

Introducing the team in charge of our newly restored bell tower.

Moira Johnson

Moira is our Tower Captain. The term 'Tower Captain' is an ancient title used throughout the ringing world for the person in charge. The Tower Captain manages everything concerning the tower on behalf of the incumbent and PCC and acts as the leader and figurehead of the tower team to the outside world. The Tower Captain provides leadership to encourage and develop the ringers and to foster a good team spirit.

Moira's association with Gresley Tower began at the age of 11, ringing her first quarter peal on October 14th 1990 to commemorate the occasion of her 12th birthday. Whilst ringing mainly at Gresley, Moira often rang up to five nights per week with the late Derek Jones at towers such as Packington, Ticknall, St. Modwen's and St. Paul's in Burton. Moira returned to ringing after her studies and starting a family.



Moira is married to Stewart and has a daughter Darcy who is 14 and a son Warren who is 8. Moira works as Senior Implementation Manager responsible for opening new stores globally for high street chain New Look. In her leisure time Moira is studying French and is a committee member of Woodville Box Club.

John Cater



John is our Ringing Master and Steeple Keeper. As Ringing Master John is responsible for leading and running the ringing for services, weddings and other special occasions. When the bells are ringing it is the Ringing Master who decides what methods will be rung and for how long. The Ringing Master determines the format of the practice nights and coaches the team as they progress from beginner through to change and method ringing.

In his capacity as Steeple Keeper John looks after the bell installation. The bells and clappers are heavy moving machinery and our six bells have a combined weight of over 1½ tons. It all has to be maintained to ensure the bells operate correctly, easily and safely tens of thousands of revolutions each year.

John learned to ring 36 years ago, initially at Stretton, then in and around Burton on Trent and South Derbyshire. John rang regularly at Gresley with Derek Jones in the 1980s and 1990s and has been member of local bands at Sutton on the Hill (Tower Captain), St Michaels Lichfield (Tower Captain), St Pauls Burton on Trent and Rolleston on Dove. John has organised 13 bell restoration projects in Derbyshire, including the "big one" at Gresley in 2001 where 1300 man-hours were expended refurbishing the bells and ringing room to a high standard.

John has not been attached to a particular tower for a year and says he is very pleased to now be a part of the team at Gresley. Aged 61, John lives in Hilton and has retired after career with Lloyds Bank. John's interests are astronomy, family history, Mensa, and watching "Deal or No Deal" shows recorded in Bristol. John has rung 3250 Quarter Peals (about 3/4 hour non-stop ringing) with 319 of those at Gresley. John has rung at 6321 churches and bell-towers throughout the world. John is also keen on change-ringing on handbells.

We wish Moira and John well in their new roles in this exciting new era for Gresley Bell Tower.

Steve Payne