

TRAINING OFFICER'S REPORT 2017

This year two full day training events were held: the first was a 'Getting into Calling and Conducting' day at Llanfeugan in October and the second, held at Builth Wells and New Radnor in June, focused on plain minor methods. Both days were well attended and real progress was made by the participants and the pub lunches separating the sessions were enjoyable social occasions.

We also offered 'tower training' evenings in which some of the guild's training helpers attended a tower practice to enable members of that tower to dedicate a whole practice night to particular methods or skills with the support of additional experienced ringers. Two useful tower training evenings were held at Llanbedr (Plain Bob Doubles) and at St Mary's Swansea, for the Gorseinon ringers, (Getting into Plain Hunt). However, no other towers asked for a tower training session and I have concluded they are not wanted widely enough to include them in next year's programme.

The training activities have been well attended, with 29 different guild members taking part in at least one training session. They seem to be appreciated by those who are involved and the benefit to individuals in terms of personal progress is clear. However I am becoming concerned that it is the same group of ringers, a small proportion of the total guild membership, who take part, as helpers or students, every time.

Training in the guild has been delivered in the same form by the same team for about 15 years and, while I am reluctant to abandon a formula which has definitely helped some ringers, I am concerned about the limited take-up. It is also becoming harder to find Saturday slots when there are guild activities on at least two and in some cases three Saturdays in a month. Perhaps it is time for the guild to discuss whether to continue on the same lines or whether a new training format would be better suited to its current needs.

Finally I should like to thank all those who have been involved in the guild training programme as students, as helpers and, in several cases, as both. It has been a pleasure to work with them and their contribution to improving the standard of ringing in the guild has been very great.

Kath Johnson
Training Officer