

Central Council of Church Bell Ringers Annual Meeting 2024

My first trip as CCCBR rep and one I thoroughly enjoyed. I was in the capable guiding hands of Neal Dodge who was an excellent guide introducing me to so many people that I felt quite at home by the time we left.

There were three towers on the way down and a piglet ring. The three towers, Uffculme (8), Collompton (10) and Broadclyst (8) were all enjoyable rings. Unfortunately, we did get rather damp waiting and moving between the towers as it was rather wet! The piglet ring was a new experience for me, and I did struggle with it, eventually managing a very poor attempt at rounds. In the evening, we rang at St Petrock (6) and at St David (8) before adjourning to the local Wetherspoons for an opportunity to socialise.

Saturday was the main day of business and started with the Ringing World AGM and then followed by the main AGM.

The main theme was how to attract and promote bellringing to the younger population. The Young Ringers Competition in London was mentioned and posed an important question.

Is this all the young ringers or are there other young ringers in the local guilds who did not attend?

It would be interesting if this question could be answered within the Suffolk Guild, to establish whether this is all young ringers or the tip of the iceberg.

There were presentations given by the various workshops all on the theme of how bellringing can be promoted to the younger population. There were reports of some success at Scout Jamborees and collaboration with Millfield school.

On Sunday, we had early morning ringing at local churches and then another council meeting with the topic of Ringing 2030 which is a council led initiative, but the real work will need to happen at the grassroots level. This was followed with an opportunity to ring at the Cathedral later in the day, which I decided not to take up as there were closures and cancellations on the trains, so I decided not to wait around and head for home.

Ringling 2030 is:

- A major project to create a sustainable future for ringing
- Introduced to Council Members in September 2022
- Identify what is needed to achieve 2030?
- Identify what we want ringing to be like in 2030?
- What do we need to do to get there?
- How do we effect that change?

All the links to the various presentations can be found on the [CCCBR website](#).

All in all, a very enjoyable weekend, where I met a lot of new people, rang at a lot of different towers, and also learnt a lot about the role of the Council.

Marion Knight-Dixon
Central Council Representative for the Suffolk Guild