

APPENDIX 2 - Association Responses to Questionnaire

Question 1: What drew you into ringing?

Friends	3
Family	2
Vicar	1
Already involved with the Church	1
Teamwork	1
Sound of the bells	1
Casual Enquiry	1

Question 2: What keeps you in ringing?

- I love it.
- Enjoyment, wish to encourage others to do so.
- Social interaction especially at competitions.
- Regular socialising.
- Social connections and camaraderie.
- The hope that ringing brings people into Church for services.
- Regular ringing for services and competitions.
- Maintain village tradition.
- Maintain typically British piece of heritage in a village setting.
- Continually strive for better striking.
- Competitive challenge (Totnes Deanery Winter League).
- Competitive nature - feeling you get when you win a competition.
- Wish to progress.
- Sound of the bells.
- Ringing at different places and going on tour.

Question 3: If your tower has held an open day, were you pleased with the attendance? If not, have you any idea why it was not successful?

- Regularly invite groups to ringing chamber.
- Tourists (many foreigners) also invited into the tower for explanation about the bells and what ringers do.
- Social evening for interested parties but did not yield any ringers.
- Successful open day - 2 new learners and lots of interest from those who came into the ringing chamber.

Question 4: Any thoughts on how the Guild could help your tower recruit new learners or publicise ringing in general?

Media

- Newspaper articles.
- Regular monthly articles in the Parish Magazine (which has a high circulation) including reporting on visits out to competitions.

Word of Mouth

- Visits to groups such as Rotary and Round Table.

Events

- Formal talk that would appeal to ringers and non-ringers.
- Association social inviting interested parties.
- Running an annual event (different each year) e.g. invite to have a drink and a chat with the ringers - see trophies and certificates - ask that question you always wanted to ask.
- After school handbell club at the primary school - hope to extend to youth club to familiarise children with the organiser.

Publicity

- Getting the point across that it is not an old man's thing which is what young people see it as until they try it.
- Requests are put out from time to time for learners to come forward.
- Advertising - many people are not aware that ringers are required, some believe there to be waiting lists.

Comments

- Our recruitment level is stable and at the right level at present, with more novices than experienced ringers. Providing we can keep them fully engaged, we will continue with a robust call change band. My tower has absolutely no interest in method ringing except for myself.
- Need to take away the stigma attached to ringing and to make ringing COOL to young people - tell people they don't have to attend services. Tell people what fun it can be and what you can get out of it. Competition ringing keeps me interested.
- Friendship.