



Jesus College  
Cambridge  
CB5 8BL

2<sup>nd</sup> December 2010

Dear Member,

As 2010 draws to a close, it is my pleasure to be able to report on another busy year for the Guild. While we can't quite match the high numbers of a decade ago, the strength of the resident Guild is definitely increasing, especially given the arrival of several keen freshers this October. Jenny Ansell (Jesus), Lizzie Frye (Trinity), Alice Meredith (St John's), Martin Debusman (St Edmund's), Helen Smith (Newnham), Jack Cranfield (Homerton), Will Benfold (Downing) and Stephen Croxall (Darwin) have all joined the Guild this year, and several other freshers have been involved throughout the term. Now that Homerton is recognised as a full college, we were also pleased to elect Wendy Bishop (Homerton, 1976) to life membership.

The new academic year has already brought success, with a long-awaited double victory in the 6-bell and 8-bell contests at the Southern Universities Association striking competition, held in London. This is was the first time the Guild had been able to enter an eligible 8-bell team since the competition was last held in Cambridge in 2006, and a significant improvement on last year's mid-table performance. Particular congratulations are due to fresher Teifi Walters, who tasted victory in her first ever striking competition, and then rang her first quarter peal inside at St Bene't's the next day. Bene't's quarters have proved very useful and successful this year, with first quarters for Jenny Ansell and Will Benfold, and two new methods named.

We're enjoying good relations with St Andrew's, and this term we've run beginners' practices there on Saturday afternoons, in addition to our regular Thursday practice night. Practices at St Andrew's and St Bene't's continue to be generally well attended, and have seen many members taking their first steps into method ringing and others moving on into Surprise Major. Good attendance at GSM on Sunday evenings means we've been able to ring all 12 bells almost every week this term, thanks in no small part to the many older residents and members of the Cambridge Youths whose help is very much appreciated.

The Guild rang in 2010 in Shropshire, where Freddie Manners and his family proved excellent hosts. In between ringing at several local towers, there was still time to climb the Wrekin in the snow, an impressive feat for one member who was on crutches. A date touch of 2010 Yorkshire Surprise Major was rung at Shrewsbury on New Year's Day to kick off the Guild's ringing activities for the year. We'll be returning again for this New Year, and I hope any members in the area will consider joining us.

In Lent term, many resident members took the opportunity to socialise with the Oxford University Society on the joint outing in London, organised by Tessa Beadman, and we were well represented at the OUS dinner. The Guild's social calendar has been busy as always this year, with formals at Jesus, Downing and Robinson featuring alongside the traditional dinners, outings and weekly curries. This term has seen a very successful freshers' squash and pub crawl, along with the start of term cycle outing to towers just north of Cambridge. We finished the year with an excellent Christmas dinner at Robinson, where head chef Stephen Croxall oversaw the feeding of 17 hungry residents.

The Guild dinner at St John's in March was a great success, with guests enjoying an unusual Indian wine, a dinner touch of Stedman Cinques and speeches from Bill Croft, Jonathan Agg and Jeremy Pratt. Max Drinkwater and Georgina Harris rang in the dinner touch for the first time, and a Guild peal of Bristol

Major was scored at Our Lady & the English Martyrs. This year's dinner will be at Jesus College on 19<sup>th</sup> March, and I do hope to see as many of you there as possible.

Even with the pressures of exam term, we managed to find enough time after Easter to start up regular handbell practices, although the ratio of ringing to eating/drinking was variable. On one memorable evening we took the handbells by punt to Grantchester Meadows, where we rang to an audience of rather surprised cows. With exams finally out the way, May week was celebrated in customary style, with a Guild victory in the annual rounders match vs the Cambridge Youths and an afternoon cycle outing organised by the Assistant Master. The punt outing took a less adventurous route to Grantchester than last year, although one member managed to get rather muddy while exploring near Byron's Pool. The week was rounded off in fine style with the Alternative Dinner at Pembroke.

Guild Week was excellently organised around Oxford by Richard Youdale. Our accommodation in Ripon College, Cuddesdon included a bar area, which hosted many late night games of Pictionary and even one older member's attempt to educate a couple of students in the art of bridge. A visit to the Hook Norton brewery was, predictably, a very popular end to the week. Peals were scored at Banbury, Magdalen College, Milton, Bampton, Cholsey, Appleton and Addebury, and included firsts as conductor for Jonathan Agg and Leigh Simpson. It was good to see many more younger members attending than in previous weeks, although the weather was less than perfect for camping. Thankfully all the tents just about managed to survive several wet and windy nights. Next year we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in Cambridge for some or all of the 2011 Guild Week, which will be based at Girton College from 20<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> August.

It gives me great pleasure to report that a number of Guild members have been married this year: congratulations to Simon Farrar and Rachel Leitch-Devlin, Andy Smith (to Cara Polet), Kate Langley (to Ben Willetts) and Rosie Reading (to Tom Wood). We also send engagement compliments to Dale Winter and Emily Russell, Dickon Love (to Przemysław Benoński), and Tristan Melen (to Lucie Sanderson). Congratulations to Andrew and Theo Johnson on the birth of their daughter Susanna Elizabeth Milward in May, and to Philip Saddleton and Anthea Edwards for the safe arrival of Heidi Isobel Phoebe in November. Susanna has already made it along to Guild Week this year!

On a sadder note, this year saw the death of Martin Harbord and Tim Watt. Tim's presence was particularly missed on Guild Week, and a minute's silence was held before the Guild Week meeting in his memory.

Our focus at the end of term has turned to raising money for the restoration of one of the Guild handbell sets. The set of 18 bells was left to us a few years ago and will cost in the region of £900 to restore. To raise some of this money, a group of students took to the streets of Cambridge ringing Christmas carols on handbells during the last week of term, collecting about £75. If you have an idea that could help us raise some of the next £825, please get in touch!

I'd like to thank all of you who have attended Guild events over the past year - your support is very much appreciated. I hope to see as many of you as possible during 2011.

Merry Christmas!

Catriona Shearer

*Please remember to send address/name changes to Christine Northeast: [addresslist@cugcr.org.uk](mailto:addresslist@cugcr.org.uk)*