

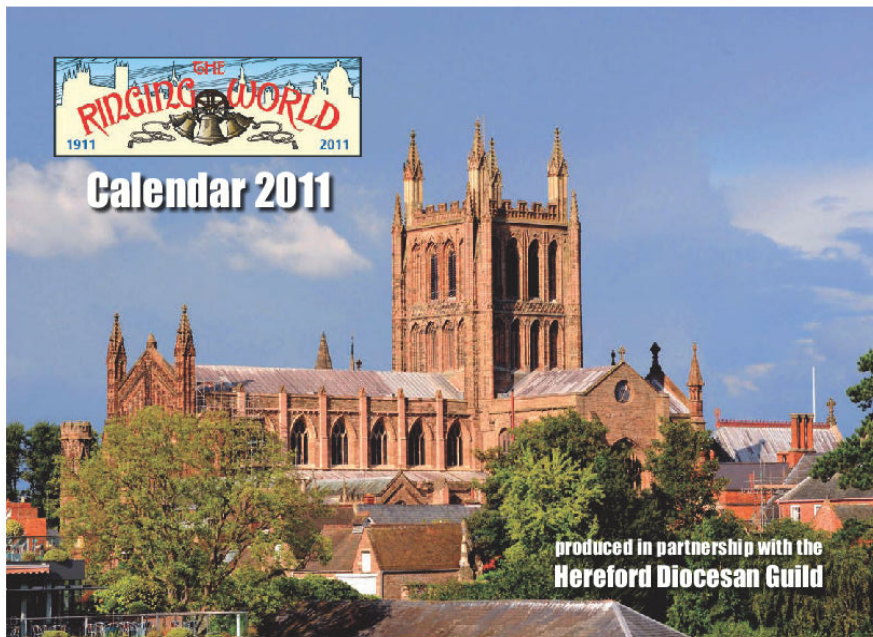


Open Lead

Issue 76

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The quarterly newsletter of the Hereford Diocesan Guild



Next year's Ringing World Calendar features churches in our Guild. Buy yours, and all the ones you are going to give as Christmas presents, from the Guild for only £5 each. Details on page 3

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Recruitment

Open Tower Days; do they work?

Weston-under-Penyard, July 24th, a Saturday afternoon. We decided to open the tower and invite people along to come and see what we did!

The doors opened at 2.00pm and a group of interested parties had already assembled. The 'tour' began at the tower steps where a brief history and use of the Ellacombe chime was given before proceeding up the tower. In the ringing chamber an introduction to the bells and ringing was given including a demonstration of raising a bell to the ringing position. This was followed by a brief history of the clock in the clock chamber. In the bell chamber we were able to show our visitors a bell in 'full circle' motion – fingers in ears!! A spot of 'taking in the view' atop the tower completed that part of the tour.

Returning to the ringing chamber our visitors were then encouraged to 'have a go'. The response was good and they were introduced to both the hand stroke and the back stroke, about five minutes each. You can get a good idea in that time if they have an aptitude for it. If they were interested they were asked to leave a name and contact number and told that a warm welcome would await them the following Monday at 7.30pm.

It had been said that open tower days don't really work, but, as a result of this we took on five new recruits! They are still with us and enjoying it and, what's more, we have now taken on a further two. Ages range from eleven to retired.

How did we succeed? I think it was done through enthusiasm for the subject, explaining that in this day-and-age it is a hobby for a lot of ringers – it is their way of doing something for the church. Yes it is a commitment, but, don't beat them down if they can't make it occasionally.

And how to keep them? Be positive all the time, be constructive in your criticism, but always finish on a positive note. Above all, don't push them beyond their ability, everyone learns at a different rate. This is probably the hardest thing to see as an instructor. Keep them sweet and encourage them and they'll come back for more.

So, yes, tower open days can work but you have to go about it the right way, be pro-active the whole way through and keep that going when you're training your new recruits.

Mike Williams, Tower Captain, Weston-under-Penyard

PS. Thanks to all who helped on the day, you know who you are!

BRF Draw took place on 7th July 2010 in the Lyonshall ringing room.

The following prizes were drawn.

Unit no.	Prize				
			201	£15	Neil Bennett
291	£60	Richard Danby	319	£10	Neil Bennett
237	£40	Sharon Hartles	371	£10	Clungunford Ringers
317	£20	B.H. Taylor	143	£10	Ann Price
368	£20	Martin Foster	339	£5	Patrick Whitehead
			350	£5	Patrick Whitehead

Ringling World Calendar

Next year's Calendar has a photograph of a Hereford Guild Church for every month. The pictures are all taken by members of the Guild. Members can buy copies of the calendar for £5 which is £1.50 less than the standard price.

Calendars will be available for sale from your district secretary at all district meetings and practices before the end of the year, or can be sent to you through the post.

To order a copy (or more!) by post send a cheque made out to HDGB for £5.50 per copy to cover postage to Colin Ward, Tything Cottage, Mathon, Malvern WR13 5PA

Bridgnorth District Striking Competition - 10th July 2010.

Four bands of ringers from three Bridgnorth District towers gathered at Alveley on a very warm Saturday afternoon to compete for The Harold Thomas Cup. The draw took place at 3.00pm and the order of ringing was to be Bridgnorth, Morville, Alveley "A" and Alveley "B". To widen the appeal of the event, this year the choice of test piece was left entirely open for the teams to decide, the only stipulation being the need to start and finish in rounds, and aim for five minutes of ringing. Should any team exceed or fall short of the five minute rule, then the judges would adjust their scoring up or down on a pro-rata basis, to give a fairly based result for everyone.

The results were:-

- 1st - Alveley "B" (plain bob doubles) with 34.5 faults.
- 2nd - Alveley "A" (call changes) with 42.5 faults.
- 3rd - Bridgnorth (call changes) with 49.5 faults.
- 4th - Morville (call changes) with 62 faults.

Our guest judges were Dave Andrews (Wolverley) and Bob Carlyle (Bewdley) from the neighbouring Worcester & District Association, and we thank them for giving their time and expertise to judge our performances. Judges comments at the end of the competition were that generally speaking, leads were frequently being rushed, and changes often lacked precision, though the striking between changes was usually very respectable.

Congratulations go to Alveley "B" for a very worthy winning performance, and also thanks for providing the venue and the excellent refreshments which generated donations totalling £20 for the Hereford Guild Bell Restoration Fund.

Pictured here are the judges presenting the trophy to the winners Alveley "B". From left to right we have judges Dave Andrews and Bob Carlyle, then Alice Page, Martin Bluck, Jean Marshall, Millie Page, Roy Page and Jack Chidwick.



Tarrington's Away Day 7th August

There's no doubt that things have been tough at Tarrington for some time now; the bells are not going well and £37,000 pounds is needed to put things straight. It will all be put right eventually but meanwhile, the bearings and the frame take no prisoners amongst the relatively inexperienced group of starters. Thus it was that our Tower captain, Robert Hodges, decided we needed an away day and fixed it for us. What fun we had, supplemented as we were, by some more experienced ringers to add a little class.

Our five churches, (just the five as leisurely was the order of the day), were: St. John the Baptist Upton Bishop, St. Mary's Linton, St. Lawrence's Weston under Penyard, St. John the Baptist Aston - Ingham and finally over the border to St. Mary's Newent where our Tower Captain's son, David Hodges, a graduate of Tarrington and one of our party for the day, is now the excellent Tower Captain.

The delightful church at Upton Bishop had two surprises for us; the first was to learn of its historical connection to the hymn writer Frances Ridley Havergal; the link arising from her brother who was Vicar of the parish from 1874-1890. Frances, it seems, was a regular visitor to the parish and would have listened to the very bells that we were ringing. It seems unlikely that the ringers during that Victorian era would have been challenged by the behaviour of the tenor bell in the way that we were. It had rung up with some difficulty even in the hands of an experienced ringer and the subsequent rounds were never good. With muttered warnings from Martin who rang up, Rachael took it over for our first method. Now Rachel, well used to keeping thirty mixed infants in order, is not easily intimidated by any bell but we saw a look of panic on her face as it seemed to do nothing expected of a bell rope and much that wasn't. It caught, hung still, disappeared from grasp, returned and hung still again whilst the bell continued ringing. During some of the stationary periods she tried to pass the rope to Robert but then it was off again and she was left holding on but unable to do anything constructive. When the bell and rope (each of which appeared to have a life of its own), finally came to rest and appeared to have no more tricks up its sleeve, various theories were put forward.

Those who had an opinion on causation wanted to put it forward at this point in the hope of showing off their superior insights and with the bets in, a party was despatched for an inspection although they never went as far as the bells. Half way between the ringing chamber and the belfry is another chamber that a visitor might assume is the belfry but it is in fact an empty chamber that the ropes pass through. Throwing open that door, they found themselves facing the tenor rope which had an exceedingly large shortening knot in it making its passage through the hole in the ceiling and the floor difficult or impossible. Why any helpful soul had done this remained enigmatic, unlikely to have been a ringer we thought. My word how we laughed! Before we left the church, we sang that lovely hymn, written by Frances Havergal, 'Take my life and let it be consecrated Lord to thee'.



On to St. Mary's Linton passing the extraordinary Yew Tree in the churchyard which is said to be the oldest Yew Tree in England at 4,000 years. Despite the notice in the tower, *'Danger please do not touch the bell ropes'* we decided to give it a whirl. Now, if you are a ringer with hearing loss, Linton is the place to go but not the place to be if you expect to hear any calls or words of instruction. The sound, whilst *'wonderfully clear'* is almost overwhelming and a ringer might well fear permanent damage to the hearing. At one point your correspondent panicked when the sound of the bells suddenly went from deafening to muffled. Unable to identify any good reason for this, and fearing that one's ear drum had burst, the prospect arose of standing the bell on medical grounds. Thankfully, others began to look puzzled too and when we stood the bells, those who knew about these things said the muffling occurred when the sallies passed through the hole at the same time. Now why didn't we think of that?

St. Lawrence's at Weston Under Penyard was a treat, a beautiful view from the tower window, bells that seemed to float and the mellowest tone, some of the band rang Stedman doubles and made it look easy.

I cannot tell you much about the very light bells at Aston Ingham, the writer's driver, Robert Hodges had not been entirely relaxed about the itinerary feature of his sat. nav. since we started off and by the time it was supposed to be taking us to the fourth tower, it had become quietly determined to take us to the fifth at Newent. He argued with it, told it that it was talking nonsense but by then it was all too late. I *can* tell you that the ringing down went well and confirm what pleasure is to be had ringing the pre-reformation tenor bell.

And so to Newent ignoring the sat. nav. which by then was throwing a sulk. A delightful church and a pleasure having the church historian in our group. It's such a bonus to find a ringing chamber that is such a depository of the tower's history. Some of the group had not rung on eight before and were happily challenged by the new experience. We finished with Grandsire Triples that was the best ring of the day. Team photos followed and then over the road for supper in the George Hotel.



Now the thing is, your correspondent is as much 'new man' as the next chap but it is a proven fact that women have difficulty with spatial awareness, you can see this in car parks. Thus it was that as the huge meals were served up in the George Hotel; it was perfectly obvious that at least one of the women of our group would never munch her way through such a large helping of fish and chips. "Oh yes I will" she insisted. Well, I don't have to tell you the result do I; further proof. Will they never learn? - the very words our tower captain mutters into his beer every Friday night.

John Watkins

Holmer & Friends Summer (Mystery) Outing to Forest of Dean

Saturday 3Rd July 2010

On a glorious sunny morning everyone met at the Holmer Church Hall at 8.30am. Dave was to drive the minibus containing 17 of us and Mike took his car with 5 more.

At this point I should list everyone. Dave & Karen, Mike & Sally, John & Mavis, Pam, Paul, Keith & Wendy, Kevin & Ruth, Ken & Celia, Kevin & Karen, June, Alex, Chloe, Tom, Mary & Robert. Out of the group there were 3 youngsters, 14 adult ringers and 5 non-ringers.

We started off at about 8.50am heading for the first tower and very soon turned off the expected route and shortly stopped at St. Weonards Church. This was a surprise to most of us as we had thought the first tower was to be at Goodrich. But it seems that at very short notice (previous evening) they had cancelled and Dave had very little time to organise a replacement tower, hence St. Weonards.

The tower has six bells (tenor 10-0-04) and the ringing chamber is up a circular stone stairs with varying width steps. This opened onto quite a large space and it appears that previously the ropes emerged from drainpipes not far above your heads. Now they have a frame containing guides and the drainpipes have been cut off just below the ceiling. With varying success we rang Plain Bob Doubles, Grandsire, Steadman, Rounds and Call Changes to give all abilities a fair opportunity. The church has lots of interesting features such as the family pews and the coffin bier. In the churchyard were plenty of seats to use while enjoying the views and a very good village shop is nearby.

Then it was back to the bus/car and off down some very narrow roads to the next tower at English Bicknor, which put us back on to the original schedule. I seem to recall that at one point Tom said "We won't get through there Dave" but we obviously did.

This church is dedicated to St. Mary and contains some carved stone figures dating from the 14th century. The ringing chamber is new and on the first floor and is accessed by a circular cast iron staircase. There were originally five bells and another was added when they were re-hung in 2007 making six (tenor 7-1-8). We rang St. Simons, Bob Doubles, Cambridge, Steadman, Grandsire, Bob Minor, Rounds and Call Changes again with varying success. In the kitchen area below the bell chamber Tom found a small bell to ring with a bicycle frame for the wheel.

Then off to The Red Hart Inn at Blaisdon for lunch and a drink (or two) for some may be it was the highlight of the day. I think that most people enjoyed their meals and afterwards Ken produced a miniature set of hand bells which gave some fun for some of the ringers. Our third church was not far from the pub and is dedicated to St. Michael and All Angels at Blaisdon. This was a ground floor ringing chamber. Originally there were five bells which had been recast in 1912 and another treble added to make six (tenor 7-2-5). Here we rang Grandsire, Plain Hunt, Steadman, Plain Bob/Little Bob and Rounds and

When we arrived the vicar was conducting a practice for a christening and there were plastic ducks in the font and the children were playing with them. The youngest had her feet dangling in the water in the font. Outside of the churchyard there were some horses in a field.

Then off to the final tower. This church was St. John the Baptist at Huntley. Another ground floor ring of six bells (tenor 7-0-24). We arrived a little early and went to the adjacent garden centre for refreshments (at this time the sun was shining very strongly and most of us were wilting a little. In church we rang Bob Doubles, Cambridge, Grandsire, St. Simons, Plain Hunt, Mixed Doubles, Steadman, Rounds. Outside in the walled churchyard behind the church was a huge yew tree with a hollow trunk which you could stand inside.

Then back to the transport to return to Holmer at about 5.30pm. All together it was a very pleasant day enjoyed by all. Three cheers for Dave & Karen for organising the trip.

On a personal note I am surprised at the large size of all of the churches that we visited considering that they are all in little villages and that they were so well maintained.

Robert and Mary Rawlinson



This certificate was given to Dorothy Beavan an Honorary Member of the Guild.

She is 100 years old, and is possibly the first member to reach that milestone!

Some of you may recall her ringing at Hereford St. Nicholas in the 70's and 80's.

The event was featured in The Hereford Times

BRF Draw. The Draw took place on 20th September 2010 in the ringing room at Kingsland Tower.

The following prizes were awarded:

Unit no.	Prize	Name	53	£10	Bodenham Tower
259	£60	Steve Hadcroft	224	£10	Paddy Nugent
176	£40	Martin Harrison	122	£5	John Downing
200	£20	Denise Potter	242	£5	Elaine Crisp
178	£20	Alison Foxall	89	£5	B.H. Taylor
369	£15	J. Houghton	179	£5	Bruce Wright
149	£15	James Hanks			
284	£10	Kristina Norton			

Hereford District Outing to Stratford on Avon

Saturday 4th September 2010.

It was an early start by coach from Hereford – too early for some who overslept and had to catch us up by car! But by the time we reached our first tower, Bidford on Avon, most of us had woken up sufficiently to ring some tidy rounds and call changes, Plain Hunt and Stedman Triples on the 8 bells. Meanwhile those not ringing enjoyed the sunshine and the view over the river behind the church - we heard some horrific tales from the locals of flooding a few years back when the river had swollen so badly that many of the houses and shops in Bidford had suffered – it was difficult to imagine in the warm sunshine on the day of our outing.

The second church, Stratford on Avon, was full of tourists so as our party filed up the steep steps to the ringing chamber, someone had to stand guard at the bottom to ensure we didn't gain any "extras"! The 10 bells were a delight to ring but we were reminded that the ringing had to be good because of all the tourists in town, so we hope we entertained them with our call changes, Cambridge Major and Grandsire Caters. In the generous 2½ hour lunch break after ringing, some of us regained our strength at a pub by the river, others took a boat trip and some just soaked up the historic atmosphere, the sunshine and the shops. There was certainly plenty to see.

Our next stop was another 8 bell tower at Salford Priors where the church had obviously had a lot of money spent on it – a soft red carpet throughout, glass panels to partition off the vestry and a TV screen for the congregation to see the service where it would otherwise have been hidden from view. In the belfry Karen made sure everyone had at least 2 or 3 goes at ringing the bells at each tower so no one felt left out, especially the youngsters who seemed undaunted by ringing at all these unfamiliar places.

The last tower of the day was Fladbury – a lovely 12cwt ring of 8 which I have since been

told are not easy to get, so well done Dave for giving us the opportunity! Since we arrived 20 minutes ahead of schedule we had plenty of time before ringing for a group photo to remind us all of the day – another triumph for Dave and Karen. Thanks from all of us!



Barbara Fox

The Great War and the Hereford Diocesan Guild

Many Members will be aware that the Guild has a wonderful Memorial to those that fell in the Great War, which is located in the ringing room of All Saints Hereford; this has 63 names of those that fell. The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers has a Roll of Honour which also lists the same 63 names although those from Coalbrookdale and Condober are listed as Salop Diocesan along with many hundreds more from across the British Isles and further afield. Recent research has revealed one further name, Corporal George Dunbar Acton, who rang at Ludlow prior to emigrating to Canada in 1913. He subsequently joined the Canadian Army and returned to Europe. The full list of the 64 are shown below:

Bombardier Ben Taylor of Allensmore Died 07/08/1917 Age Unknown
Private Thomas William Bengough of Almeley Died 23/04/1917 Age 19
Private Harry Arthur Male of Almeley Died 26/07/1918 Age 20
Private James Naylor of Bodenham Died 06/11/1917 Age Unknown
Private Charles Ernest Cheshire of Bredenbury Died 27/08/1917 Age Unknown
Private Jack Rogers of Bridgnorth (St Mary's) Died 19/04/1918 Age Unknown
Private Albert Gwynne of Bridstow Died 19/08/1917 Age 20
Private C T Evison of Bromfield Died 28/11/1919 Age Unknown
Private Ernest Thomas Hanks of Clehonger Died 23/09/1915 Age 20
Serjeant William John Lewis of Clun Died 28/03/1918 Age 21
Private Charles Job Lewis of Clunbury Died 31/05/1917 Age 22
Private William Paddock of Clunbury Died 30/11/1917 Age 24
Gunner Francis Henry Anthony of Clyro Died 12/09/1917 Age Unknown
Private Frank Sorton Downing of Coalbrookdale Died 01/07/1916 Age 26
Corporal William Onions of Coalbrookdale Died 09/04/1917 Age 29
Gunner Thomas John Hodges of Colwall Died 21/05/1917 Age 39
Private Wilfred Thomas Ashton of Condober Died 28/03/1915 Age 20
Lance Corporal Bertram Clifford Trumper of Eardisley Died 06/11/1917 Age 22
Private George Thomas Williams of Eardisley Died 06/03/1916 Age 19
Private Arthur William Gardiner of Foy Died 27/11/1916 Age 23
Private Harry Harmer Marklove of Foy Died 06/11/1917 Age 24
Private William Austin Hamer of Glasbury Died 04/12/1918 Age 19
Pioneer W A James of Glasbury Died 24/11/1918 Age 28
Private William Rhys Jones of Glasbury Died 20/06/1918 Age 18
Driver William George Lloyd of Hereford Died 21/11/1918 Age 25

Private Martin James Williams of Hereford Died 28/11/1917 Age Unknown
 Private Joseph Henry Harper of Kimbolton Died 28/03/1918 Age 38
 Private Herbert Gittins of Kingstone Died 18/10/1915 Age 37
 Gunner Alfred John Morris of Kingstone Died 24/03/1918 Age 19
 Gunner James Tedstone of Kington Died 19/02/1919 Age 25
 Private Frank Griffiths Dyke of Knighton Died 20/10/1918 Age 19
 Lance Corporal Hector Philip Seabourne of Knighton Died 02/02/1919 Age 23
 Private Walter Bradley of Ledbury Died 16/11/1915 Age 19
 Private Frederick Charles Hyner of Ledbury Died 03/12/1916 Age Unknown
 Private David Evan Owens of Ledbury Died 18/11/1916 Age Unknown
 Private Jack Williams of Ledbury Died 19/08/1915 Age 21
 Shoeing Smith Corporal Percy Malpas of Leintwardine Died 23/04/1916 Age 24
 Private James Samuel Mann of Leominster Died 30/03/1918 Age 24
 Private George Robinson of Leominster Died 09/08/1915 Age 33
 Corporal George Dunbar Acton of Ludlow Died 15/08/1917 Age Unknown
 Private Hubert Ernest Emerson of Lugwardine Died 13/06/1917 Age 34
 Private Jasper Horace Emerson of Lugwardine Died 11/08/1916 Age 24
 Private C R James of Lyonshall Died 23/10/1918 Age 19
 Private Stephen Hancox of Madley Died 25/02/1916 Age Unknown
 Private Charles William Powell of Mathon Died 31/03/1918 Age 25
 Private Sidney Albert Pines of Norton Canon Died 24/03/1918 Age 23
 Rifleman Gilbert Rimmer of Norton Canon Died 20/09/1917 Age Unknown
 Private Charles Vincent Morgan of Pencombe Died 31/05/1917 Age Unknown
 Private George Eversham of Pembridge Died 17/04/1916 Age Unknown
 Private George Albert Haines of Pembridge Died 22/11/1916 Age 29
 Private Stanley William Pinches of Pembridge Died 10/07/1917 Age 25
 Private Frank Christie of Quatt Died 21/09/1916 Age 19
 Private Charles Leonard Powell of Staunton on Arrow Died 19/10/1918 Age Unknown
 Private Henry Thomas Wall of Staunton on Arrow Died 13/10/1915 Age 21
 Serjeant Walter Haycock of Stoke Edith Died 25/09/1915 Age 20
 Private Arthur Jones of Tarrington Died 24/07/1918 Age 21
 Private Charles Mason of Tarrington Died 03/05/1918 Age Unknown
 Pioneer Frank Meredith of Welshpool Died 09/11/1915 Age 20
 Private Walter Meredith of Welshpool Died 13/04/1918 Age 21
 Private Thomas Pitt of Woolhope Died 30/07/1918 Age Unknown

There are 4 that I have not yet been able to identify, these are:

S C Lloyd of Clehonger – I am aware he died of wounds or illness after discharge from the armed forces.

B Watkinson of Kingstone – No further information available.

G Thomas of Hopesay – Again I am aware he died of wounds or illness after discharge from the armed forces

S H Gibbons of Upton Bishop – No further information available.

More details, photographs of the Rolls and other information can be found at:
www.cccbr.org.uk/rolls

If you would like any specific details, grave or memorial photographs of any listed I would be happy to try and help.

I am very interested to hear from any tower where any of those listed are commemorated, perhaps by a special Memorial, a Peal Board, photograph or a Tower Roll of Honour; this of course especially applies to any that are not listed. I should very much like to add any news names that are found.

The Central Council Great War Roll has had more names added over the years; there are three addendums in total. The first of these addendums lists members from the Truro Diocesan Guild, the second addition lists names from the Kent County Association and the third contains 77 names that had been found as a result of more recent research. The latest additions were ringers from a number of different Guilds and Associations and this included George Acton of Ludlow. I am certain there are many more yet to be found! This third addendum effectively filled the last pages of the Great War Roll of Honour; more recent research has found another 67 that should be added in the future, which clearly presents a problem!

It has been decided by the Central Council that a new book be made, to the same high standard as the original, and the new names written in, again to the same high standard as the original. This will cost in excess of £2,000.00 and I am asking if ringers might like to contribute towards this. If so, cheques can be sent, made payable to "CCCB", to 39 Maud Road, London E13 0JT. As the Central Council is registered as a Charity donations can be Gift Aided; if your circumstances allow this, a simple note should be added with the donation confirming that the gift is made under the gift aid scheme together with your full name, address and post code.

Alan Regin
Steward of the Rolls of Honour



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Events in the Guild this Autumn and early winter.

Check on hdgb.org for the most up to date information.

Date	time	event	location
Sat Oct.2	19:00—21:00	Clifford & Kington practice & meeting	Staunton on Wye
Sat Oct 9	14:15	Thomas Cooper competition	Morville
Sat Oct 9		Leominster training session	Phone 0797690967
Tue Oct 12	19:30—21:00	Ledbury District practice	Ledbury
Tue Oct 12	19:30—21:00	Bromyard District practice	Stoke lacy
Thurs Oct 14	19:30—21:00	Hereford District Practice	Fownhope
Sat Oct 16	18:30—21:30	Church Stretton District practice	Worthen
Mon Oct 18	19:30—21:00	Hereford District Training	Stoke Edith
Sat Oct 26		Leominster District tower tour	
Sat Nov 6	19:00—21:00	Clifford & Kington practice	Presteigne
Sat Nov 6	15:00—17:00	Bridgnorth District ringing meeting	
Tues Nov 9	19:30—21:00	Ledbury District practice	Coddington
Wed Nov 17	19:30—21:00	Clifford & Kington practice	Kingstone
Frid Nov 19	19:30	Church Stretton District Barn Dance.	Leebotwood
Sat Dec 4	15:30	Clifford & Kington AGM	Almeley
Mon Dec 8	19:30—21:00	Ledbury District practice	Eastnor
Fri Dec 10	19:00	Practice and Social	Tarrington
Sat 11	tba	Church Stretton, Bridgnorth and Shropshire Carol Service	Cardington
Thurs Jan 13	19:30—21:00	Ledbury District practice	Mathon
Sat Jan 15	15:00	Church Stretton District AGM	Pontesbury
Sat Jan 22	15:00	Hereford District AGM	