

CUGCR AGM 2004 - Master's Report

This year has been another successful one for the Guild, with practices and service ringing generally well attended and a good intake of enthusiastic freshers. We remain on good terms with all the churches where the Guild rings, although St Andrew's unfortunately seems to have an ever-increasing number of evening events that clash with our practice night.

The standard of ringing has been variable, and is significantly affected by how many of the core of stronger ringers are present. However, quarter peals in the standard 8 and special methods have extended our repertoire, and many members have made great improvements in both striking and method-ringing over the year. We very much appreciate the support of non-student members at both service ringing and practices, and I'd particularly like to thank Phil & Liz Orme of the Cambridge Youths for regularly joining us on Sunday evenings.

The Guild continues to enjoy a very good relationship with the Youths, and mutual benefits result from Guild members' attendances at practice night and on Sunday morning. The simulator at GSM is available for our use, by arrangement - I encourage my successor to take advantage of this as a resource for improving the Guild's 10- and 12-bell ringing for Sunday evenings, also as a useful alternative venue if StAG is unavailable on practice night.

Handbell ringing remains a significant part of the Guild's activities. The student Guild now has a regular Wednesday night handbell group as well as coffee and handbells after Bene't's, while the "handbell focus" of other residents produces a steady stream of peals. An respectable dinner touch was rung by a very inexperienced band, with particular congratulations due to Stephen Rowley, Matt Dawson, Andy Smith and Stephen Ward, all of whom rang in it for the first time.

This year has seen the Guild's 125th anniversary, and it was lovely to see as many as a hundred members involved in anniversary ringing across the

country, with 15 peals scored. Other ringing events were the Ridgman Trophy, which we were delighted to win, and have organised this year's competition (to be held at St Neots on June 5th). The Guild contingent spent an enjoyable weekend in Oxford for the SUA, although we were unfortunately prevented, by illness, from entering a band, and also visited Liverpool for the NUA.

The Guild also continues to have an active social life, with perhaps a record number of curries eaten thanks to the efforts of two particular freshers! As well as many parties and formal halls, the social calendar included the alternative dinner at Downing, a rounders match against the Cambridge Youths, Guild Week in the Winchester area, New Year at Andy Smith's in Wokingham and the joint outing with the OUS in Amersham, rounding off the year with the 125th anniversary dinner at Robinson.

I've really enjoyed my year as Master, particularly because I've had such great help and support from a wide range of people both in and outside the Guild. I'd like to finish with a big 'thank you' to the junior and senior officers, and everyone else who's contributed this year.

Nik Baxter
2nd May 2004