Latest 'News from the Guild' – November 2026

Dates for your diary:

- CHANGE OF DATE: Saturday 23rd January 2027: Guild Ringing GatherRing, Service and Tea at Workington (note this has moved to a later date from that previously used)
- Saturday 6th March 2027: Western Branch AGM at Whitehaven
- Tuesday 9th March 2027: Eastern Branch AGM at Penrith
- Saturday 17th April 2027: Guild AGM in the Eastern Branch – Kirkby Stephen and Brough?

EGM and Autumn Ringing Meeting

An EGM and Annual Ringing Meeting was held at All Saints, Orton.
The EGM's main business was to consider and approve changes to the constitution. The revised constitution is available on the website at: https://cumbriabellringing.org.uk/constitution-2026/

Nominations for the 'Pat and Gareth Evans Award'

The committee invites nominations for the 2027 'Pat and Gareth Evans Award'.
Presented annually as a prize at the January Workington Ringing Meeting, the award recognises a Guild member who has made significant and notable progress as a ringer, steeple keeper or tower captain in the 12 months before nomination. Members must be nominated by their own tower. The Guild Committee selects the winner based on evidence of the nominee's progress and commitment. Joint nominations are allowed, but winners cannot be nominated in the following year. Nominations must use the Guild's standard pro-forma and reach the General Secretary before 31st December 2026. The nomination form can be accessed here:
https://cumbriabellringing.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Pat-and-Gareth-Evans-Award.pdf

Handbells available to borrow by Guild members

The Guild have 37 handbells – forming a 3-octave chromatic set of Whitechapel handbells.
These handbells, either in part or in their entirety, can be borrowed on a short-term basis by Guild members for use at appropriate events. Further information about the handbells can be found at: https://cumbriabellringing.org.uk/the-guild/the-guild-handbells/ and includes the policy giving the requirements and responsibilities when borrowing the handbells.

St Mary's, Wigton Open Tower Day, Exhibition and Recruitment Drive

Wigton's ringers held an Open Tower Day on 10th October, with displays in the church and demonstrations of the Borders Mini Bells and handbells. Martin and Mary Snape warmly thank everyone who contributed their time, energy and support to the successful Ringing Room Open Day and Bell Exhibition. The organising group also thanks the Cathedral Ringers for lending the extensive collection on which the exhibition was based.
The interest shown on the day was encouraging, and we are pleased that 10 taster sessions are now being planned.

News from CCCBR:

Join the 2026 Ringing Census! How many bellringers are active today, how often do we ring, and who is taking up ringing? Where are we doing well, and where is more effort needed? Please take the time to contribute and help make the census a success.
https://cumbriabellringing.org.uk/ringing-census-2026/

Census Enumerators are also required

Enumerators will play an important role in helping CCCBR build an accurate picture of ringing across the country.
Each Enumerator will be allocated a small group of towers from the target sample and, after Census Week has ended, will:

- contact the Tower Captain or nominated tower contact
- encourage completion of the Tower Headcount Survey
- answer straightforward questions and provide practical support
- follow up where a return has not been received
- establish and record the status of towers unable to provide a return.

The aim is for every tower in the target sample to be accounted for – whether it is active and completes the survey, has no active band, is currently inactive, or is unable to take part.
This follow-up is particularly important because it will help the CCCBR understand non-response and produce a more reliable estimate of the total number of ringers and active towers.
Most Enumerator activity will take place in the second half of November 2026, after Census Week. Full guidance, templates and an online briefing will be provided.
Enumerator Role Description - There will be a number of briefing sessions for Enumerators to go through what is required and when. You will need to book on to one of them via these links:
Fri 6 Nov at 7.30pm: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1997442452144?aff=oddtdtcreator
Sun 15 Nov at 8pm: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1997442513327?aff=oddtdtcreator

50:50 Club Draw Results

Prizes for August, September and October 2026
Draw at the Guild Meeting, Orton 3rd October

August

£25 Nick Newby
£15 Ruth Gilbert
£10 Tony Ruberry

September

£25 David Batten
£15 Keith Amey
£10 Hilary Pawley

October

£25 Chris Ingham
£15 Hilary Chadwick
£10 Champa Sadler

Your generous support keeps the Bell Restoration Fund ready to help with bell installations and restorations across the Guild. The 50/50 Club always welcomes NEW MEMBERS—why not join? To subscribe, contact the club organiser, Anne East, at aeast65sr@btinternet.com.

Congratulations to…

18/10/26	Aspatria (St Kentigern), Cumbria	1260 Plain Bob Triples
03/10/26	Bampton (St Patrick), Cumbria	1260 Plain Bob Doubles
03/10/26	Bampton (St Patrick), Cumbria	1260 Plain Bob Doubles
29/10/26	Carlisle Cathedral	1320 Lunathyrium Doubles
25/10/26	Carlisle Cathedral	1320 Lunathyrium Doubles
17/10/26	Carlisle Cathedral	1320 Violet Doubles
17/10/26	Carlisle Cathedral	1320 Snowdrop Doubles
27/09/26	Carlisle Cathedral	1320 Miscanthus Doubles
27/09/26	Carlisle Cathedral	1320 Miscanthus Doubles
13/09/26	Carlisle Cathedral	1280 Yorkshire Surprise Major
31/08/26	Carlisle Cathedral	1320 Little Bob Minor
31/08/26	Carlisle Cathedral	1320 April Day Doubles
31/08/26	Carlisle Cathedral	1260 Canterbury Pleasure Bob Triples
09/10/26	Hensingham (St Johns), Cumbria	1260 Plain Bob Doubles
15/09/26	Kirkoswald (St Oswald), Cumbria	1260 Cambridge Two
07/09/26	Shap (St Michael and All Angels), Cumbria	1260 Plain Bob Doubles
11/10/26	Wigton (St Mary), Cumbria	1280 Spliced Surprise Major (6m)
04/10/26	Wigton (St Mary), Cumbria	1320 Miscanthus Doubles
13/09/26	Wigton (St Mary), Cumbria	1320 London Surprise Minor
06/09/26	Wigton (St Mary), Cumbria	1260 Grandsire Triples
02/10/26	Barrow in Furness (St James the Great)	1344 Plain Bob Major
12/09/26	Barrow in Furness (St James the Great)	1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor
24/10/26	Great Urswick (St Mary the Virgin and St Michael)	1260 Plain Bob Minor
01/08/26	Great Urswick (St Mary the Virgin and St Michael)	1260 Plain Bob Doubles

Website name change:

The Guild website is now www.cumbriabellringing.org.uk and mirrors our Facebook Group name of Cumbria Bellringing – if you have any issues accessing either of these – please let us know at guildcomms@gmail.com

The facebook can be accessed at: https://www.facebook.com/groups/479827378371419
It would be great if you have something to post - or want to comment on posts.
It is a means of the Guild contacting members and members being able to contact other members and the Guild – such as requests for ringers for a wedding or last-minute requests for Sunday service ringers… getting help for an Open Day; relating about a special occasion. That kind of thing.