

What would “*Trip-Advisor*” say about your tower?



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**Central Council of Church bell Ringers,
Stewardship & Management Workgroup**

Interactive session!

- Does anyone not know “*Trip Adviser*” ?
- We will be asking you to participate!
- We will want you to write down / remember 5 numbers and add them up!
- Think about your home tower or one you have visited and know quite well ---

Q - What is “a Tower”?

- Yes, it is stone, tall, spire, etc
- but
- what else?

What is “a Tower”?

Depends on what matters to you...

- People
- External environment
- Bells and ringing
- Facilities
- Organisation

They all matter to someone!

What Sort of Visit?

- I hear bells! How is that done?
- Free evening. Where could I go?
- Just moved – join the band!
- Training day
- Staying in the area
- Outing / open day
- Potential new ringer, new hobby

Q - Your expectations?

... so what do ringers expect or want?

... and the potential recruit

... and the church

.... or the neighbours and community?

Your expectations

- Friendly and welcoming
- Challenging and fun
- Well lit, warm, dry
- Bells “gettable” and a pleasure to ring
- Kitchen, loos, meeting facilities
- Structured training, awards, outcomes
- Helpful, supportive ringers
- Accessible and safe
- Aspiration and support for all to progress
- To pay for lessons

Ringling is welcoming!

- **Information** - recruiting and informing ringers - Ringing times, contact details visible in church (even when locked), on church website etc
- **Friendly** – No “grumpy” members?
- **Leadership** - Ringing master / tower captain – competent, confident to run sessions
- **Organisation** – effective, no lock outs!

Who rings with whom?

- What standards? Complex methods or good striking, both or neither!
- Does the band get on well as friends?
- How do people fit in?
- Some people only ring “at home”
- Some ring widely – why?
- Welcoming visitors - Musicians don't walk into any rehearsal and expect to be invited to join in. Ringers usually do!

We can't just rely on the family!

(St David's)



So how well do you do?

- Is your tower welcoming?
- Score tower out of 5
 - (5 is really good – be honest!)



External environment

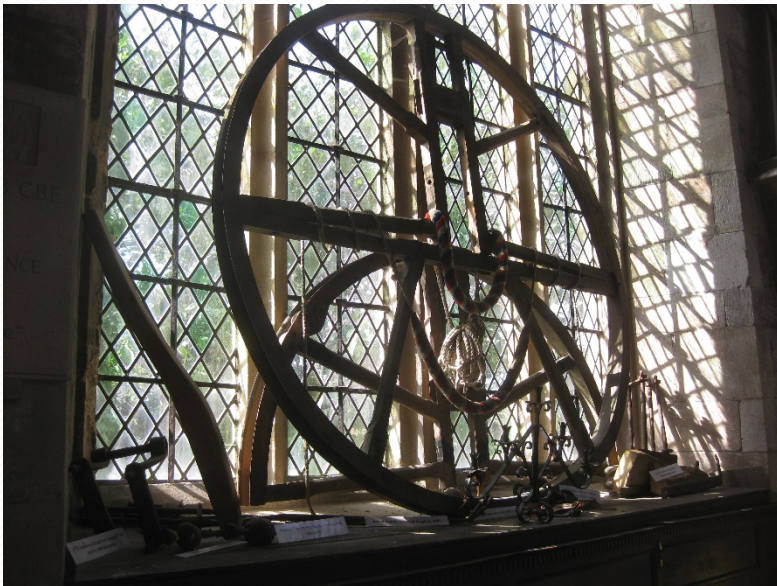
- **Getting there** - Parking, transport, signage, lighting, safe paths and access, known key holders, security
- **Neighbours** – Good adjustable sound control, published ringing times, informed of extras and why, visible, audible, appreciated
- **Community engagement** – Schools, colleges, local clubs, societies

Integrated

Church integration - Clergy, ringers on PCC, choir, scouts, guides, mothers & toddlers.....

Annual ringers' service

Tower / church website, church news sheets,



So how well do you do?

- What is the external environment like?
- Score tower out of 5
 - (5 is really good – be honest!)



What about the bells?

- Basic - *“Taylors, 1896, 21cwt 8 in E”*
- *“Last maintenance in 1998, for the Millennium”*
- What is rung?
- **Technical inspections** - Regular competent inspections, planned and recorded
- **History** - interesting information

... and how do they go?

- Slips wheel
- Need to pull through
- Difficult to set
- Odd struck
- Hard work for its weight
- Can't hear the calls
- Trebles are inaudible
- Stiff ropes
- Ropes too close together / to wall
- Strange clunk!

Have you tried to fix these? Usually easy to resolve!

And when are they rung?

- Every church service – weekly, am / pm
- Weddings, funerals
- Other church events
- National events
- Outings, quarters, competitions
- Teaching sessions, targeted practices
- Recruiting events, open days...
- Visiting bands welcome

So how well do you do?

- What are your bells like?
- Score tower out of 5
 - (5 is really good – be honest!)



Facilities

- **Ringling room** - Temperature, clean, tidy, well lit, good seating, storage space, safe, secure
- **Other space** - Refreshment facilities etc
- **Handbells** – Good condition, for changes and / or tune ringing
- **CCTV** – Shows the bells in the ringing room (and church!)

Facilities? Guildford - St Mary



Funeral bier – history or junk?



Comfortable seating?



The only coat hook!



Severn Stoke

Emergency Lighting for Power Cut?



Tunbridge Wells

Safe new ladder but

Langford (Oxfordshire)



Kitchen facilities but?



Stretton Grandison

Winter heating?

Barford St Martin



Facilities for learning and a quick break!



“Ah! That nice big storage space upstairs” – says the Church warden!

St Mary Shrewsbury



So how well do you do?

- What are the facilities like in your tower?
- Score tower out of 5
 - (5 is really good – be honest!)



Tower organisation

- **Safety / risk assessments** – Inspections and assessments recorded, up to date
- **Teaching** – Structured programmes, good teachers and helpers. Theory and practical sessions – table space, whiteboard, books, clapper ties and/or dumb bell, simulator...
- **Processes** - Safeguarding, GDPR, insurance, defined responsibilities

Ringling organisation

- **Leadership** – Committee responsibilities, tower meetings, communication with members
- **Tower finances** – maintenance
- **Socials** – pub, dinner, skittles, holidays
- **Events** - foundry visits, carillons, handbell concerts...

... and not just home tower

- Handbell ringing
- Wider interactions, not just the pub!
- Guilds / Associations
- Central Council conference, ART, Ringing World
- Social media
- Personal / group projects - history, engineering, people, architecture

So how well do you do?




- What is the organisation like in your tower?
- Score tower out of 5
 - (5 is really good – be honest!)



Add your five scores....

- ... and divide the total by 5
- The result is your average score!

So what do you score overall?

- **2.5 Average** 86 reviews
- #24 of 86 towers in “*Allied Ringers Guild*”
-  Welcome
-  External Environment
-  Bells
-  Facilities
-  Organisation

Further Advice?

- Local Guild or Association
- CCCBR Stewardship & Management Workgroup (see website)
- Advice and training - professional help may be needed alongside competent volunteers

Questions and discussion

- Should we add “*Trip Advice*” to “Dove”?