

2021 Annual General Meeting

Sunday 16th May, 2021

14:00 via Zoom

MINUTES

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Members Present

President R A Smith

Master S C Johnson

Secretary G Chu

Jonathan Agg	Jonathan Shanklin	Elizabeth Hopper
Dave Richards	Kate Jennings	Ed Gardner
Frank King	Alan Griffin	Jonathan Nash
Claire Barlow	Thomas Haslam	Nick Smith
Chris Rogers	Dima Szamozvancev	Andrew Roberts
Clarke Walters	Robin Shipp	Andrew Johnson
Vivian Nutton	Philip Saddleton	Andrew Carlotti
Christine Nutton	Jadd Virji	Nicholas Small
Brian Meads	Chris Winkless-Clark	John Schofield
Chris Northeast	Yansheng Zhang	Luke Smith
John Harrison	John Hutchinson	James Ellison
Catriona Agg	Melissa Nash	

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Sam Johnson, Barry Johnson, Rod Lebon and Dickon Love.

2 Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2020

The minutes are on the Guild website and were attached to the agenda circulated. Jonathan Shanklin had pointed out before the meeting that St Clement's was referred to as a light 8 instead of a light 6. The President joked that they are actually a heavy 10. With this adjustment the minutes were proposed as a true account of the last meeting by Chris Winkless-Clark, the Steeple-Keeper, seconded by Jonathan Shanklin and was carried unanimously.

3 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4 Election of New Members

There were no new members for election.

5 Cambridge Towers

5.1 St Andrew the Great

The Steeple Keeper, stated his report submitted prior to the meeting covered the main points, and that he would carry out an inspection of the bells before ringing resumes. The President agreed that this is essential.

5.2 St Bene't's

The Master, speaking on behalf of Sam Johnson, the tower captain at St Bene't's, said that St Bene't's is still there, the bells are ringable, and ringing will restart on 23rd May.

5.3 Great St Mary

The President mentioned that GSM has been rung on and off over the last 14 months. Jonathan Shanklin informs the Guild that he tolled the tenor for Prince Phillip's passing, and that the 11th is currently unringable, because one of the headstock bolts is loose. The President had absolute faith that Luke Smith, the Steeple Keeper at GSM, would resolve the matter.

5.4 St Clement's

Barry Johnson submitted a report on St Clement's which was circulated before the meeting.

5.5 OLEM

The President mentioned that there has been no proper ringing since March 2020, although all the bells have been rung at least once to ensure they work. He added that he tolled for Prince Phillip's passing a few weeks ago and hopes to ring a 720 minor this coming Wednesday. He hopes the band will be in good enough shape to ring after the past year of no ringing.

6 Presentation of Accounts

6.1 2019 to 2020 revised accounts

The President stated that accounts for 1920 and those from 20 to 21 were circulated prior to the meeting. The Accounts Examiner, Frank King, mentioned that 1920 was a little long ago. The President thanked the Accounts Examiner for pointing out his mistake. The Secretary stated that the accounts are all in order and thanked the Accounts Examiner for examining both years, and that we should soon have an influx of £800 from the Society's Syndicate for the purchase of the new ropes. The Master states that we should still be getting £500 from ART for the 2020 award, which is likely to be spent on hiring the Charmborough Ring for the 2021 Freshers' Fair (since it was not used in the 2020-2021 year). The Secretary concluded that the £500 does not go pass the Guild accounts so are not included.

6.2 2020 to 2021 revised accounts

The Accounts Examiner stated that he has provisionally examined and accepted the accounts for the past two years now. He added that the Proctors require a different set of accounts, but this would be left to the Senior Treasurer. The Master clarified that these were submitted and accepted in December for the 2020 calendar year and there were no other comments. With the Master proposing and the Senior Treasurer, Dave Richards, seconding, the accounts were accepted unanimously.

7 Comments on Officer's reports

7.1 Master's Report

The Master commented that the student Guild is still doing well and that there has been a lot more handbell ringing this year, explaining the decision to co-opt a Handbell Officer. She clarified that future committees should not feel this position is required every year but feels it will be helpful for the coming year. The President thanked the Master for her work this year, and was seconded by Clarke Walters and Nick Smith, who added that the replacement for the dinner was very enjoyable.

7.2 Teaching Officer's Report

The Teaching Officer, Dima Szamozvancev, noted that there were a surprisingly good number of signups and good uptake until the November lockdown meant teaching moved online. Several of the learners from Michaelmas are interested in learning tower bell ringing, so teaching in autumn 2021 should be a success. The President was impressed that 7 learners were ringing plain bob major after just a few weeks. The Teaching Officer said it was easier to press buttons than ringing tower bells. The President acknowledged that while that is true, it is less fun.

7.3 Steeple Keeper's Report

The Steeple Keeper mentioned that new ropes for StAG have been ordered and are expected to arrive in August, and repeated the thanks in his report. The Master added that the GSM set of bells are in very poor suitcase, and that over the summer she will get bags and a rucksack similar to that of the Dinner touch set.

8 Election of Officers

8.1 Senior Officers

Position	Nominee	Proposer	Seconder
President	Jonathan Agg	Greg Chu	Chris Rogers
Senior Treasurer	Dave Richards	James Ellison	Greg Chu
Accounts Examiner	Frank King	James Ellison	Greg Chu

8.2 Junior Officers

Position	Nominee	Proposer	Seconder
Master	Greg Chu	Melissa Nash	Stella Johnson
Secretary	Stella Johnson	Greg Chu	Melissa Nash
Assistant Master	Jonathan Nash	Elizabeth Hopper	Thomas Haslam
Librarian	Jadd Virji	Andrew Roberts	Sam Johnson
Steeple Keeper	Chris Winkless-Clark	Jadd Virji	Andrew Roberts
Teaching Officer	Dima Szamozvancev	Elizabeth Hopper	Greg Chu

8.3 Co-Opted Officers

Position	Officer
Handbell Officer	Andrew Roberts
Webmaster	Thomas Haslam
Address List Keeper	Nicholas Small

*Co-Opted Officers do not need to be elected

The President noted that there is no actual election as all nominations have closed and there is only one nomination for each position. The Master thanked Richard for being so knowledgeable and for his help to the committee and is sure that Jonathan will do a fantastic job. The Master's thanks were echoed by Chris Rogers, Jonathan Shanklin and the Accounts Examiner. The President thanked them for their kind words and added his thanks to all the officers for maintaining the Guild over the year.

The President declared all the nominated officers elected. The President stated that it had been agreed with the incoming President that he would finish chairing the meeting. The incoming

President, Jonathan Agg, said how privileged he was to be elected, and that he will do whatever he can to help the Guild return to ringing. He looks forward to seeing everyone and asks for patience until the restrictions are lifted. His proposer, Greg Chu, and seconder, Chris Rogers, were both honoured to support his nomination, and commented that he has always been very helpful to the Guild, even when he was not an elected official, and they are sure he will be a wonderful President. They wish him all the best for his years in office.

9 Any Other Business

9.1 Guild History

Andrew Carlotti queried about the history the Steeple Keeper mentioned in his report and asked where these resources are available. The history was compiled through the Facebook group and the outgoing President suggested that this is sent round to the global list. The outgoing Master asked if people would be interested in seeing some of the Guild history on the website and there was general agreement, so she agreed to do this.

9.2 Guild Week

Clarke Walters queried the provisional plans for Guild Week. The outgoing President had not made any arrangements due to the uncertainty of restrictions in the summer. The incoming President stated that an option could be to plan a weekend in Cambridge as this could be organised quickly. He suggested the weekend of 21st – 22nd August and asked anyone with suggestions to get in touch with him. He will send out an email on this matter soon.

9.3 Signatory

The incoming Secretary asked whether the changing of signatories needed to be passed formally. It was noted that the outgoing secretary has never been a signatory for the Guild. After a short discussion, it was agreed that James Ellison would remain as a signatory on the account as it would be convenient to have another signatory among the students. Therefore, a motion was put forward to remove Richard Smith, and add Stella Johnson and Jonathan Agg as signatories. This was proposed by the outgoing President, Richard Smith, and seconded by Jonathan Shanklin. The motion was carried unanimously.

9.4 Ridgman Competition

The incoming President mentioned that the Ridgman competition will be on 30th October in West Ham. It would be good if the Guild could enter a band containing a few students. This is left for the incoming Master to arrange. It was noted that after this year, the date will revert to June.

With no other comments, the outgoing President closed the meeting at 14:43, with the gavel. The meeting is the fastest AGM in recent history.

G Chu

Appendices

Included in the Appendices are the accounts and the officer's reports

Accounts of the Cambridge University Guild of Change Ringers - 01/05/19 to 30/04/20 (Revised 13/05/21)

General Account

Income		Expenditure		Surplus/(Deficit)
Dinner, Ticket Sales	4,439.00	Dinner, Refunds	(4,293.00)	
Alternative Dinner	0.00	Alternative Dinner	0.00	
Merchandise	409.35	Merchandise	(380.05)	
Photo	0.00	Photo	0.00	
Subscriptions	230.00	Freshers' Fair	(50.00)	
Peal Fees	35.00	Ringing World	(85.00)	
ART	23.50	ART courses	(160.00)	
Weddings, Receipts	0.00	Steeplekeeping expenses	(76.80)	
Tower Donations	30.00	Comms	(51.10)	
Other	0.00	Handbell Fund	(120.00)	
Guild week	270.00	CCCBR	0.00	
Interest	9.24	SUA	0.00	
		Other	0.00	
TOTAL	5,446.09	TOTAL	(5,215.95)	230.14
Balance Brought Forward	6,555.35			
Surplus/(Deficit)	230.14			
Balance carried Forward	6,785.49			

St John's Account

Income		Expenditure		Surplus/(Deficit)
Misc	0.00	Misc	0.00	
Interest	1.29			
TOTAL	1.29	TOTAL	0.00	1.29
Balance Brought Forward	917.20			
Surplus/(Deficit)	1.29			
Balance carried Forward	918.49			

Handbell Refurbishment Fund Account

Income		Expenditure		Surplus/(Deficit)
From General Account	120.00	Misc	0.00	
Interest	1.54			
TOTAL	121.54	TOTAL	0.00	121.54
Balance Brought Forward	1,089.95			
Surplus/(Deficit)	121.54			
Balance carried Forward	1,211.49			

End-of-Year Balances

Balances to be carried forward		Total funds in hand	
General Account	6,785.49	Savings Account	5,547.42
St. John's Account	918.49	Current Account	3,175.92
Handbell Refurbishment Fund Account	1,211.49	Petty Cash	226.13
		Pending Cheques	(34.00)
TOTAL	8,915.47	TOTAL	8,915.47

Accounts of the Cambridge University Guild of Change Ringers - 01/05/20 to 30/04/21

General Account

Income		Expenditure		Surplus/(Deficit)
Dinner, Ticket Sales	0.00	Dinner, Refunds	(146.00)	
Alternative Dinner	0.00	Alternative Dinner	0.00	
Merchandise	104.90	Merchandise	0.00	
Photo	0.00	Photo	0.00	
Subscriptions	130.00	Freshers' Fair	0.00	
Peal Fees	0.00	Ringing World	0.00	
ART	0.00	ART courses	0.00	
Weddings, Receipts	0.00	Steeplekeeping expenses	(200.00)	
Tower Donations	0.00	Comms	0.00	
Other	0.00	Handbell Fund	(120.00)	
Guild week	0.00	CCCBR	(160.00)	
Interest	1.07	SUA	0.00	
		Other	(5.00)	
TOTAL	235.97	TOTAL	(631.00)	(395.03)

Balance Brought Forward	6785.49
Surplus/(Deficit)	(395.03)
Balance carried Forward	6,390.46

St John's Account

Income		Expenditure		Surplus/(Deficit)
Misc	0.00	Misc	0.00	
Interest	0.14			
TOTAL	0.14	TOTAL	0.00	0.14

Balance Brought Forward	918.49
Surplus/(Deficit)	0.14
Balance carried Forward	918.63

Handbell Refurbishment Fund Account

Income		Expenditure		Surplus/(Deficit)
From General Account	120.00	Misc	0.00	
Interest	0.19			
TOTAL	120.19	TOTAL	0.00	120.19

Balance Brought Forward	1,211.49
Surplus/(Deficit)	120.19
Balance carried Forward	1,331.68

End-of-Year Balances

Balances to be carried forward		Total funds in hand	
General Account	6,390.46	Savings Account	5,548.82
St. John's Account	918.63	Current Account	2,865.82
Handbell Refurbishment Fund Account	1,331.68	Petty Cash	226.13
		Pending Cheques	0.00
TOTAL	8,640.77	TOTAL	8,640.77

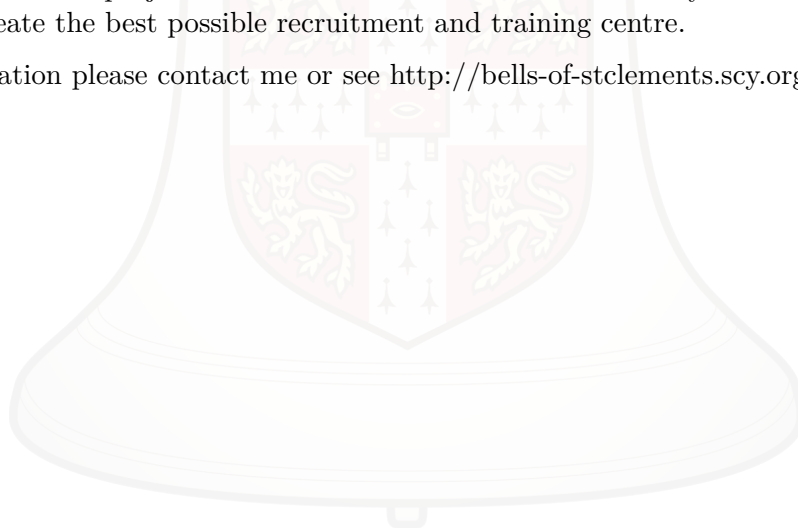
CUGCR
St Clement's

May 15, 2021

The fundraising has been very successful over the last year so that over 90% of the target total has now been raised. That still leaves about £19k to go, but there is enough in the bank or promised to be able to announce that the main elements of the project will go ahead as soon as possible. The bells and fittings will be supplied by Matthew Higby, with the bells cast by Allanson in Italy. Profile design and tuning will be by Ben Kipling who works for Matthew and previously tuned bells for Whitechapel, and the Italian foundry uses the same traditional casting technique. Their bells are considerably cheaper than Taylors'. The frame will be fabricated locally and installed by a volunteer team led by Tom Ridgman. Building work will be by Lodge who have carried out most of the work in GSM's tower in recent decades. Preparatory work in the tower has started, and will gain momentum in August. Lodge will start their work in October, with installation of the frame and bells being programmed for late winter. If there are no delays (i.e. thinking wishfully) the bells will be in place by the next Guild Dinner.

Much of the £226,000 raised so far has been donated by Guild members, a good number of whom are of course also members of the other societies involved, the SCY and EDA. A number of grant applications were made earlier this year several of which were successful. A large donation has also been received from a relative of a member of St Clements' congregation. The PCC and congregation are enthusiastic about the project. Donations and assistance are still very much needed to complete the project and create the best possible recruitment and training centre.

For further information please contact me or see <http://bells-of-stclements.scy.org.uk>.



May 15, 2021

Despite the obvious decrease in opportunities for tower bell ringing this year, the Guild is still doing well. As reported in the Christmas newsletter, over the summer we became more familiar with Ringing Room and online quizzes, both of which we have put to good use since then.

October saw the first virtual Freshers' Fair, where we recruited 24 new learners and 8 existing ringers. We had 3 weeks of very successful handbell practices as well as tower bell ringing at St Bene't's and Great St Mary's, and got to meet some of the new freshers before the lockdown in November. Thanks to Dima Szamozvancev for introducing handbell ringing to our new recruits; it seems like many of them want to have a go at tower bell ringing when we can return to ringing in person again, so hopefully teaching will be fully up and running again in the autumn.

From November to April, we returned to using Ringing Room, and kept in touch with lots of online socials, including a very enjoyable online escape room. Most of the students had very little experience with handbell ringing before this year, so we were pleased to achieve 6 quarters on Dinner Day, with several firsts. Thank you to those of you who came to the online 'Dinner', it went more smoothly than I expected, and I hope everyone enjoyed the evening. Many thanks to everyone who helped organise this, especially to Chris Winkless-Clark, Dave Richards and Jonathan Agg.

Since many of the students are back in Cambridge for Easter term, handbell ringing has restarted in the past few weeks; it's nice to be able to make use of the extensive sets of Guild handbells! In the past weeks we have also started having Ringing Room practices joint with the OUS, and I hope that the links we make with them will continue beyond lockdown.

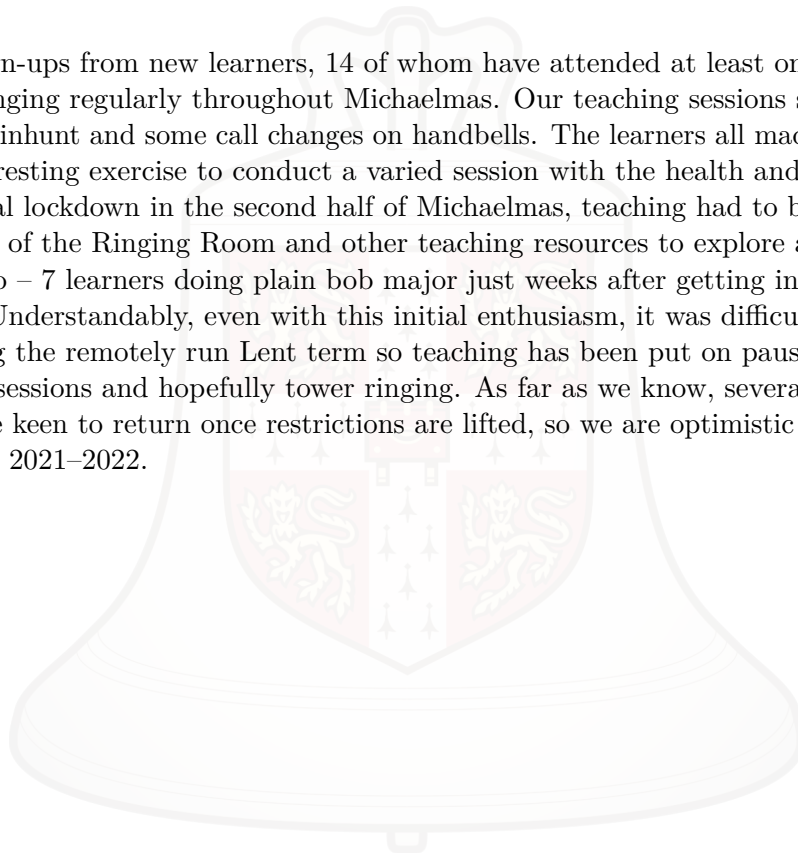
We are now looking forward to restarting tower bell ringing in the next few weeks and plans for picnics and punting are tentatively being suggested for later in the term. Many thanks to all the officers, but especially to Richard Smith for his advice and support through a difficult year. Hopefully, the next year will see the Guild, boosted by our new recruits, return to the towers of Cambridge (and beyond), and I wish the committee the best of luck for the year ahead.

CUGCR
Teaching Officer

May 15, 2021

As every other guild activity, teaching has been impacted significantly this year – nevertheless, we still had some success in recruitment which should be helpful next year as things get back to normal. After some work on our Cambridge SU society page and a recruitment video, we were eager to meet many interested students as part of the Virtual Freshers' Fair running over Zoom. Not many people showed up in the end, but we were excited to see an unexpectedly large number of sign-ups considering that we were just another name in the list of societies rather than the loud and quite prominent feature of in-person Freshers' Fairs before. Especially encouraging were the eight existing ringers who showed interest in joining the Guild, some of whom have become very active members of ringing practices and socials.

We also had 24 sign-ups from new learners, 14 of whom have attended at least one teaching session and 8 who kept ringing regularly throughout Michaelmas. Our teaching sessions started in-person, ringing rounds, plainhunt and some call changes on handbells. The learners all made excellent progress and it was an interesting exercise to conduct a varied session with the health and safety restrictions. During the national lockdown in the second half of Michaelmas, teaching had to be moved online and we made great use of the Ringing Room and other teaching resources to explore advanced plainhunt and even plain bob – 7 learners doing plain bob major just weeks after getting into ringing was an impressive sight. Understandably, even with this initial enthusiasm, it was difficult to maintain the engagement during the remotely run Lent term so teaching has been put on pause until we can get back to in-person sessions and hopefully tower ringing. As far as we know, several learners and existing ringers are keen to return once restrictions are lifted, so we are optimistic about another busy year of teaching in 2021–2022.



CUGCR

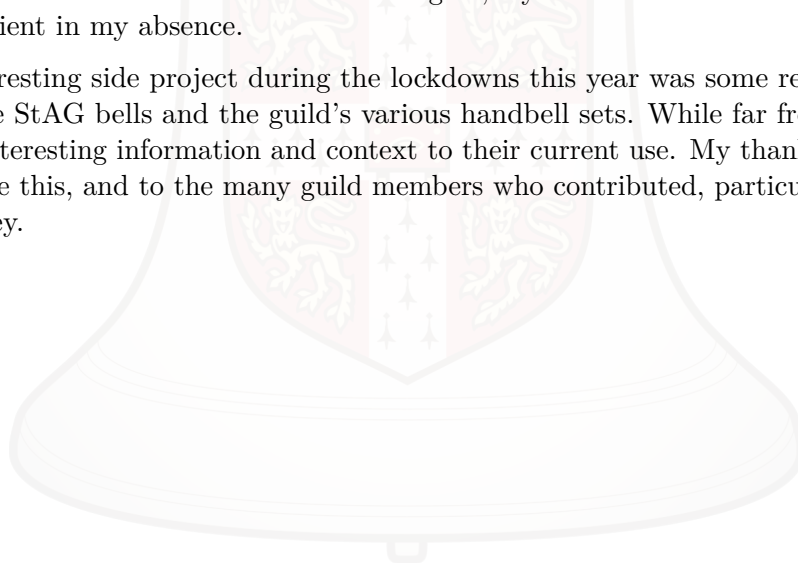
Steeple Keeper

May 15, 2021

This year has been an interesting one from a steeplekeeper's perspective, given that I have not actually been in StAG at all for various reasons. However, that's not to say that nothing has happened. In September, we were able to rehang the ropes which had been sent to have their tail ends repaired last year – my thanks to Phil Gorman for performing these repairs at cost, and to Elizabeth Hopper for helping to rehang them in my absence.

During the repair process, it was noted that there was a not insubstantial amount of wear on the top ends, and that they had a likely remaining lifespan of around five years. This is not unreasonable, as the current set were installed in 1990 and so have already exceeded the average rope lifespan of 25 years by some margin. Due to the long wait time between placing an order for new ropes and them arriving (potentially up to 18 months), it was decided that a new set of ropes should be ordered to have as spares, so that when a breakage does eventually occur it won't disrupt ringing too much. To that end, we applied to the Societies Syndicate for funding, and were granted £800 to go towards the cost of these – my thanks to Greg Chu as Secretary and David Richards as Senior Treasurer, as well as Stella Johnson, the Master, for their help in preparing the application. Guild consensus was that Avon Ropes is the best choice of supplier, despite their slightly higher cost, and so an order has been placed with them for £1608. This is due to arrive in late August, my thanks in advance to David Richards for acting as the recipient in my absence.

An additional interesting side project during the lockdowns this year was some research into the history of both the StAG bells and the guild's various handbell sets. While far from complete, these do provide some interesting information and context to their current use. My thanks to Stella Johnson for helping organise this, and to the many guild members who contributed, particularly Gareth Davies and Oliver Bardsley.



State of the Bells

- StAG - Have not been checked or used since 14/03/2020, but they seemed fine at the time other than the rope issues which have since been resolved. Once I am allowed a second person with me in the bell chamber (i.e. the 17th May checkpoint), I will perform a proper inspection and servicing.
- Handbells – Due to the current circumstances, all five handbell sets (excluding the bicycle bells) have been used at least once this year, with varying levels of regularity.
 - Barnett Bells – Still in excellent condition, thanks to their 2019 restoration. Currently split between various members to make multiple sets of 6.
 - Dinner Touch Set – Also in good condition, also currently split into sets of 6.
 - GSM Set – All in reasonable condition, with the exception of the 8 which has a broken spring. A repair using Araldite® was attempted but proved unsuccessful. The flaw does not really affect usability. Currently used as a complete set for 12/10 bell practices. The case they come in is however inadequate, and broken to boot. A solution akin to the Dinner Touch Set rucksack is currently being investigated, and likely to be implemented over the summer – my thanks to Stella Johnson for sorting this.
 - Big Bruce – All in decent condition, currently used as a complete set for 8 bell practices.
 - Stone Age Bruce – Unringable. The treble is missing a handle, and the tenor is missing a spring. None of the clappers are securely attached, meaning they have issues swinging freely. I do not recommend attempting a repair however, as Bernard Stone during the 2019 Barnett Bells restoration estimated it would take £330 to make them ringable, and that they would never be a good set of bells. Furthermore, the guild is unlikely to ever need to use them, given we managed without in Michaelmas term, where handbell ringing was probably at the most intense the guild is likely to see for a long time. The box is also broken and not fit for purpose anyway, as bells have to be stacked haphazardly on top of each other.