



The simulator in the Cathedral for the Church Schools' Festival

Introduction

Bells on the Move

This was the name given to the Guild's Application for a grant from the Awards for All Lottery fund. Our bid was successful – we were granted £8600 to put the project into action.

It all started back in 2005 when a set of six dumb bells connected to a computer was installed in a garage at Saxilby. This was designed, engineered and built by David Horrocks with enthusiastic help from Tom Blyth. When David had to sell the house, an idea was mooted that the Guild should buy the ring of 6 and build a portable tower which could then be transported to various events where it could be used to gain publicity for ringing, recruit new ringers and could be used as a teaching tool

Following branch and Guild AGMs, it was agreed we should go ahead with the project, and that money would be sought from various grant making bodies. A lot of form filling followed, but it was worth it when we heard in September 2006 that we had been granted all the money we had applied for from the Awards for All Lottery fund. Following further consultation with David Horrocks he kindly agreed, that rather than build a new portable tower, we should buy the radial frame with its spectacular parasol, which David had engineered for the Ringing Roadshow at Newbury.

The Sixbel simulator was erected in Stow church for use following the Guild striking competition at the AGM. About 70 people tried out the simulator on that day. The following Monday and Tuesday afternoons pupils from the nearby Primary School came to try out the bells, played tunes on bell plates and rang changes on handbells. The afternoon activities were a great success, all pupils had the chance to ring both handstroke and backstroke.

Additionally money was available to purchase a "Wombel" from David, and this has been in action in various parts of the Guild already this year. We were also able to purchase a lap top computer, projector and screen which may be borrowed by people giving talks about bellringing. The final part of the submission was to produce high quality "banners" giving information about ringing. A professional photographer took photos of ringers one Saturday in January at Scotter and Philip Green (Elloe Deaneries Ringing Master and publisher of the Guild Annual Report) produced three different, spectacular banners.