

NDAR Newsletter

Issue 7 - February 2023



Update from Standing Committee

Our last Standing Committee took place Friday 27th January. It was an engaging meeting.

There will be some changes when it comes to the AGM and we have already had some hard working members of Standing Committee stand down.

A big thank you to Katie Wright, she has been our Safeguarding Officer for a long time. Katie has recently taken on an exciting new job which means she no longer has the time to give freely to NDA Safeguarding issues.

Also standing down is Judy Farrimond. Again, a big thank you for all the enthusiasm you brought to the Standing Committee.

Who out there is willing to come and help us going forward? You don't have to be an amazing method ringer to help on the committee just have fresh ideas and be willing contribute.

What we are planning!

A Help the Teachers Day. This will be in North Norfolk and led by Lesley Boyle. The idea is to bring ART trained teachers together, help with teaching techniques and share best practice and hopefully accredit the teachers who have been teaching since they did one of the courses we have hosted recently. Watch out for when and where over the next few weeks.

Plain Hunt Workshop. To be held at Long Stratton on 1st April.

Novice 10 Bell and Town Walk. Kings Lynn 18th March.

Novice 12 Bell the last Thursday of each month. These have been running a few months now. They are a fun way to get used to ringing bells of different weights and experience the glorious sound of 10 and 12 bell-ringing. We also ring methods on the back 8 and 10 depending on who comes along. Last month we managed some lovely Stedman on the back 8.

The AGM will be 29th April, it'll be in the Southern Branch.

There is to be an EGM (Extraordinary General Meeting) on 3rd March, this is to review and comment on proposed changes to the Association rules (details below)

Don't forget to look at the NDA website to check what is going on : <https://ndar.org.uk/>

Notice of Extraordinary General Meeting of the Association

– 3 March 2023

Notice is hereby given of an Extraordinary Meeting of the Norwich Diocesan Association of Ringers (NDAR) to be held at **7pm on Friday 3 March 2023** online via Zoom (zoom link to follow).

The objective of the meeting is to give all members to opportunity to review and comment upon proposed changes to the Association rules. At the end of the meeting, those present will be asked to vote on a resolution agreeing to the proposed amendments being put to the Association AGM on 29 April 2023 for final approval.

Members unable to attend the meeting may submit comments for consideration by the meeting to [this email address \(webmaster@ndar.org.uk\)](mailto:webmaster@ndar.org.uk). They can also request that the Association President vote on their behalf on the resolution at the end of the meeting. If presenting a written submission to the meeting, members are asked to clearly explain the issue or feedback they are presenting and, if appropriate, the alternative approach they are proposing.

The key changes being proposed at this meeting can be summarised as follows:

1. Remove unnecessary, redundant and anomalous aspects of the current set of rules. Also, simplify some of the language which, in parts, has been difficult to interpret.
2. More generally reflect the fact that the environment in which the Association operates has changed radically in recent years and many of the old structures are simply not appropriate to the operation of a modern ringing association.
3. Allow branches to more freely self-manage themselves as the branch members feel fit, rather than mandating the current structures and meeting schedules which, in the case of several branches, do not reflect the current “modus operandi”.
4. Clarify the requirements for the Association to hold Annual General Meetings and the way these meetings are managed. Also, the process by which members can be nominated to become Association officers.
5. Rename Standing Committee to the Management Committee. Also, clarify how the Management Committee operates, sets ups and empowers sub-committees.
6. Clarify and simplify the process for ringers wishing to become members of the Association.
7. Rationalise membership categories. In particular, remove the concept of Non-Resident Life Member which has become somewhat redundant.
8. Given the move to much information now being available in “real time” on the Association website, simplify the “mandated” content of Association annual reports.
9. Clarify how subscriptions are collected to reflect centralised collection as was implemented this year.
10. Remove peals from the Association rules and create a new Association Peals Policy

Please visit <https://ndar.org.uk/association-news/notice-of-extraordinary-general-meeting-of-the-association-3-march-2023/> for links to the following documents:

- [The Proposed \(draft\) new rules](#)
- [A marked-up version of the existing rules showing where changes and deletions are proposed](#)
- [The proposed new Peals Policy](#)

At the end of this EGM, the following resolution will be voted on:

This meeting agrees to the proposed new set of Association Rules (together with any amendments agreed at this meeting), being presented to the Association AGM on 29 April 2023 for final approval.

New Year's Day Outing

New Year's Day and despite many having stayed up late to ring in 2023, assorted members of South Walsham and Norwich bands were up bright and early to grab a few towers. We visited 4 in total – Oakley (short ropes), Weybread (also short ropes but very welcoming coffee and cake-dispensing church members excited to have some ringers pass through), Redenhall (brand new ropes), and Brooke (my request for a widdershins tower, which I had to duck because it was getting late. I have no idea about the length of the ropes). There must have been over 30 of us ringers throughout the day and a few non-ringing hangers on. Some interesting churches, some characterful bells and excellent company (and no bad language). We enjoyed lunch at The Swan Inn of Hoxne, alleged site of St Edmund's martyrdom, and a few of us may have eaten rather too much to be at our best later on.



A New Year tradition worth preserving!

(Thanks to Simon Smith for the photos – in order, Oakley, Weybread, Redenhall, Brooke)



News from the Wild West - an update from Peter at The Minster, King' s Lynn

New Year Celebrations seen such a long time ago!

With the exception of 2020 (Covid) we have been able to ring out the old and ring in the New Year in Lynn since 2017. With colds, flu (and some Covid) we didn't manage ten ringers this year, but ringing the back eight was a worthwhile event with ringing for over an hour!

Some ringers brought partners and this tradition has become a social event with nibbles and finger food - my butcher always donates two large butcher's pork pies. Needless to say, there was ample liquid refreshment as well - how many towers boast their own wine glasses!

So far this year we've had visitors ring a QP of PB Caters, at The Minster - which coincided, and was rung as a birthday compliment to Wendy Twite, for her 90th birthday - Wendy is an NDAR lifetime member, but unfortunately is no longer able to ring.

Richard Turk plans to ring a couple of QPs in the town this month.

Saturday 18th March we are hosting an open Ten Bell Introductory Practice - ringing from 2.00 to 3.30 (ish), preceded in the morning by a King's Lynn Historic Town Walk (10.30 - 12.30)

The bell chamber will be open and weather permitting there will be also supervised access to the roof of the North West Tower, with the best aerial views of the town and the river.

Saturday 22nd April (St George's weekend) I am trying to organise a five bell tower grab around the Fakenham area - early days, and towers still need to be finalised. If you interested in either of these, let me know and I will ensure you are kept up to date with progress pjatbuzz@aol.com



NDAR Membership Dues

I am pleased to report (at time of writing) that well over 20% of ringing and associate members of Norwich Diocesan Association of Ringers have paid their subscriptions for 2023. When we add in the honorary and resident life members, the percentage increases to over 30%. I was particularly impressed by the 36 members who paid their 2023 subscriptions in December last year!

Many thanks to those towers where all members have paid this year. These are -

- In Eastern Branch: Bradwell, Hickling, Norton Subcourse, Pakefield and Reedham.
- In Northern Branch: Aylsham, Costessey, Cromer, Mattishall, Northrepps, Norwich St Giles, Shipdham, Upper Sheringham and Wymondham.
- In Southern Branch: Blo' Norton, Diss, Ditchingham, Garboldisham and Redenhall.
- In Western Branch: Ashill, East Raynham, Gressenhall, King's Lynn Minster and Whissonsett.

Some members have decided to pay individually, for which again many thanks.

Details of the fees payable can be found at [Membership and Fees | NDAR](#) . Bank details for payment, with the form to complete and submit, are at [Payments to the Association | NDAR](#) .

Tom Davis

Why Should I be a member of the Association?

Recently I have been asked this as I ask people to pay the £15 membership contribution. And it is a good question. In the past membership gave you a paper report to collect dust on your bookshelf. Branches would organise meetings with tea - usually – and possibly some ringing that you wouldn't get at your local tower. It would arrange a meeting where you could listen to rule changes in which you didn't have the slightest interest and couldn't really fathom the need for. Sometimes a Training Day would be organised. If you were lucky there would be something you wanted to develop. You were even luckier if the venue was within 30 miles of you. So why should you be a member of the Association? Well ...

I have been advocating radical change. We are members of a RINGING association so surely our Association should be facilitating ringing activities that are needed by ringers in an area that is 'close' to them that will be beneficial to them and others that they ring with. And maybe, just maybe, the Association can support and fund these gatherings to a beneficial level. These events should be facilitated by the Association but not necessarily led by them. A program of events could be planned that will meet members' needs. However it would require members to say what they want. There would need to be a demand for an event from a number of ringers rather than a solitary member. For this the Association leaders should point you in the right direction and maybe prepare the way.

Some ideas that I have had for this are as follows: skill based practices such as Hunting and Dodging or Raising and Lowering; method development practices such as the current Doubles and Minor or the Saturday Surprise Practice; hosting an Open Day with ideas of

what to do and what to include; tower maintenance skills for all; ringing festivals. There are more possibilities - you will just have to wait and see or even better ASK.

The Association would in effect become a 'Needs Facilitator' rather than a "Needs Provider."

So why **do** we need an Association?

Richard Carter

(a thought from the editor (who never gives up) : you have neglected to mention handbells!
A Handbell Day where those that love them can share their enthusiasm and encourage others to at least have a try)

Peek through the Door: Wymondham

In order to peek through our door, you'll have to climb the formidable 92 steps to the ringing chamber a reflection of the imposing height of the tower. Ringing on Tuesday nights and Sunday mornings usually commences with ringers staggering through the door, wheezing and breathless from the climb. Once recovered we usually discover that we have enough to ring on eight bells but often on ten and occasionally with a small surplus.

We have a light, airy ringing chamber, again a reflection of the size of the tower. The windows are sufficiently large (and clean) that we have been known to ring around midsummer until 9pm without requiring lights. Our staple on Sunday morning is rounds and call changes on 8 or 10, but we are beginning to venture into Plain Bob Triples or Major if the right combination of ringers is around.

On practice night we ring from rounds and call changes to Surprise Major (Cambridge, Yorkshire or Bristol) and recently we have ventured into Double Norwich. We ring on anything from 6 to 10 bells, including occasionally ringing on 7 or 9!

Teaching takes place away from the practice night – our latest learner had lessons on Saturday morning until he reached the point where he was able to ring rounds when he started attending practice night and, now, Sunday morning ringing.

In September, we enjoyed a lovely tower outing in Suffolk.

The after practice debrief is also well attended: usually in The Green Dragon, a short walk from The Abbey. The discussion there is wide ranging: ringing issues of course, but the environment, steam railways, the history of Wymondham and the use of lion poo to keep cats out of the garden have all been debated recently.

You are welcome to join us. Only remember we start at 7.30 sharp – it's a long way down to open the door!

David Carter

Other Delights to come

The Mancroft Ringing Discovery Centre offers a varied programme of targeted practices.

We seem to be nice and busy at the moment, I'll do a quick summary of What's On

Saturday morning at 9.30 to 11am we have a Beginners' session. We will teach from scratch but also look after those who can ring independently and are starting to ring rounds. We use simple exercises to improve bell control and the training bells help the new ringers gain confidence. We have ART trained teachers looking after things.

Tuesday Lunchtime 12-1pm Introduction to change ringing. This session is tutor led session is for those learning Plain Hunt, Dodging and Call Changes.

Wednesday 5.30-6.30pm is Young Ringers. Some are very young! A group of around 12 enthusiastic ringers, we offer everything from learning to handle a bell to Surprise. It's huge fun and very loud!

Thursday 12-1pm Method Ringing. A variety of methods are covered, Treble Bob, Stedman, or Principles, depends on the week. It is all listed on our website.

Friday Simulator session- ring any method you like on any number of bells with the perfect band. You can even choose the ring of bells that you would like to hear. (12-2pm) Please check before turning up.

In addition to the regular weekly sessions we also run a monthly Surprise Major Practice, and a monthly Pickled Egg Practice/quarter peal. We have recently linked up with Norwich School to form an after-school club.

If you've not had the chance to visit then please do. For more information email Nikki

mrdc@stpetermancroft.org.uk

(<https://www.mrdc.org.uk/calendar/>)

Check out the NDAR website to keep up-to-date with what else is going on: <https://ndar.org.uk/>

Do we have a volunteer to share news from their tower for the next issue? It does not have to be long – just a quick resume of what you have been up to, with photo if possible. Please let me know. Also any other articles/news on anything ringing related would be most welcome. Communication is important and I am happy to facilitate the exchange of information, but I need some copy to work with!

Send anything to the editor - Mary Jones, mpcjones@hotmail.co.uk

That is all!