
Update: Guildford Guild of Changeringers' Website

N.Haggett, October 15, 2004

Summary

This document describes recent developments on the Guild Website:

<http://www.unirom.co.uk/guildford-guild/>

and provides a short commentary on my vision of the website's purpose.

Recent Developments

- **Total refurbishment** The website was completely redesigned back in February and is now much more organised. This took a lot of my personal time but I am pleased with the result and enjoyed doing it. Since then a fully functional feedback page has been added. I do not receive many comments. Either the site is great or nobody looks at it!!
- **Photo gallery** New pages added. My aim is to show visitors what our area is like, with the emphasis on ringing of course.
- **Site Map** Every website should have one, but ours did not until recently.
- **Guild Shop** The Guild clothing and coasters have been put on the shop page.
- **Ringing Roadshow** A notice has gone up linking to the website for next years event.

- **Events** (when sent). This section is not much use unless it is regularly updated — in fact it could look silly. Now that some Districts have their own ‘usenet groups’ maybe the monthly events are a bit pointless?

Note: alternatively if the moderators for those groups could add me I could monitor for new events myself.

Comments

I think the importance of the site as a tool for furthering the Guild’s purposes should not be exaggerated. The website is really just an on-line repository of documents and news about the Guild, and is probably of most use to potential visitors from outside the area, or former residents who like to remain in touch.

In general people (especially most bellringers) don’t constantly check websites for the latest information; this makes it less than ideal as a medium for advertising events. At the same time, it is a very *good* medium for immediate publishing and I am very happy to do that. The more notices I am sent, the more *useful* and *used* it is likely to be.

In some ways the website could be seen as a showcase to the Guild, but the Guild is more about people and ringing, and the website is simply a series of documents about that. It is a resource available for all ringers worldwide to browse.

All suggestions gratefully received! How about a quarterly “*News from the Guild Master*” or something?