



Annual Report of The Troyte Ringing Centre

(Registered Charity No. 1179374)



All Saints, Huntsham

2023

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TROYTE RINGING CENTRE

Annual Report of the Trustees for the year ending 31st December 2023

CHARITY DETAILS

CHARITY NAME The Troyte Ringing Centre (often known as the “TRC”) was set up in 2004.

CHARITY REG'D NUMBER The Centre was granted charity status by the Charity Commission in July 2018. Its Registered Charity Number is 1179374.

CONTACT ADDRESS Five Oaks, Bampton, TIVERTON, Devon, EX16 9LE.

CHARITY TRUSTEES	Name	Office Held
	Christopher Bolt	
	Leslie Boyce	Chairman
	Michael Hatchett	
	Jennifer Jones	Secretary
	Sheila Scofield	
	Michael Ward	

ADVISORS	Robert Brown	Principal Conductor
	Michael Spencer	Conductor
	Simon Bartlett	Examiner of Accounts
	Ken Smith	Webmaster

WEBSITE <http://www.troyteringingcentre.org.uk/index.htm>

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

The Troyte Ringing Centre is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and its governing document is the TRC Constitution adopted on 27th July 2018. The members of the TRC are for the time being its trustees. Additional trustees or trustees to fill vacant posts are appointed by the remaining trustees with due regard to the knowledge, skills and experience of the candidates. In particular, appointees must demonstrate their competence in ringing full circle tower bells and in the training and development of appropriate ringing skills.

Management

The TRC operates primarily from St Michael and All Angels Church, Bampton and from All Saints Church, Huntsham in Devon. The Centre has management agreements with the Parochial Church Councils of both churches which provide for access and maintenance arrangements and the respective responsibilities of the TRC and the PCCs. The trustees and other voluntary helpers appointed by the trustees are responsible for the day-to-day management and administration of the Centre. All the trustees and helpers work for the Centre on a voluntary basis without remuneration other than the reimbursement of reasonable expenses.

The Centre has developed a range of management policies covering issues such as health and safety, safeguarding, COVID-security and investment.

Links to other bodies

In addition to the agreements in place with the respective PCCs of Bampton and Huntsham, the Centre cultivates links with the North East Branch of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers and is designated an ART Teaching Hub by the Association of Ringing Teachers. The TRC also has a close relationship with Bampton Church of England Primary School. The running of an after-school bellringing club for its pupils had to be suspended during the COVID pandemic; it is planned to revive the club in 2024.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The TRC sets out its objective in its Constitution, namely:

For the public benefit, to recruit and train bell ringers, using individual and group-based programmes of continuing education and development, in Mid Devon, West Somerset and surrounding areas for the purpose of advancing the art of bell ringing on bells hung in towers for full circle ringing which are audible to the general public.

Note: *This object requires the TRC to operate within three principal fields of activity:*

- *with the general public for the purpose of increasing public knowledge and understanding of tower bell ringing,*
- *within groups of practising bell ringers for the purpose of developing group ringing performances*

- *and with individual bell ringers to enable them to integrate more effectively into existing groups of ringers.*

In attempting to meet this objective the TRC carries out a range of activities, primarily:

- 1) Developing competence in the full circle ringing of tower bells through training, mentoring, focused practices and recorded performances for those living principally, but not exclusively, within the local authority areas of Mid Devon and the western part of Somerset.
- (2) Providing suitably competent bands of ringers to meet the reasonable bellringing needs and interests of the communities of Bampton and Huntsham and those living within the wider geographical areas of interest to the Centre.
- (3) Providing appropriate recruitment information and events for those living principally within the geographical areas of interest to the Centre.
- (4) Using any surplus income not used for meeting objectives 1,2 or 3 for the long-term maintenance and enhancement of the equipment used by the Centre which is owned by others and to support local communities.

Public Benefit

The Trustees are mindful of the guidance given by the Charity Commission in respect of demonstrating public benefit arising from the work of the TRC. In carrying out the activities outlined above the following public benefits are derived:

- Towers within the geographical area of interest are supported to provide information, open events and recruitment activities to explain and foster an understanding of tower bell ringing in the general population. Raising awareness of the heritage and history of bells and tower bell ringing from the mid-16th century is a key component of our public information activities.
- Through helping teachers in local towers or by directly providing tuition, the TRC enables new recruits to bellringing to be taught to control bells safely and effectively, thus sustaining ringing activities in towers that might otherwise fall silent and maintaining the centuries old tradition of ringing bells in England.
- Through providing continuing training in bell ringing, less experienced ringers are supported to maintain and develop their ringing and thus to improve their standard of public performance.
- Through offering readily available practice facilities using well-maintained bell installations, sound control systems and silent practice computer-based training, the TRC is further supporting ringers of all levels of ability. It thereby encourages the retention of ringers and supports ringers to achieve higher standards of public performance, while avoiding excessive disturbance to neighbours from long and frequent periods of open ringing.
- Through raising funds through its activities, the TRC supports its host churches to meet running costs, the costs of day-to-day bell maintenance and the investment needs for the longer-term overhaul of the bell installations.
- Bell ringing is an activity open to people of all ages from 8 to 80 and of all backgrounds. It offers good physical exercise and the opportunity for mental stimulation and social interaction.

CENTRE ACTIVITIES IN 2023

Recruitment, Publicity & Fundraising

Recruitment was a top priority for the year. The “Ring for the King” national recruitment initiative did not produce any direct enquiries, but did set a background climate in which we have recruited three adult learners. Two of these have made good progress and a third hopes to return to ringing after a house move. A fourth adult has also joined the band from another tower.

We retain a set of display boards illustrating the history and practice of bells and ringing. These were heavily used throughout the year, not only on Heritage Open Days in September in Tiverton and Bampton and during fundraising events at Bampton and Tiverton, but also for two major recruitment taster days for W.I. members at Buckfast Abbey. In all 11 bookings were made during the year.

Coffee mornings were held at Bampton in April and October and a cream tea in the Bampton churchyard in June to raise over £1,500 for the Centre. The August Bank Holiday Monday event parachuting teddy bears from Bampton church tower and a tower open event in September for Heritage Open Days generated good public relations for the TRC, though no new recruits.

The funds raised by these events, peal fees and other donations allowed the TRC to support the running costs of the two churches and to make provision in the longer term for major work on the bells.

Service ringing and requested ringing

In normal circumstances the Centre’s band of local ringers performs regularly prior to most Sunday services at Bampton and Huntsham. This is at least four times a month. The TRC band also rings for mid-week church services, weddings and to celebrate anniversaries, other life events and civic occasions when requested. Particularly noteworthy was special ringing for the Coronation of King Charles in May. Local Facebook pages are used to inform the community of ringing for special occasions.

Some of the losses of ringers from the TRC band following the COVID pandemic have now been made good, so there have been very few occasions when it has not been possible to field a band for service ringing. We are getting some good support from our teenage young ringers and the adult learners will begin to ring for services in early 2024.

Group practices and Training Events

Regular Thursday night practices at Bampton have been held throughout the year. It has been possible to expand the repertoire of methods rung at practices in the last year and attendances regularly exceed 12 ringers.

The TRC programme of training events and Extended Practices saw 45 ringers, 29 of whom were from local towers, benefit from these events. Demand for help with raising and lowering in peal remained strong and special extended practices were offered to East Devon,

Cadbury and Broadhembury ringers. A new “teaching assistants’ course” based on the ART Module 1 day course for ringing teachers attracted 8 students and was well received.

Recorded performances – peals and quarter peals

The TRC promotes the value of extended ringing performances as a way of developing the skills of ringers. Ringers throughout the South West are encouraged to participate in weekly peal attempts. A “peal” is a continuous performance of a minimum of 5,000 changes and takes between 2½ - 3 hours to complete. 43 successful peals were recorded in the year.

Details of the peals rung at Huntsham in 2023 can be seen on the TRC website:

<https://troyteringingcentre.org.uk/peals/peals2023.htm>

Similarly, the Centre also hosts regular quarter peal attempts by the local ringers and bands from further afield. 9 successful quarter peal performances were recorded at Huntsham. A “quarter peal” is a continuous performance of a minimum of 1,260 changes and takes about 45 minutes to complete. At Bampton there was one peal rung on Bampton Fair day in October.

Governance

The trustees were able to meet face-to-face on 5 occasions in 2023. The trustees receive regular reports on finance, health and safety, safeguarding and tower maintenance issues. As well as planning and reviewing Centre activities, the group have considered a TRC membership scheme, how the Centre records the outcomes of its training events, how practices are organised and the fees paid to those who ring for weddings.

The new trustees, Mike Ward and Chris Bolt, have settled into their roles well and make a real contribution. We are sad to report the death in October of Pat Hatchett, a former trustee. Pat had served as Tower Secretary since before the start of the ringing centre in 2004, played a significant part in the work to restore Huntsham bells and assisted Mike with teaching many recruits. She also made many a cake and trifle to feed course students and visiting ringers. Her cheery presence will be much missed.

Facilities Maintenance and Improvement

Little major work was undertaken in 2023, but ropes have been taken to a ropemaker for repair and an order for new sets of ropes for both Huntsham and Bampton is being prepared.

Huntsham has two sets of handbells and an opportunity arose to get a handbell restorer to examine these and report on their condition. It is clear that both sets require significant work to make them easily ringable. Trustees took the view that the likely level of their use would not justify the expenditure needed for their restoration at present. Because of their condition their sale would realise little income, so it was decided to place them into secure storage for the moment.

It is clear that the frame in the bell chamber at Bampton will need repainting soon.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Financial Statement for the period 1st January to 31st December 2023 and the Report of the Examiner of Accounts are appended. Financial activities are summarised under three headings: current account, reserve fund and investments.

Current Account

The opening balance in the Centre's HSBC Business Account on 1st January 2023 was £5,259 and the closing balance on 31st December was £7,219. The year therefore ended with a surplus of £2,039. This was £600 more than the closing balance for year ending 31st December 2022.

The total income for the year was £7,506 with the largest contributions coming from peal fees (£1,420), fundraising events (£1,892) and Gifted Aided donations of £1,735. However, total income for the year was just over £300 less than the total for 2022.

The total payments from the current account for the year were £5,466. This sum was about £1,000 less than in 2022. The Centre makes annual payments to Bampton and Huntsham PCCs to cover the use of their bells. It also makes annual contributions to the restricted investments held by each PCC in their Bells Major Works Funds. The major expenditure in 2023, other than those already stated, was for repairs to bell ropes. At the beginning of the year the Centre changed its bell rope supplier from Mendip Ropes to Avon Ropes of Bristol and they have provided new sallies and tail ends to Bampton and Huntsham ropes as required.

Reserve Fund

The Centre holds a COIF Deposit Fund, the purpose of which is to provide an easily accessible monetary reserve to cover normal expenditure should income streams reduce significantly, or the Centre is faced with unexpected expenditure.

On 1st January 2023 the balance in the COIF Deposit Fund was £3,051.84 and at 31st December it was £3,185.57. No transfer of funds from the current account was made during the year. The increase in the balance at the year end was a consequence of increased bank interest rates.

Investment Fund

At the 31st December 2023 the value of the investments held by each PCC was:

St. Michael and All Angels, Bampton	£20,139
All Saints, Huntsham	£12,148

These funds are intended to be used only when a faculty is required for major works to the bells, the bell frames and their fittings.

DECLARATION OF TRUSTEES

This annual report and the accompanying accounts were approved by the Trustees at their meeting held on the 17th day of July, 2024

Signed Leslie Boyce	Chairman
Signed Jenny Jones	Secretary

Troyte Ringing Centre
Financial Statement for period
1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT		General	Huntsham	Bampton	Training	TOTAL 2023	TOTAL 2022
	Note	Unrestricted £	Designated £	Designated £	Designated £	£	£
RECEIPTS							
Use of bells	1		2,035	228		2,263	2,027
Voluntary receipts	2	652	809	1,298	106	2,865	3,225
Fund raising	3		0	1,913		1,913	1,861
Other incoming resources	4		0	31	434	465	709
Total receipts		652	2,844	3,470	540	7,506	7,822
PAYMENTS							
Maintenance & Repairs	5		553	486		1,039	2,013
Fund raising costs	6			58		58	25
Facilities	7		1,700	1,878		3,578	3,700
Training	8				274	274	179
Other outgoing resources	9	555	10	10		575	505
Total payments		555	2,263	2,432	274	5,524	6,422
Surplus (Deficit)		97	581	1,039	266	1,982	1,400
TRANSFERS							
Transfers between funds	10	0	0	0	0	0	
Surplus (Deficit) after transfers		97	581	1,039	266	1,982	1,400
AVAILABLE FUNDS							
Available funds at start of Financial Year	11	2,499	(504)	4,912	1,436	8,343	6,886
Available funds at end of Financial Year		2,596	77	5,950	1,702	10,325	8,343

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES		General	Huntsham	Bampton	Training	TOTAL 2023	TOTAL 2022
	Note	Designated £	Designated £	Designated £	Designated £	£	£
Monetary assets							
Bank current account		2,596	(1,476)	4,397	1,702	7,219	5,378
Cash		0	0	0	0	0	427
Deposit account		0	1,553	1,553	0	3,106	3,014
		2,596	77	5,950	1,702	10,325	8,819
Liabilities							
Cheques not presented		0	0	0	0	0	0
Agency Account	12	0	0	0	0	0	0
		0	0	0	0	0	0

Jack P.W. Ward.

Jack Ward
Accounts Manager

Approved at Trustees Meeting on

Mike Hatchett
Treasurer

Jenny Jones
Secretary

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT	General	Huntsham	Bampton	Training	TOTAL 2023	TOTAL 2022
	Designated £	Designated £	Designated £	Designated £	£	£
1 Use of bells						
Peals		1,390	30		1,420	1,169
Quarter Peals		153	20		173	83
Weddings, funerals and celebrations		450	160		610	775
Visiting Ringers		12			12	0
Branch Practices		30	18		48	0
	0	2,035	228	0	2,263	2,027
2 Voluntary receipts						
Online Giving Ltd	62				62	94
Non-Gift Aided Donations		234	223	21	478	522
Gift Aided Donations		575	1,075	85	1,735	1,920
Income tax recovered (Gift Aid Scheme)	590				590	690
	652	809	1,298	106	2,865	3,225
3 Fund raising						
Trading			21		21	63
Events			1,892		1,892	1,798
	0	0	1,913	0	1,913	1,861
4 Other incoming resources						
Bell Club fees & subscriptions				0	0	30
Training fees				331	331	185
Refreshments				56	56	6
Grants (LPW Scheme)					0	421
Sale of assets					0	2
Transfer from Deposit Account					0	0
Other			31	47	78	66
	0	0	31	434	465	709
5 Maintenance & Repairs						
Maintenance & repairs		553	486		1,039	2,013
New equipment					0	0
	0	553	486	0	1,039	2,013
6 Fund raising costs						
Invoices & reimbursements			58		58	25
Cost of trading					0	0
	0	0	58	0	58	25
7 Facilities						
Use of facilities		700	878		1,578	1,700
Major Works Investment Fund		1,000	1,000		2,000	2,000
	0	1,700	1,878	0	3,578	3,700
8 Training						
Training material				159	159	79
Reimbursements				115	115	100
Other						
	0	0	0	274	274	179
9 Other outgoing resources						
Administration	345				345	446
Other	210	10	10		230	59
	555	10	10	0	575	505

10 The General Fund is used for payments which are not liabilities falling to one of the other funds (e.g. insurance, website costs and governance) and receipts which are not other fund credits (e.g. income from Just Giving) or not attributal to a single fund (e.g. Gift Aid).

11 Monetary Assets (Current Bank Account + Cash + Reserves) less Liabilities

12 Money which passes through the TRC's bank account but which is not part of its income or expenditure. e.g. Collections for other charities.



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Troyte Ringing Centre

On accounts for the year
ended

2023

Charity no
(if any)

1179374

Set out on pages

The attached pages

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent
examiner's statement

~~[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [] if not applicable.~~

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination ~~(other than that disclosed below *)~~ which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

S Bartlett

Date:

21/05/2024

Name:

SIMON BARTLETT

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

/

Address:

12 QUARRYMAN CLOSE
BAMPTON
EX16 9PF

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

A clearly laid out account which should give confidence in the care and accuracy taken in the keeping of these accounts.