

Campsea Ashe Church Bells Project Newsletter

No 5

July 2008

Project Update

The Bells Project was launched in September 2007, less than a year ago, but tremendous progress has been made towards achieving our goals.

The Project aims to restore the four bells currently in use, add a further three new bells and to restore a ringing gallery at the base of the tower. So what has been achieved so far?

Firstly, and perhaps most important, many people from the village have given their support for the Project and have actively contributed towards it. The Parish Council is supporting the Project and many people have organised fund-raising events, made donations in one form or another, and have told us how pleased they are about the Project.

Secondly, a team of professionals - architect, structural engineer, bellhanger - has been appointed and behind the scenes they are drawing up plans to ensure the Project is a success. Plans for the new Ringing Gallery will soon be on display in the Church.

Thirdly, we have raised about £30,000 towards our target of £95,000, an amazing achievement in only ten months. One group, the Village Bell Group, has been raising funds to sponsor one of the new bells to be cast and they have almost reached their target of £6,000 already!

There is a long way to go, but we have made great progress, so thank you to all who have supported us.

Village Bell Events

Look out for these Village Bell events:

Summer Drinks and Canapes

Thursday 7th August 2008

6.15 to 7.45 pm The Old Rectory

Relax in the garden and listen to the bells of St John the Baptist Church being rung.

Admission only by ticket in advance £5.

Telephone 01728 747995

Dog Show

21st September 2008

Village field - an event not to be missed. Look out for further details.



**For more information
about the Bells Project
see the display in the
Church and visit our
website:**

www.campseashechurch.org.uk

The Talents Challenge

Most readers will be familiar with the Parable of the Talents. When we started the Bells Project we challenged a group of volunteers to use their talents to raise funds for the Project. About 15 people were each given £20 and asked to double or treble it! The results have been amazing! Villagers have taken up the challenge and have raised a remarkable £1,697 so far. Congratulations and thank you to everyone who took up the challenge.

The Talents Challenge will be ending in September and as part of the Harvest Festival Service on 21st September we will be celebrating the achievements of the people who have used their Talents in this Challenge. Everyone is invited to what will be a very joyous occasion.

Friends of the Ringing Gallery

To raise funds for the new Ringing Gallery we have set up a 'Friends of the Ringing Gallery' scheme whereby supporters can make a small donation - we suggest between £2 and £5 every month for a limited period of up to two years. We have been delighted by the response, but we still need more Friends. If you would like to become a Friend please ring Tim on 01728 747995.

Why do we need a new Ringing Gallery? There are many reasons for this. Firstly, the positioning of the new bells lower in the tower means it would be very difficult to ring the bells safely from where we currently ring. Secondly, the ringers are currently isolated from the congregation and we want to ensure that the ringing and the ringers are seen to contribute more to the worship of the Church - ringing is not just a hobby to be enjoyed, we see it as an important part of Christian worship.

Worship at St John the Baptist Church

You will always receive a warm welcome at your Church and you are invited to join in worship:

August

17th August 9.30 am

31st August 8.00 am

September

14th September 9.30 am

21st September 6.30 pm Harvest Festival

You are particularly invited to our Harvest Festival, a traditional and joyous Christian festival. This year we will also be celebrating the completion of the Talents Challenge that has been organised as part of the Bells Project.

How to make a donation

We are very grateful for any donations, however large or small, and since the launch of the Project we have received private donations totaling over £2,500 towards our target of £95,000. If you would like to make a donation please contact the treasurer, details below. Cheques should be made payable to *Campsea Ashe Church Bells Project*. A Gift Aid form is available to enable us to claim back tax paid on your donation.

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Total Amount Raised for the Project to date

over £30,000!