

# Winchester & Portsmouth Diocesan Guild – Isle of Wight District

## FUNDRAISING “TOWER OPEN DAY”

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2024

### Come and enjoy a day out on the beautiful Isle of Wight!

With 20 towers scattered over the lovely countryside, ringing on the Isle of Wight will be a real treat!

- ❖ Refreshments (bacon rolls/lunches/afternoon tea) served throughout the day.
- ❖ All towers manned with local ringers, so ringing can always take place on the full set of bells
- ❖ Prize for anyone who manages to ring at all 20 towers during the day.
- ❖ Rare and fun bells available!

Share the day with non-ringing friends, who can enjoy Carisbrooke Castle, Arreton Barns, Shanklin Old Village & Chine, IoW Pearl, Godshill Model Village, a bit shopping in Newport and Ryde towns, or even a trip to the IoW Stream Railway at Havenstreet and have a ride on the Steam Train.

**This Fundraising Open Day is being held to support the efforts to rehang and augment the bells and Brading. Fundraising to rehang the bells is still ongoing after nearly 12 years.....so if you only support one Tower Open Day this year, please make it this one!**

09:00	Carisbrooke	Po30 1NR	10 bells, 20-1-0		R,T	
09:25	Cowes	Po31 7QU	8 bells,		T	Chiming bells
10:00	Ryde	Po33 3BG	8 bells, 26-2-2		T	Heaviest 8 in the Guild
10:20	Swanmore	Po33 3ED	3 bells, 2cwt			Rare steel bells. Redundant church.
10:40	Brading	Po36 0ED	8 bells, 9-3-19		R,T	
11:00	Arreton	Po30 3AA	6 bells, 8-2-0	GF	T	
11:20	Newchurch	Po36 0NN	6 bells, 7-0-19	GF	T	
11:40	Shanklin	Po37 6AN	8 bells, 18-0-14		R,T	
13:00	Wroxall	Po38 3BN	8 bells, 2-2-21			Chiming bells
13:20	St. Lawrence	Po38 1XJ	8 bells, 2-1-20	GF		Chiming bells
13:40	Whitwell	Po38 2PP	6 bells, 6-1-18	GF	R,T	
14:00	Godshill	Po38 3HY	6 bells, 8-3-7		T	
14:20	Niton	Po38 2BT	6 bells, 9cwt	GF	T	
14:40	Chale	Po38 2HA	6 bells, 8cwt	GF	R,T	
15:05	Shorwell	Po30 3JL	6 bells, 9-0-5	GF		
15:25	Brighstone	Po30 4BB	8 bells, 7-1-15		T	Augmented in 2017
15:45	Brook	Po30 4EP	8 bells,	GF		Tubular bells
16:10	Freshwater	Po40 9BP	6 bells, 16-2-7	GF	T	Heaviest 6 in the Guild
16:40	Rookley	Po38 3NU	12 bells, 10lbs	GF	R,T	Mini ring, hung 2020
17:00	Newport	Po30 1SL	12 bells, 16-1-23			

All towers will be open for one hour from the time shown, with timings strictly adhered to.

All towers will be manned with local ringers to enable ringing on all the bells each time during the hour slot.

(GF = Ground Floor ringing room, R = refreshments, T = toilets)

#### \*\*\*\*\*EARLY BIRD DAY TICKETS\*\*\*\*\*

**£16 in advance**

Available from Marghanita Allen ([bradingbells@hotmail.com](mailto:bradingbells@hotmail.com), 07841903039, 33 Preston Close Ryde Isle of Wight Po33 1DA). Early Bird Day tickets provide access to all 20 open towers.

#### \*\*\*\*\*TICKETS ON THE DAY\*\*\*\*\*

£2 per tower, or DAY TICKETS £18 (available from the Stewards at the first tower)  
?Any changes will be listed/notified on the Guild Website?

# Fundraising Tower Open Day for Brading Bells on the Isle of Wight Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2024

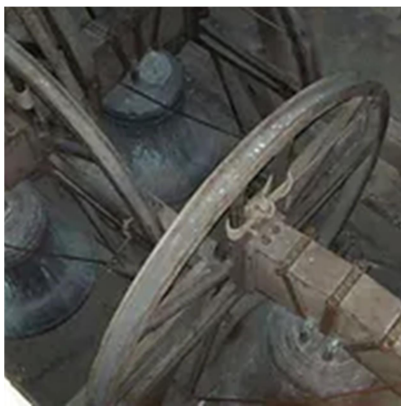


The bells at Brading are by no means unringable but they are becoming increasingly difficult to ring, especially the treble, 2nd, and 3rd. As a result, we are currently fund-raising to have our 8 bells restored and augmented to 10, so they may ring out for many years to come. The work will be done by the John Taylor Bell Foundry in Loughborough. There are several parts to the project, so we'll break it down into separate phases.



## The Bells

Apart from the ball bearings, the rest of the fittings are from 1887 when the bells were augmented to 8. They hang in an oak frame with bells 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7 all swinging north-south and bells 5 and 8 swinging east-west. The frame is on two tiers, with bells 2, 3 and 5 on the top and all others below. All the bells have canons, wooden headstocks, conventional stay, and sliders, baldrick type clappers and cast-in-crown staples. All the bells were tuned (with varying degrees of success) in 1887.



## Restoration

The bells will be retuned and rehung with all brand new fittings and framework. Bells 7 and 8 are listed for preservation so their canons have to be retained. To keep the dynamics of the ring even, all the bells will have their canons retained and have new steel canon retaining headstocks fitted. The bells will also have refurbished wheels and clappers, new pulleys, stays, sliders and a new steel bell frame. Two new bells will be added to create a ring of 10.

## Other Work

We also need other work doing within the tower which includes creating a new intermediate chamber where the current rope guide is, which will have two purposes. Its main function will be that it will house the clock. The clock is currently situated in the ringing room and takes up a lot of the space. Sharing the ringing room with a clock means that the ropes have to fall very close to each other. With the clock in its new position, in the new 'clock room', the ringing room will be freed up to make a comfortable rope circle. It will also make the bells quieter as it will act as a sound deadening chamber.



## Fundraising so far

TO BE ADDED

With this in mind, the Isle of Wight District are organising a Tower Open Day to raise much needed funds to rehang and augment Brading's bells. We'd like to encourage regular "Tower Grabbers" to visit the beautiful Isle of Wight, and also invite anyone who has never enjoyed this unique and fun bell ringing experience to participate! There will be a prize for anyone who manages to ring at all 20 towers during the day, so please find Marghanita at the last tower to claim this.

As many of you who have been involved with fundraising will know the work of a fundraiser is relentless and takes huge amounts of volunteer time. So, if you can support the work of those that have been fundraising at Brading for many years by joining this Open Day, that would be much appreciated!

Please contact me for an advance ticket (book by 17<sup>th</sup> April for guaranteed delivery), turn up on the day, or if you are unable to come but would like to contribute something to this fundraising project, please use the reference "Brading(your surname)" to make a BACS payment to Marghanita Allen (Bank: Nationwide, Sort Code: 070030, Account Number: 60854738)

All monies raised will go to Brading Bell Restoration Fund, including any profits from any refreshments. If you'd like further information about the Open Day, how it works, or suggestions about local accommodation/facilities, please send me an email ([bradingbells@hotmail.com](mailto:bradingbells@hotmail.com)).

We look forward to welcoming you to the Isle of Wight District.