



WELSH COLLEGES' SOCIETY OF CHANGE RINGERS



2020 Newsletter

2020 was an unusual year, but the Welsh Colleges' Society, being an unusual bunch of people made the best of it.

The first activity of 2020 was the Master's Tour and Heather took the Society back to Lichfield. Eight quarter peals were scored (although thirteen were attempted which may have been a portent for the rest of the year).

Paul Parker and Rhiannon Meredith organised a wonderful Dinner Tour to North Wales. We met in the pub (remember those) on the Friday night before a tour taking in Ruthin, Mold, Buckley and Northop. The AGM took place in The Clubhouse in Mold and both lunch and beer were provided, making the meeting far more enjoyable than might otherwise have been the case. The Dinner itself was well organised, the food was good, the refreshment plentiful, the dancing better than might be expected considering that for once we weren't being instructed on what to do. Much fun was also had with balloons.



The Dinner Tour

The Society's Easter Tour had been supposed to be in Cardiff. This was of course cancelled owing to the Coronavirus Pandemic, but thanks must be given to Matt and Sarah Greenaway who had put significant effort into arranging the tour before everything stopped.

In the absence of a tour, Rhiannon Meredith organised an excellent Cheese and Wine evening, even providing tasting notes. The evening allowed us all to catch up, with some members from further afield able to join in as they were able to do so from home rather than having to travel hundreds or, in some cases, thousands of miles.



The Cheese and Wine Evening

Also in April, Richard Wolfgang started to arrange a series of Society Practices on Ringing Room which allowed members to learn how to ring virtually and keep up their method knowledge. These practices led to a number of successful Quarter Peals throughout 2020, including the first Surprise Major and first Surprise Royal to be rung 'one ringer per bell' on the platform.



Sarah Parker's Bake Off Entry

Instead of a traditional Summer Cycling Tour, where we all get together and cycle around loads of pubs and churches, this year we all stayed at home and cycled round our local areas, with Virtual Ringing on Ringing Room, a Virtual Bake-Off and other evening activities. A full report can be found here: <http://www.welshcolleges.org.uk/tour.php?t=387>

On 24 October the Welsh Colleges Society held its 170th and, first ever virtual, business meeting. This was preceded by a Ringing Room practice and a successful quarter peal, and followed by an evening social with a game of guess the baby photo being a particular highlight.

During the November lockdown Percy arranged a Whisky tasting evening which gave us a chance to try something new – it was nice to be able to drink Whisky with the Welsh Colleges without having to stand around in a cold church hall kitchen.

Hopefully 2021 will see us mark the end of the restrictions on ringing caused by the Coronavirus pandemic and allow us to safely return to our usual programme of tours. Until then, stay safe, and see you on the internet!

Ainsley Gilbert,
General Secretary

Tours 2021

Virtual Dinner Tour - 26-28 February 2021

Other Tours and Activities to be determined by the Society and Committee.

Society Email Group

We have a new email group, set up by the Webmaster to replace the now defunct Yahoo Group. The new group can be found by going to <http://www.welshcolleges.org.uk/> and then clicking on Email List. Members are encouraged to join the new email group to receive up to date information regarding the Society's activities.

Society Web Site

Visit www.welshcolleges.org.uk for information about Society activities, tour reports, contact details and much more information

Facebook – facebook.com/groups/welshcolleges
Twitter - @welshcolleges

Society Officers and Officials 2020/21

Master	Poppy Wheeler
Deputy Master	Sue Wolfgang
Social Secretaries	Matt Greenaway
	Sarah Greenaway
General Secretary	Ainsley Gilbert
Catering Officers	Emily Vallow
	Heather Griffiths
Mascot Keeper	Evie Greenaway
Webmaster	Stephen Penney
Romance Officer	Alex 'Tiger' Haynes

Correspondence

Please send to the General Secretary, Ainsley Gilbert, at 51 Stowupland Road, Stowmarket, Suffolk, IP14 5AN, mobile is 07891 401 495, generalsecretary@welshcolleges.org.uk;

History in Lockdown (from Chris Ridley)

Given some of us are not getting any younger thought it might be opportune to write up the last decade of the WC history in a similar style to the previous 50 years as prepared in 2010. This email is to ask for good scans of any appropriate/amusing photos we might want to include (eg my copy of the Dordrecht peal band is not great, but that might reflect the previous night's drinking!) - but may ultimately need to apply some editor's discretion to contributions to keep the write up balanced. There are a few corrections to make to the earlier text at the same time - let me know if you are aware of any typos/changes you know about so nothing is missed (I already know of two peal changes required already actioned in the peal book itself). Please send any contributions to ridley199@btinternet.com.

Website Updates

Time spent in lockdown has resulted in a few developments on the website. The Tours section now includes all the reports we have for tours going back to our inaugural year, and a complete list of officers and new members for each year is included. If you see any missing reports, please do contact the Webmaster with any recollections you have from the tour in question. We are always on the lookout for photos of old tours, so please send those in too.

Looking forwards by looking back

I've included a few random photos from past years to remind us all of what we have to look forward to when COVID-19 allows us to.

