Treasurer		
	<i>David Leafe</i>	Independent Examiner		

<b>The Coventry Diocesan Guild of Bellsingers Bell Repair Fund</b>	<b>Charity number 502576</b>	
Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2017		
	<b>Unrestricted funds 2017</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds 2016</b>
<b>Income</b>		
<b>Donations</b>		
Share of subscriptions from The Coventry Diocesan Guild of Church Bellsingers	2635	2,370
The Coventry Diocesan Guild of Church Bellsingers	-	2,000
Legacy	-	1,000
Individuals & towers	235	414
PCCs	312	312
Gift aid recovered	20	54
<b>Total donations</b>	<b>3,202</b>	<b>6,150</b>
Draw Club	540	600
Fundraising income	268	175
Building society interest	71	60
<b>Total income</b>	<b>4,081</b>	<b>6,985</b>
<b>Payments</b>		
<b>Donations to towers</b>		
Priors Marston	600	-
Pillerton Hersey	6,500	-
Hatton	-	225
Sherbourne	-	350
Southam	-	200
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>7,100</b>	<b>775</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) of income over expenditure for the year</b>	<b>(3,019)</b>	<b>6,210</b>
Total funds at 1 January	30,844	24,634
<b>Total funds at 31 December</b>	<b>£ 27,825</b>	<b>£ 30,844</b>
<b>Statement of assets at 31 December</b>		
Coventry Building Society	27,825	30,173
Cash at bank and in hand	-	17
Draw Club & other debtors	-	654
<b>Total funds at 31 December</b>	<b>£ 27,825</b>	<b>£ 30,844</b>
<b>The accounts were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on January 28th 2018 and were signed on its behalf by:</b>		
<i>Simon Rogers</i>	Trustee and Treasurer	
<i>David Leafe</i>	Independent Examiner	

## Draw Club Report

This year the number of members renewing their membership fell slightly. Although this resulted in only being able to have one 'Big Draw' – December – there was still enough interest to keep the Club alive. During the year one or two more people signed up so that eased the finances slightly. Once again we would like to thank the loyal supporters of the Draw Club for their continued support. As always congratulations to all those who have won and commiserations to all those still waiting for their number to be drawn.

At the end of 2017 we had 94 members – although renewals for 2018 are arriving as I write this report. We need 82 Members to make the Club viable but with no bonus months. We continue to hold the names of members who do not renew for one year and then their numbers are re-allocated. Prizes of £25, £10 and £5 were paid out for 11 months of the year, with a Bonus in December paying out £40, £30, £20, and £10.

£540 was donated to the Guild Bell Repair Fund at the end of the year. Unclaimed prize money will be donated separately to the BRF.

### Draw Club Winners 2017

Date	1 <sup>st</sup> Prize (£25)		2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize (£10)		3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize (£5)	
	No	Name	No	Name	No	Name
Jan	49	S. Rogers	114	M. Sayers	6	J. Slack
Feb	10	D. Butcher	94	J. Dew	39	P. Richardson
Mar	114	M. Sayers	102	J. liggins	121	S. Tibbetts
Apr	86	J. Ingham	48	B. Hall	23	M. Bennett
May	124	S. Parker	114	M. Sayers	36	D. Jones
June	14	L. Grove	51	J. Wykes	2	P. Richardson
July	37	D. Alldrick	85	R. East	61	J. Rogers
Aug	21	J. Montgomery	85	R. East	97	S. Lawley
Sept	5	J. Slack	3	R. Howes	125	Clifton
Oct	52	J. Pluckrose	13	J. Ingham	37	A. Alldrick
Nov	125	Clifton	95	G Pratt	5	J Slack
<b>Bonus</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Prize (£40)</b>		<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Prize (£30)</b>		<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Prize (£20)</b>	
Dec	88	C. Jamieson	60	P. Spencer	78	M. Ingman
					<b>4<sup>th</sup> Prize (£10)</b>	
					51	J Wykes

Chris Worley and Joy Pluckrose

## Coventry District Secretary's Report

The members of the district were greatly saddened at the loss of Margaret Pratt towards the beginning of the year. Margaret had made a great contribution to ringing in the Coventry District spanning over 5 decades. She was a very loyal member of the Sunday service bands where she lived; in the early days at Stoke St Michael's, then for more than 50 years at Bulkington and additionally at Coventry Cathedral in recent years. However, Margaret's greatest contribution to ringing was her never ending support and encouragement for Geoff's ringing exploits and her friendship to all ringers she met. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

We were joined by a few visitors for ringing at Walsgrave and Stoke on the District AGM day in February. Just 14 ringers, representing 8 towers stayed to enjoy a sumptuous tea and the meeting which followed. In the absence of any other nominations all the officers were re-elected en bloc: Chairman and Guild Committee Rep, Chris Worley; District Secretary, Janice Sheasby; Subscription Secretary, Gerald Trevor; Ringing Master, Ray Sheasby; Committee Member, Rodney Swallow. 5 new members were elected to the Guild during the meeting.

The Coventry District entered 3 teams in the 6-bell Striking Competition which they hosted at Berkswell in March. The home team provided a wonderful tea and also managed to win the Call Change section.

In May, Leslie Lunn enjoyed the celebration organised by the Berkswell ringers for his achievement in being the oldest Sunday service ringer in the Coventry Guild at the age of 94.

The Lichfield Diocesan Mobile Belfry came to the Kenilworth Show in June. Members of the district gave up many hours to help to erect and dismantle it and also to man it whilst the show was open.

The District Outing in September visited some interesting churches in Northamptonshire. Long Buckby, Spratton and Brixworth all had several 17th century bells and Brixworth is the largest surviving Anglo Saxon Church in the Country. Sufficient ringers attended to allow ringing ranging from rounds to Surprise Major and everything in between despite the clash with numerous weddings requiring bells.

The Coventry District Quarter Peal Week was scheduled to take place between 11th and 18th November so when we realised that the Queen and Prince Phillip would be celebrating their 70th Wedding Anniversary 2 days later it was decided to extend it to a Quarter Peal Fortnight finishing on 26th November. My sincere thanks go to everyone who participated in this very successful venture as an organiser, a conductor or a member of the band. Fifty-four ringers from the Coventry District participated in one or more of the 29 quarters rung. Many ringers achieved a personal milestone ranging from 1st quarter peal to 1st of Superlative Surprise Major. The great thing about these weeks is the vast range of ringing experience and abilities in the participants. It is always good to see new ringers scoring their first quarter peal but they wouldn't be able to achieve this without the help of many ringers who rang their first quarter more decades ago than they care to remember!

Monthly practices on 6, 8 and 10 bells have continued throughout the year.

Janice Sheasby – Coventry District Secretary

## Rugby Deanery District Secretary's Report

We've had some really exciting events in the Rugby deanery in 2017. I joined the scene in the spring with a practice combined with a fish and chip chow down (which set the tone for the rest of the year really). In April we had an incredibly successful training morning where almost every tower in the district was represented with over 35 people getting involved. May saw our Deanery outing around the Lichfield area which happily coincided with a church fete (again much feeding on burgers and cake.)

The summer got incredibly busy with a QP day and district striking competition. Between 22 of us we managed 5 of the 6 attempts including Cambridge x2, Ipswich, Double Oxford Minor and Stedman Triples. Our district 6 bell striking competition saw Rugby as the victors. July of course saw the big diocesan event in Leicestershire that Annie organised.(our turn 2018)

September saw a return to the ringing with pub lunch agenda where feasting took place at a favourite of ours in Church Lawford. In October we hosted the Guild ½ yearly meeting at Brinklow (again lots of cake). In November Willoughby made us very welcome for some afternoon ringing, and several towers rang quarter peals to celebrate the Queen's 70th wedding anniversary. The feasting continued into December where Clifton treated us to mince pies and mulled cider – oh and a bit of ringing!

So between times there have been lots of monthly evening practices focusing on target methods, with sufficient range to keep most of us on our toes (re Glasgow thanks Catherine). Ryton band saw its first ringing tour (which happily coincided with another church cake stall). We've also established a new monthly advanced practice for those in the district who want to get to grips with Surprise Major methods and the like and these will continue to take place on the last Friday of each month at Brinklow.

This year there's lots of potential for maybe a regular monthly training session or to make more of our 10 bell tower at Newbold. Ringing within the deanery has been very rewarding. Thank you everyone who's been involved, your contributions have made the events a success. And thank you again for making us welcome at your towers.

Mike Burdett– Rugby Deanery District Secretary

## Warwick Archdeaconry District Secretary's Report

Our featured practices continued in 2017 and Saturday events were held at a number of churches including Shipston, Sherbourne and Bidford.

At the Annual District Meeting at Napton Barbara Howes was elected Ringing Master and we began a series of focussed Bob Doubles practices also at Napton aimed at encouraging people on to the next step. Special thanks go to the Napton ringers for their support and hosting these events.

Many of our members were pleased to join the Richard III outing to Leicestershire, with some ringing for the first time on 10 and 12 bells.

After the success of the Bob Doubles practices, we began a series of Grandsire Doubles at Radford Semele and were pleased to welcome a number of local ringers as support and tutors, again our thanks go to these ringers and the Radford band.

The Guild AGM was held within our District at Wellesbourne and the Carol service at St Marys Warwick. Members supported both events. Many thanks to all the towers which have made us so welcome this year.



Members enjoying refreshments at Sherbourne

Sue Roderick – Warwick Archdeaconry Secretary

## Peal Secretary's Report

There was a total of 70 peals rung for the Guild in 2017, 4 more than in 2016 and the highest total since 2008; 69 on tower bells and 1 on handbells, taking us to 4,236 since the Guild's formation. The one handbell peal rung this year was in fact the 600th handbell peal for the Guild – the first having been rung in Nuneaton on April 27th 1910. The peals in 2017 were rung thus:-

Warwick Archdeaconry	-	22 (11 towers)
Coventry District	-	18 (11 towers) plus 1 (1 house)
Rugby Deanery	-	23 (5 towers)
Outside the Guild	-	6 (4 towers)

Leading tower for 2017 was Church Lawford Plantagenet Ring with 19, followed by Warwick St Nicholas with 7, Allesley and Wellesbourne with 4, and Claybrooke, Honiley and Lighthorne with 3 each.

Methods were split thus:-

	Tower	Hand	Total
Doubles	- 5		5
Minor	- 23	1	24
Triples	- 0		0
Major	- 35		35
Caters	- 2		2
Royal	- 4		4

In 2017 21 methods were rung for the first time for the Guild – all Major methods. Nine of these were rung by the band that rings monthly Monday night peal attempts and eight by the band that meets regularly at The Plantagenet Ring. There was also a series of 6 Minor peals during which the 41 “standard” Surprise Minor methods were rung (almost) alphabetically.

Altogether 78 people rang in Guild peals during the year with 13 different conductors. Leading ringers were:-

45	-	Ray Sheasby
44	-	Simon Rogers (cond 39)
36	-	Mike Dew
33	-	Andrew Alldrick (cond 2)
30	-	Mike Chester (cond 13)
22	-	Mark Sayers
20	-	Geoff Randall (cond 1)
15	-	Peter Fleckney, Chris Stokes (cond 5), Ruth Stokes, Sue Marshall (cond 1)
13	-	Julie Tarling
12	-	Alison Williams

Just one Guild member rang their first peal during the year – well done to Ryan Kirby, a young Kineton ringer, for achieving this. Also welcome back to peal ringing Jane Kempton who rang her first peal for 30 years.

Meanwhile for the Guild Mike Chester rang his 1100th peal, Simon Rogers rang his 900th, Peter Quinn his 350th, Jane Rogers her 250th, Mike Dew his 150th and Mick Angrave, Lucy Gwynne, Phil

Wild, Sue Marshall and Chris and Ruth Stokes their 50th. At a more personal level Geoff Randall rang his 2500th peal, Peter Fleckney his 2400th, Chris Pickford his 1900th, Simon Rogers his 1100th, Ray Sheasby his 700th and Nick Allsopp his 100th. Of Geoff Randall's 2,500, 1,123 were rung for the Guild and he remains the leading peal ringer for the Guild.

Some peals have been rung this year in memory of Guild members – one at St Nicholas Warwick following the interment of the ashes of Doris Randall, another at St Nicholas Warwick in memory of Margaret Pratt from Bulkington and 3 peals, at Stratford-upon-Avon, Snitterfield and Aston Cantlow in memory of Michael Gray, former Guild secretary and president, these three towers being where he did much of his ringing. A peal was also rung at Allesley by past and present Guild officers on the centenary of the death of Harry Kettle, who was an Allesley ringer and also secretary of the Guild (then the Warwickshire Guild) when he was killed in action in France on November 28th 1917.

In celebration peals were rung to mark the 70th wedding anniversary of HM Queen Elizabeth II and HRH Prince Philip at Burton Dassett and St Nicholas Warwick. Peals were also rung to celebrate the weddings of 3 Guild members – at Farnborough prior to the wedding of Jon Tallis and Amy Patterson, at Allesley on the morning of Jonathon Chester and Amelia Corry's wedding and at Kenilworth 2 days after George and Lauren Kempton's wedding. A peal at St Nicholas Warwick, of Old Codgers Surprise Major, was also rung to celebrate the 70th birthdays of Geoff Randall, Ian Unsworth and Jim Insley.

Well done to all those who rang firsts during the year and good luck to those who try something new in peal ringing in 2018.

Simon Rogers - Peal Secretary