

## REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

I believe it is important to hold this meeting in person. Zoom meetings are very functional and convenient but once a year it is really good to meet up .

Every time we get to entertain an audience with our music, it is a recruitment opportunity.

During each year, we will play for hundreds if not thousands of people. We should be prepared to ask if anyone was interested in playing handbells. Be friendly, smile. Don't rush to pack up and leave. Be prepared to offer flyers or contact information. This not an expensive hobby. New ringers do not have to purchase instruments and HRGB membership fees are just £12 per annum.

Our membership numbers continue to fall so we must look at recruiting new ringers at every opportunity. Remember to tell your face you are enjoying ringing. People need to know we enjoy making music with handbells.

I would like to say a big thank you to Anthony (Treasurer) and Diane (Membership Secretary). Without them the society would quickly grind to a halt.

I am pleased to report that Judy Gees is standing for election to the role of Secretary of HRGB. Judy has been de facto Secretary for most of the last year. I am sure I speak for the other Officers in praising her commitment and organisation skills to keep us all up to date and informed.

Jacky Cooper, in her role as International Liaison Officer, has been busy collecting and distributing information about this year's Japanese Symposium. At time of writing, 28 people are registered to attend the Hamamatsu event. I am sure everyone will have a wonderful time. Her experience will be very useful when it is our turn to host the next symposium in 2026.

John Willis (Mr Fixit) continues to provide huge contribution to the running of HRGB. The rebuilding of the website has proved to be a big project but thanks to good planning and hard work, Good news. Rona Gager has undertaken the role of Young Vibrations editor. We just need to recruit an Editor of Reverberations!?

Laura Buist is leaving her post as Data Controller after the National AGM. This post requires knowledge of ICO and GDPR. We urgently need to find a replacement.

Many thanks to Malcom Wilson and his team, for his work as Social Media Co-ordinator, This function is so important for HRGB, both now and in the future. Social media provides a vital link to a large proportion of the general public.

Regional committees continue to tirelessly plan and organise local events and are the life blood of handbell ringing in UK. We must make sure the events reflect the needs and wishes of the membership. The focus has moved to more smaller events rather than a few large gatherings as ringers are not always willing to travel long distances. This initiative has proved very successful.

Thank you to everyone who contributes to ensure handbell ringing is alive and well.

Best wishes

Keith Rowland