Bell-notes

The quarterly newsletter for The Chertsey District Issue 36: November 2020

THE DEVELOPER IS **NOW** PROPOSING TO INSTALL A TOKEN FOUNDRY WITHIN A CAFÉ



OUR AIM IS TO KEEP THE ENTIRE SITE MAKING AND CELEBRATING BELLS



GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

President: THE BISHOP OF GUILDFORD

A Message from the Committee~ 30/10/2020

At the time of the August edition of Bell Notes there was (we think) just one tower in the District ringing at Sunday service, but at the Guild Committee meeting on 15th October we reported 8 towers known to be ringing, and there may be more - see inside for details. Over the intervening period most towers have instituted the necessary Covid-secure Safety procedures, so our enforced crash course in epidemiology-by-BBB-broadcast over the lockdown has at least paid off. The Committee had a (Virtual) 2021 Programme Planning meeting at the start of October, which was mostly an exercise in wishful thinking, but we also decided to re-design the Autumn Outing as a virtual outing in Ringing Room. So, on Saturday 17th October thirteen District ringers congregated at the very pleasant bell tower No:971826543, and ably led by John Young we rang rounds, plain hunt, plain bob and more, on up to 10 bells. Virtually heaven! Details of the Annual Nomination meeting (14th November) will be circulated almost simultaneously with these Bell Notes, and we will associate a Ringing Room session with the meeting, by popular demand. Clear this date in your diary!

Again, a big thank-you to Hilary for holding us all to account, and so getting Bell Notes out in time to cheer up the dark evenings.

Willy Burgess, District Secretary

Remember, remember the 5^{th} of November - but how much do you know?

Answers page 20

Short touches from the towers.

Weybridge

We made a return to Sunday morning ringing at the end of July and have rung 3 or 4 bells before the two services each week since.

The most exciting thing that we have managed to ring is Bob Minimus.

Our curate, Reverend Louise Bishop, was ordained on October 10th and presided at the services on Sunday 11th for the first time.

We were very pleased to be able to ring for her, just before we entered Tier 2 covid restrictions and had to suspend all ringing for a second time.

So now we wait and see what the Autumn brings and wonder when we shall be permitted to "Look to..." once again.

Linda Strange

1) Which cake made with brown sugar, ginger, golden syrup or treacle is often eaten on Bonfire Night in parts of the UK?



Chobham

We have not been able to resume ringing in the tower because of the 2 metre distancing.

We are still holding meetings on Zoom every Monday night. We are enjoying having a chat with tower members and ringing methods on Ringingroom.

Chris Hill

2) In England, bonfire night is the 5th of November, but in Northern Ireland bonfires are burnt on the Eleventh night of which month?

Horsell

As we have reported before, no change ringing has been possible at St Mary's during the Covid-19 pandemic due to the limited size and inadequate ventilation of the ringing chamber.

Our honorary Treasurer, Alan Nichols, is the designated ringer for the tower at this time and, unknown to us, he has been keeping a record, to be retained in the tower, of this unusual period in the history of our church.

I thought it might be interesting to share what he has written. The main events he has recorded are tower risk assessment in preparation for the quinquennial inspection, celebrating the 75th anniversary of VJ day, tolling for a ringer's funeral, cancellation of the annual tower dinner and the regular ringing of a single bell each week before Sunday morning 10 am service. This latter serves as a reminder of the past and a promise for the future.

COVID-19

Horsell Tower activity with effect from week commencing Monday, 16th March, 2020.

- In compliance with HM Government, Church of England and CCCBR guidelines, all places of worship have been closed, until further notice (UFN).
- As a result, all Towers are closed UFN, ringing and access to Towers has been curtailed, as have weddings and funerals.
- The last Sunday when normal service ringing took place, was Sunday, 15th March, 2020, after which the building was secured.
- To enable the Church Wardens to comply with, and undertake, the forthcoming Quinquennial Inspection, I was commissioned to carry out a risk assessment covering the entire church tower, the bells and ringing, itself.
- Following a briefing meeting with Mike Couper on the 29th July, this was undertaken, as a matter of urgency, on Wednesday, 5th August, 2020, to enable restricted ringing to take place for the commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of VJ Day, on the 15th August, 2020. My Report was handed to Mike Couper at 10 am on Sunday, 9th August, and subsequently agreed, with thanks. One copy of the report has been posted in the Tower and another, retained with other papers relating to the current year.
- Nationally, there was no ringing for the 75th Anniversary of VE Day but, following the abovementioned Risk Assessment, both at St Mary's and by the CCCBR, I was able to ring the Tenor 75 times, after a 2-minutes' silence and the recitation of a Proclamation created by Bruno Peek. A certificate to this effect is framed in the ringing chamber.

- Although no wedding ringing was possible, a bell was requested for the funeral of a former ringer, Ronald Taylor on the 15th September. I was pleased to fulfil his wish and declined a fee; such ringing is entirely discretionary.
- The next casualty of the lockdown, was the annual tower dinner, scheduled to take place on the 7th April, which is an opportunity for an informal social gathering, including other halves.
- Finally, as I was the sole ringer authorised to enter the tower and ring, as well as being a regular member of the congregation, I have rung the No. 4 bell before the 10 o'clock service, on every Sunday from the 22nd March, 2020, until the lifting of restrictions.

Alan Nichols

Avril Blagbrough

3) In Spain bonfires are lit on June 23rd to celebrate which saint?



Walton-on-Thames

Sadly, there has been no sign of ringing at Walton, mainly because the Vicars have not yet begun actual services other than at 9.00 AM service on Sundays; everything else is on Zoom. Much though our neighbours may have missed us [?????] I don't feel that ringing at 8.45 on a Sunday morning is going to be doing a lot for public relations

I have to admit to feeling deprived but also am getting to the point where I don't know if I am able or indeed wishful to resume ringing. How very miserable!

Today came the news of yet another countrywide lockdown on the near horizon. When that vaccine arrives I am going to be first in the queue

Hilary Brooks

4) Which king was the Gunpowder plot intended to assassinate?

Send

Still no ringing on a Sunday morning at Send as yet. This is actually due to us having 105k worth of work done on all the church and the tower. We had to ring the bells down at the beginning of March so the craftsman could go up through the bells onto the roof. This then was delayed because of the lockdown, with further delays during the year has some of the craftsmen had tested positive!

At this moment in time, I have no idea when ringing might commence but I don't think it will be this side of Christmas?

I'm also struggling with the loss of my dad (Ivan Saunders) who I have rung my whole life with so starting ringing again will be quite a sad and painful thing to do, but we will when all the work has been finished.

Rachel Wilkinson

5) In which year did the plot take place? a) 1605 b) 1655 c) 1705

Egham

We have been ringing at one Sunday service each week since live services started again at St. John's at the beginning of September. The rules allow us to ring either 3 or 4 bells according to whether any ringers are in the same household, so 2,3, 6 and 9 at best. On the plus side, there's been lots of appreciation from the churchgoers, especially at the start. Also we've been augmented again, since the start of University term, by one returning student at Royal Holloway in her second year.

Willy Burgess eghamten@gmail.com

6) What role did Robert Catesby have in the assassination plot?

Esher

It was lovely to start ringing in July even if it was with four rather tuneless bells and our ringing was equally rough; rounds only. We have improved with practise and thanks to Jenny Gordon who took over from me after 2 weeks the band were now ringing well struck rounds and call changes, plain hunt and contemplating Bob Minimus before Boris announced our entrance into Tier 2.

I was knocked over from behind by Molly a beautiful cream coloured lurcher who only weighs 15 kilos and apart from being covered in wet sand twigs etc from the horse ride and loss of dignity I only suffered a badly sprained left knee and ankle but as the hospital said' at your age' it will take up to 8 weeks to heal with total rest. So, no ringing no walking and to use Peter's walker around the house; but I discovered I could walk down the road with the walker faster than the wheels could go round. There were benefits with no ringing as the ringer's came to me for coffee in the garden after Sunday service and I caught up with the gossip etcetera and Esher resumed its competitive cake making spirit - not very good for the waistline but good fun. Ten weeks later I am better and ready to ring BUT there is no ringing now so my creaky back, stiff shoulders and stupid brain (ringing room is not the same) have still not been used but I live in hopes for Christmas. **Jen**

Having had a bit of a moan last time (no bell ringing, no this, no that), I was all for suggesting something more positive this time around.

After all we had managed to open the tower again, albeit four bells only, ignore the fact it sounded a little 'thin' but enjoy the fact that we were simply ringing with friends and for friends within the community. My back was finally getting a good stretch, I was using my brain again (don't mention that to the work boss!) and most importantly it was lovely to feel part of the church community again.

Then came the news that we would have to STOP! Back to square one!!

I keep trying the ringing room but find it difficult to mentally adjust. I have even downloaded Abel but could do with a training session on how to get the best from it..... (there's an idea?!)

Good luck

Ann Battensby

Jennifer Meade



7) Which well known actor who had a prominent role in Game of Thrones is a descendant of Robert Catesby?

East Molesey

Well the good news is that we've rang every Sunday from 26th July ever since the early morning Holy Communion service started here. The sad news is that we can only ring 2 bells, 3 if Tim & Jo ring as they can stand next to each other. I check the CCCBR covid rules every Friday hoping for an update on the 2M rule and a reduction to 1M but this looks increasingly unlikely to happen. We have a ground floor ring, good ventilation and we all wear masks so 2M seems excessively harsh – but rules is rules even if the virus ignores them. Whichever way I measure it's only 2 bells, 3 at most. So we ding-dong or dong-ding, fast or slow and vary the bells each Sunday to shake the dust off each.

We have started to learn handbells – meeting up to 6 of us every Monday at Thames Ditton, thanks to Giles and their handbells. My thought was that we could greet the congregation with a more harmonious sound, ringing outside as they arrive. As we're all beginners our progress has been slow and the weather has since deteriorated so ringing outside is now unlikely. If we use the ringing room the congregation is unlikely to see or hear us; then there's the logistics of fetching the handbells from Thames Ditton. We look forward to ringing them for service at TD once they start to do so – as their ringing space is both visible and audible to the congregation. Meanwhile we continue with Ringing Room practice on Tuesday evenings. We have made progress and the techie problems are fewer but we're unlikely to be ringing quarter peals or peals any time soon.....

Keep well everybody and happy ding-donging A PS to our contribution:-

"Being in tier 2 has put paid to the handbell sessions for the moment sadly and reduced the number of bells we can ring on Sunday to 1 or 2 instead of 2 or 3 Our new vicar Nate is happy and encouraging that we do this to keep ringing alive as he put it"

Jane Marsters

8) Guy Fawkes was born in which English county a) Yorkshire b) Essex c) Oxfordshire

Chertsey

A the beginning of August we were able to start ringing four bells (1,3,4 & 6) on a weekly rota with social distancing compliant with the Covid restrictions following a detailed risk assessment. The bells are rung 9.45-10.15 am prior to the 10.30am streamed service, thus allowing time for the organ to be played or the music group to play, since we cannot hear the bells and ring them properly if other music is being played. Sadly, we cannot allow any beginners to ring since they require close supervision on our difficult bells and that cannot be achieved due to Covid -19 rules. Most of our band ring four or five times over a two month period.

The ringers continue to meet every Wednesday evening via Zoom and also ring bells on-line via the Ringing Room app.

Despite the lockdown we have continued to keep the church clock running with Ron Howell winding it on Sundays and myself winding on Wednesdays.

In addition we have now started to ring the Curfew bell with Peter Whisker ringing it on Monday nights using the 5th bell, Malcolm ringing on Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday using the 4th bell and Bob Hudson on Friday nights using the 2nd bell thus complying with the Covid-19 restrictions.

Although all the architect's plans are completed for a gallery, which will considerable help to ensure that we will be able to sustain a band of ringers in the future, and despite preparing an appeal leaflet the PCC did not agree to the ringers to start fund raising at this time. They took the view was taken that it might compromise the appeal for the other church improvements but since those plans have not been finalised it is understood that no fund raising activities have commenced. So sadly there has been no progress on the ringing gallery.

Malcolm S Loveday, Tower Captain.

9) Was Guy Fawkes a Catholic or a Protestant?



Oatlands

We resumed ringing, after a fashion, on Sunday 19 July when the national lockdown ended. This was after completing the maintenance check, risk assessment and special procedures documentation required by the CCCBR. An outcome of these requirements, responding to the HMG guidance, was that only two ringers were allowed in the tower and the ropes they used had to be at least 2 metres apart. The results were not very musical but the sound was surprisingly well received by the people below who said how good it was to hear the bells again.

From then until 11 October we continued to ring variations on two bells every Sunday (rounds, plain hunt, whole pull plain hunt) until Oatlands was overtaken by the Covid Tier 2 restrictions. Now we are down to just one bell, *no gathering of two or more people allowed indoors*, but we keep going, following encouragement from the Vicar.

Some of us continue as guests of East Molesey on Tuesdays for the Ringing Room practice.

John Burnett

10 The United Kingdom's most famous Bonfire Night festivities are held in which Sussex town? (Hint: the town also hosts the annual Glyndebourne Festival Opera)



Ottershaw

Peter Binns

11. How was Guy Fawkes sentenced to be executed: (a) burning at the stake, (b) hanging, or (c) hanged, drawn and quartered?

Thames Ditton

I came across this cutting today from Private Eye a few months ago, sent to me by a

non- ringing friend.
Shows us what we look like to other people!
We are still working with Molesey and as well as on
Tuesdays, for
Ringing Room, on
Monday practice
nights six of us have joined up to learn to ring handbells.
Thames Ditton is



not yet holding services again on Sunday mornings.

Pamela Rider

12. The first documented use of fireworks in the United Kingdom were for the wedding of which king in 1486?



Old Woking

We're still restricted to 15 minutes every other Sunday and, with social distancing, we're ringing on four or five bells, with some pretty discordant combinations (trying to find a change that sounded pleasant when ringing on 2, 4, 5 and 7 was not straightforward), but it's nice to have the opportunity to get back in the Tower again. All the band have now rung at least once and there are further opportunities on the horizon, with a number of Christmas services planned and even a wedding lined up for December.

Doug Stoneham

13 What was the last name of the brothers Robert and Thomas who were prominent members of the Gunpowder Plot?



Hersham

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14. To commemorate the discovery of the plot, King James had a medal created picturing a snake hiding amongst flowers. In which Shakespeare play does the line "look like the innocent flower, but be the serpent under it" make reference to this?

Ockham

This quarter has seen its Ups and Downs at All Saints, we have managed to ring 3 or 4 bells for several Sunday services, which have been noted and well appreciated by the parish!

Unfortunately at the end of September we heard that Nick Axten a former local ringer, had died. That means the loss now of two Sunday morning Tenor ringers who over many years at Ockham, are now no longer with us. The other being Martin Holmes, the late Sally's husband and father to Jim, who died on the 11th June. Our condolences go out to both families.

We keep going on Thursday evenings at 1945 with Zoom and Ringing Room which is proving very successful and enjoyable by visitors and locals alike! Also successful was the Virtual Tower Outing for the District on Saturday morning 17th Oct. This saw 13 members ringing with fair success a variety of methods in Ringing Room.

If any District member wishes to join us on Thursdays because their own tower is not utilising Ringing Room, then they will be made most welcome, as they would have been if they had visited us at All saints for a normal practice! Feel free to contact me for a link.

Best wishes to Amanda Doyle [Esher] from all at ASO for a speedy recovery from Covid. Keep Safe the rest of you!

John Young



15. What was the name of the English court which tried Fawkes and his fellow conspirators? This court sat at the royal Palace of Westminster, from the late 15th century to the mid-17th century.

A letter from the Guild Master~

As I write some parts of the Chertsey and Leatherhead Districts have been designated as Tier 2, which has virtually curtailed the hesitant steps that were taking place for the return to ringing in affected towers. Even some towers still in Tier 1, but on the border of Tier 2, have had to stop any ringing because members of their band live in Tier 2. This is hugely disappointing to all of us who were actually hoping for a relaxation in the 2m distancing required by the Church of England which had already signalled that they were prepared to consider a reduction to 1.5m provided other measures (such as face coverings) were in place. This is now on hold. The sad fact seems to be that infections are increasing in most areas, and it may well be that more of the Guild will be placed in a higher Tier before the winter is out, making it once again very difficult to keep bands together. Nevertheless, the safety and health of ringers has to be more important than being able to ring, even though there is evidence that the sound of bells has been very welcome in the communities we serve:

I think there is no hiding the fact that some ringers will not return to our towers when this becomes a possibility so recruitment must become a priority activity in future. With this in mind both the Central Council and ART have been working on resources for the successful planning of recruitment and retention, and there is now an excellent suite of articles and other resources available. A new area has been created on the Central Council website at cccbr.org.uk/resources/recruitment-and-retention/. Here you will find a complete downloadable resources pack for running workshops or simply for getting ideas to use in your own area.

One or two towers have reported some success in attracting the interest of non-ringers by posting a link to an excellent explanatory video on a community web site or to a Facebook group and then hosting a gathering on Ringing Room. Hopefully some of those who visit might be persuaded to take up "real" ringing in future.

The video can be found here: https://ringingroom·com/about·

I am delighted to call Kemp Brinson, who made the video, a friend and if you look very carefully at the clip of ringing at Trinity Church, New York, which appears near the beginning of the video, you may just be able to spot the back of my head!

Your Guild Executive Committee, who have been doing business largely by correspondence this year, held their first Zoom meeting last week which enabled us to offer grants from the Bell Restoration Fund to Dunsfold and Guildford Cathedral. The Cathedral have asked White's of Appleton to make sure that their bells are in perfect order for the National Twelve Bell Striking Contest which is due to be held there in July next year. The organising committee are proceeding to gear up for this event in the hope that it will go ahead, and in due course they will be looking for volunteers from within the Guild to help prior to the contest and also on the day. The Twelve Bell is the most splendid ringing event. While other ringers do the difficult bit of ringing the contest touch, those of us who are not gifted 12 bell ringers can enjoy a day of good company, good food and good beer. Do consider helping out if you can, I promise you will not regret it.

Today the sun is shining and the weather has turned warmer even though the clocks go back next week. Just now we have to be thankful for such small gifts. I hope you keep safe and well this winter and I look forward to being able to see you all soon.

Jackie Roberts, Guild Master

Email received from the CCCBR President, Simon Linford

Many towers have already come to the conclusion that ringing needs to be suspended in the Tier 2 (High) and Tier 3 (Very High) regions. This is also the view of the CCCBR and the Church of England. The headline situation for Tier 2 is that



"No

person may participate in a gathering in the Tier 2 area which consists of two or more people and takes place indoors." Tier 3 adds private dwellings to that as well.

The Tier 2 and Tier 3 restrictions published by the UK Government are not guidance – they are law, with enforcement provisions. There is no exemption for Places of Worship although places of worship do remain open. The Church of England's own interpretation of the Permitted Activities in their buildings can be found here. You will see that both Tiers 2 and 3 say of public worship "Permitted as an organised gathering provided any person attending is: alone or part of group all from the same household or from two linked households; and must not join any other group or mingle with any person from another group."

The chances of a policeman entering the tower and deciding on whether or not a band of three or four people is considered to be a 'gathering' or not is of course very slight, but we should still consider the spirit of what is intended. The government clearly wants us to reduce our contact with others to try and get infection levels back down again. The room from which we ring doesn't become safer because it is inside a church building. The Council's view is that we should show leadership in keeping people safe.

Fortunately for many towers, we are now able to move away from the 'one size fits all' approach that has seemed so unjustifiable in the past. Towers in Tier 1 can continue as they are now, and we are working on the guidance that will enable further consideration of setting and personal risk. We will also be able to work on revised risk assessments for towers in Tiers 2 and 3 so that when infection levels fall again and the regions drop back to Tier 1, we can take advantage of what will essentially be pre-approved guidance. Furthermore, we are working with ART on a "Survival and Recovery Toolbox" to help bands recover from this.

You can study the Statutory Instruments and study the Church of England's interpretation thereof, and find ways to convince yourself that your band is not a gathering, that staying 2m apart with face coverings on does not constitute mixing, that if the church is open then it means the tower is open – legislation cannot cover every eventuality or define every term. If you or the rest of your band have a different view, or believe other considerations carry greater weight, at least agree that view with your incumbent and/or churchwardens, who may then share the responsibility with you.

Simon Linford

Jane Marsters of East Molesey drew my attention to the following pages that had been forwarded to her through a link.

I approached the 'Gentle Author' whose work on Spitalfields Life is immense and he gave permission for the article to be reproduced here:

This is such an important petition! Many of us have Whitechapel Bells in our towers and grieve for the loss of such a foundry, whose tradition of bell-founding goes back to the days when Geoffrey Chaucer wrote of it in 1360.

The East End Preservation Society is really struggling against big, big business and money here.

Ed

The front cover is taken from a petition being organised by The East End Preservation Society and Spitalfields Life -

The Battle For The Bell Foundry

SEPTEMBER 28, 2020 by the gentle author

https://spitalfieldslife.com/2020/09/28/the-battle-for-the-bell-foundry/

The Public Inquiry into the future of the **Whitechapel Bell Foundry** commences next week on Tuesday 6th October at 10am. It is to be an online event for all to see, streamed live for ten days, and we hope as many as possible will watch. We are being represented by Rupert Warren QC.

At a Public Inquiry everyone has a right to participate, either in writing or verbally. If you would like to contribute a statement, either on behalf of yourself or your group - whether your community group, your history society or band of bell ringers - you are encouraged to do so. For a link to watch and to request to speak, send an email in advance

to Elizabeth.Humphrey@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

We are delighted to announce that the East End Preservation Society's petition to **SAVE THE WHITECHAPEL BELL FOUNDRY** as a fully working foundry has reached over 27,000 signatures. You can sign it by pasting the link into your browser-

https://www.change.org/p/the-east-end-preservation-society-save-the-whitechapel-bell-foundry

Meanwhile, Raycliff, the sneaky developers who want to convert the bell foundry into a bell-themed boutique hotel, have now launched their own campaign with leaflets and sponsored posts on facebook, inviting people to 'Preserve the Whitechapel Bell Foundry' by supporting their development. Please do not be deceived by this misinformation. Their intention is to reduce bell founding to a sideshow for tourists, making tiny bells in the coffee bar of their hotel, when we all know that cappuccinos and casting are not compatible.

THE 2018 PROPOSAL FROM THE DEVELOPER CONTAINED NO FOUNDRY

You may have received a leaflet through your door from the developer claiming they are preserving the bell foundry. Please do not be fooled, genuine bell-casting and sipping lattes are mutually incompatible.

- The Re-Form Heritage and Factum Foundation proposal will introduce a 21st C bell foundry while preserving the industrial heritage of Whitechapel and the centuries-old tradition of bell-making in the area.
- Fusing technology and history, working with the local community, providing meaningful jobs and attracting visitors will be the aim of the London Bell Foundry if we can convince the inspector not to allow the site to be transformed into yet another boutique-hotel.
- Spitalfields Life, the inspirational blog devoted to life in the East End, and thousands of members of the local community have shown that active support can change opinion. The preservation of skills and cultural heritage must prevail and can be made commercially viable and sustainable.



Re-Form Heritage and Factum Foundation proposal



Spitalfields Life





HOW TO ATTEND

IFTHE INQUIRY REJECTS THE PLANNING APPLICATION,
WE WILL CONTINUE OUR WORK
TO ENSURE THE ENTIRE SITE
CONTINUES MAKING BELLS

Chertsey District contacts -as elected in January 2020

Ringing Master and Chairman: Andy Charnleybeal

Secretary: Willy Burgess 01784 439583 egamten@gmail.com
Treasurer: John Young 01252 319739 igy-young@tiscali.co.uk

Bookstall: under review

Assistant Ringing Master: Peter Binns pjbinns43@gmail.com
Assistant Ringing Master: Peter Whisker peter@whisker.org.uk

Belfry Inspector: Andrew Fisher 01932 829130 andrew@atf.me.uk

Training: Jane Marsters 020 8942 0886 maljan@ic24.net

Newsletter: Hilary Brooks 01932 227088 hilary@greenfinch.plus.com

Quiz answers;

1 Parkin:

2 July:

3 San Juan (Saint John):

4 James 1:

5 a) 1605:

6 Catesby was the Leader

7 Kit Harington:

8 Yorkshire:

9 Catholic; (the plot was an effort to end the persecution of Roman Catholics by the English government)

10 Lewes:

11 (c) Hanged, drawn and quartered (however, he jumped from a ladder while climbing to the gallows and broke his neck)

12 Henry V11

13 Wintour, also spelled Winter:

14 Macbeth:

15 The Star Chamber.

Dates for the diary - like the Terminator - they will be back! - but hopefully more will be online and the committee will pass them on to you as soon as they can.