

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD

Important dates in the History of the Guild – Bell Restoration

- 1979 The Bell Repair Fund is reconstituted as the Bell Restoration Fund (BRF) and is registered as a Charity. The first grant (£150) is made towards restoration and augmentation at *Cobham*.
- 1981 *Thames Ditton* and *Ockley* bells rehung, supported by BRF grants of £1,250 and £750 respectively.
- 1985 *Hersham* bells restored with new clappers and pulleys – BRF grant of £500.
- 1985 *Holy Trinity, Guildford*, bells rehung with new bearings, clapper fittings and pulleys – BRF grant of £650.
- 1986 *Puttenham* bells rehung with new bearings and pulleys – BRF grant of £250.
- 1988 *St Nicolas, Guildford*, bells rehung in a new frame and with new fittings and a new ringing room ceiling – the first major project undertaken very largely by Guild members – BRF grant of £5,000.
- 1989 *Weybridge* bells rehung in a new frame and with new fittings, with much work undertaken by Guild members – BRF grant of £5,000.
- 1990 *Ranmore* bells rehung after 25 years of silence, with a new sub-frame and new fittings. This work was funded almost entirely by a BRF grant of £8,500, a grant from the Surrey Association and a great deal of voluntary labour.
- 1992 *Christ Church, Epsom*, bells replaced with a new lighter ring of eight – BRF grant of £7,000.
Hawley bells replaced by the old bells from Christ Church, Epsom, with new fittings – BRF grant of £5,500.
Shere: three bells welded after cracks were identified – BRF grant of £550.
- 1994 *Chertsey* bells restored, including removal of canons and cast-in crown staples and provision of new headstocks – BRF grant of £4,000.
- 1995 *Compton* bells augmented from three to six – BRF grant of £5,000.
- 1996 *Aldershot*: replacement of rotten tower timbers – BRF grant of £5,000.
Witley: replacement of wooden spire supports – BRF grant of £2,500.
Frimley: restoration of the 12-bell carillon – BRF grant of £750.
- 1998 *Dorking* bells replaced with a new ring of ten in a new frame – BRF grant of £10,000.
Farnham bells rehung in a new frame and augmented to ten – BRF grant of £5,000.
- 1999 *Cranleigh* bells rehung with new fittings following major structural work on the tower – BRF grant of £4,000.
- 2000 *Crondall* bells rehung in a new frame with new fittings and augmented to eight – BRF grant of £10,183.

- Witley bells rehung in a new frame, including replacement of bells 1, 2 and 3 with new bells and re-ordering of the ringing room – BRF grant of £10,000.
- 2002 *Worplesdon*: new headstocks fitted to bells 4, 5 and 6 and tenor bearings renewed – BRF grant of £1,500.
- 2003 *Farnborough*: major structural work undertaken to stabilise the wooden tower and the bells rehung in the existing frame – BRF grant of £25,000.
Alfold bells augmented from three to six – BRF grant of £10,000.
Total BRF grants since 1979 exceed £100,000.
- 2004 *Godalming* bell frame stabilised – BRF grant of £2,800.
- 2005 *Pirbright* bells rehung with new bearings, clappers and rope guides – BRF grant of £2,850.
- 2006 *Puttenham* bells retuned and rehung following removal of the old ceiling and insertion of a new sub-frame; two new floors inserted; a new ringing room door provided and the clock mechanism overhauled, with much of the work undertaken by Guild members – BRF grant of £8,000.
Haslemere: clappers overhauled and pulleys replaced – BRF grant of £1,300.
- 2007 *Ashted* bells restored with rebushed clappers, bearings and pulleys – BRF grant of £2,000.
- 2008 *Leatherhead* bells rehung in the existing frame – BRF grant of £4,000.
- 2009 *Godalming* bells rehung in the existing frame with new wheels, clappers and pulleys – BRF grant of £7,000.
Cobham bells refurbished and the rope circle improved – BRF grant of £1,500.
Marrow bells rehung in the existing frame – BRF grant of £2,500.
Guildford Cathedral: bells 10, 11 and 12 rehung, pulleys replaced and a new wooden shafted tenor clapper supplied – BRF grant of £1,785.
- 2010 *Stoke D'Abernon*: a major refurbishment of the installation including the replacement of bells 1, 2 and 3 by new bells – BRF grant of £6,000.
- 2011 *Walton-on-Thames* bells rehung in a new frame, with new structural beams and floors and the clock mechanism restored – BRF grant of £20,000.
Wonersh: bells 1 and 2 rehung and adjustments made to the other bells – BRF grant of £3,500.
Capel: pulleys replaced, bearings and clappers refurbished – BRF grant of £3,600
Banstead bells rehung with new bearings and pulleys – BRF grant of £3,000.
Total BRF grants since 1979 exceed £200,000.
- 2012 *Compton*: pulleys replaced, clappers refurbished and rope circle improved – BRF grant of £1,650.

- Horsell*: new ringing room access created in place of vertical ladder – BRF grant of £2,500.
- St Martin of Tours, Epsom* bells rehung with new or refurbished bearings, pulleys and clappers and two bells quarter-turned: BRF grant of £4,000.
- 2013 *St Nicolas, Guildford* bells rehung with six bells recast and the other four retuned and sound control much improved – largely funded from the legacy of Charles and Lucy Hazelden.
- Worplesdon* bells rehung with some new bearings, wooden headstocks replaced and the cracked 7th welded – BRF grant of £7,500.
- Shalford*: bearings, clappers and pulleys replaced or refurbished and wheels repaired – BRF grant of £3,000.
- 2015 The BRF received a legacy amounting to £185,800 from the late Bridget Gordon, a ringer at Send. A competition was held, open to all towers within the Diocese, with the objective of making substantial grants towards the cost of major projects which might otherwise not proceed. Six towers were selected, with another four in reserve.
- 2017 *Godalming* bells replaced by a new ring of eight with a tenor of 24 cwt – BRF grant of £40,000 from the Bridget Gordon legacy.
- Aldershot* bells rehung on new bearings and with a new rope guide – BRF grant of £3,500.
- 2018 Bramley bells retuned and rehung with new fittings – BRF grant of £25,000 from the Bridget Gordon legacy.
- Ewhurst bells rehung with new fittings and with new bells replacing two 15th century bells – BRF grant of £12,500.
- Send bells refurbished with some new fittings – BRF grant of £10,000 from the Bridget Gordon legacy
- West Clandon: new ringing room ceiling installed to reduce internal sound level – BRF grant of £5,000.
- Guildford, Holy Trinity: replacement of external sound control – BRF grant of £1,500.
- 2019 Yorktown bells replaced by a new ring of eight – BRF grant of £47,000 from the Bridget Gordon legacy.
- 2020 Guildford, St Mary: sub-frame replaced and bells rehung – BRF grant of £13,500.
- Marrow: extra external and internal sound control installed – BRF grant of £3,500.