

Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers

Newbury Branch

Minutes

of

Annual General Meeting

held at

Yattendon Village Hall

on Saturday 5 March 2022 at 11.15 am

Present

a) Guild Members: Stuart Gibson (Guild Treasurer), Martin Rice (Chairman) Tony Smith (Treasurer), Mike Hopkins Till (Surprise Practice Ringing Master), Chris Maslen (200 Club Organiser), Lucy Hopkins Till (Training Officer) (Part Time), Marcus Allum, Tessa Allum, Nick Annetts, Philip Bickford Smith, David Bebbington, Deb Bebbington, Rosemary Evans, Cath Fittell, Graham Green, John Kape, John Manley, Richard Marshall, Chris Maslen, Chris Pack, Roy Pratley, Helen Pratt, George Rabbitts, Sue Rice, David Thorpe and Maureen Velvick.

b) Non Guild Member: David Pawley (Organist today)

1. Welcome

Martin welcomed Stuart Gibson (Guild Treasurer) and all those present to the meeting.

2. Act of Remembrance

Silence was observed for those who died in 2021:

Reg Allum (Beenham), Janet Easterling (East Garston), William Butler (Thatcham) and Fred Simmons (Compton)

3. Apologies for Absence

a) Guild Members: Frances Allison, Mark Backhouse, Rachel Backhouse, Rod Brown, John Hibbert, Katie Lane, Adrian Moon, Mark Robins and Sue Smith

b) Non Guild Member: Julia Deady

4. Minutes of the 2021 AGM

Taken as read.

Proposed by Richard Marshall

Seconded by Marcus Allum

5. Matters Arising

Martin noted that the venue for the AGM today had changed from Bucklebury to Yattendon.

6. Officers' Reports

a) Chairman

Martin reported that all towers that were ringing pre Covid were now ringing again, although the start date at individual towers had varied. The first Branch Practice had resumed at Hampstead Norreys in September. Further Branch practices have been at ground floor sixes. The Marshall Shield was awarded to Hampstead Norreys, with particular thanks to John & Sheila Craig who had played a significant role in the rehangings of the bells.

b) Midweek Ringing Master

Sue Smith's Report was read to the meeting by Martin.

The Midweek Group reconvened in September following the lengthy covid restrictions and rang at Hannington. This tower was selected because it is a ground floor ring, in the corner of the Church with plenty of room for people to spread out and with two large doors which opened into the Church. The Church and The Vine proved to be a very popular venue and the largest number ever, twenty four people attended.

In October we visited Pangbourne, another ground floor ring. We enjoyed ringing on the complete ring of Rudhall bells. We had lunch at the Red Lion in Upper Basildon.

The November outing was at Checkendon, over the River Thames in Oxfordshire. The bells are rung from a balcony and there are many old murals in the Church. We lunched at the Red Lion, Stoke Row.

We shall be starting ringing again on 16 March and hoping that we can have significantly more outings this year.

Martin sent the best wishes of the meeting to Sue.

c) Surprise Practice Ringing Master

Mike Hopkins Till reported that not much has happened. Friday evenings are difficult for him. A Saturday practice at Whitchurch had been arranged and only four ringers turned up. (continued)

6. continued

d) Branch Practice Ringing Master

Martin Rice reported that Branch Practices had restarted as noted in his Chairman's Report.

e) Secretary

Martin reported that Mark had said that he had submitted to the Guild Report Secretary the information required for the 2021 ODG Report.

Martin thanked Mark for all that he does as Secretary.

f) Treasurer

Tony Smith reported that the Accounts for Year Ending 31 December had been issued prior to the meeting and asked if there were any questions. There were none. A copy of the Accounts was handed to Stuart Gibson. A copy is attached to the Minutes.

Tony read his Report to the meeting. (copy attached)

Tony proposed that:

We create a new position of Assistant Treasurer, appoint Rosemary Evans to this position, open a Bank Account with Natwest and then close our HSBC Accounts.

This was seconded by John Manley and approved by those present.

g) 200 Club Organiser

Chris Maslen issued copies of the Accounts and read his report to the meeting. Copy attached to the Minutes.

He proposed that £200.00 should be donated to the Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund. This was seconded by Cath Fittell and approved by the Meeting.

Mike HopkinsTill, and confirmed by Maureen Velvick, noted that when the 200 Club was set up, 50% of the takings were for prizes and 50% to be donated to the OD Bell Fund and that this was not happening.

It was agreed to review the prize structure at the next Officers' Meeting.

h) Training Officer

Lucy Hopkins Till reported that at the September Branch Practice she had asked if anyone required any help with Training. Although she thought she had had no response, Marcus Allum said he had. They were to discuss the requirement outside the Meeting. (continued)

6. h) continued

Lucy reminded everyone that she is happy to arrange specific training requirements as necessary.

i) Newsletter Editor

Martin reported on behalf of Mark Robins. A Newsletter had been issued prior to Christmas. Mark asked for articles to be submitted with photos for the next edition.

Martin noted that Mark does a good job, which was echoed by those present.

j) Guild Representatives Martin Rice & Lucy Hopkins Till

Martin reported that he had attended a Guild Zoom Meeting at which it was proposed that each Guild Member should pay their subscription individually to the Guild Treasurer. Martin and others had opposed this and the proposal was dropped.

Lucy reported that she had not had a reply from Katie Lane regarding the concerns raised about Guild Membership records. Martin said that he had had a reply which Lucy had seen. Lucy said she is still expecting a reply.

Stuart Gibson explained that post 1980 Membership Records are kept electronically and therefore easily accessible. However pre 1980 the Membership Records are held on paper and therefore not easily accessible.

Stuart confirmed that the records do exist and that there is no problem with Members Insurance. Martin & Lucy did not appear to be satisfied.

Tony Smith reported that he had given Mark Robins names of members, provided to him by his predecessor Rebecca, to be included in the 2021 Guild Report. Tony confirmed that he already has a list of (Newbury Branch) members who have paid 2022 subscriptions, which he will in January 2023 provide to Mark for the 2022 Report.

Stuart advised that there was an ongoing review into Membership Records which had not yet been completed.

7. Election of Officers

The following were elected en bloc, proposed by Dave Thorpe, seconded by Richard Marshall and approved by the meeting:

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| a) Chairman | Martin Rice | |
| b) Vice Chairman | Vacant | |
| c) Midweek Ringing Master | Sue Smith | (continued) |

11. continued

[Afternote The quotation dated 10 February 2022 states that the cost to host the Branch Website from 27 April 2022 to 26 April 2023 is £93.00]

12. 2023 AGM

It was decided that the 2023 AGM would be held in the afternoon on Saturday 24 March and that Bucklebury would be asked to host it.

13. A vote of thanks was made to:

Revd. Wayne Lautenbach for taking the service and his interesting address
David Pauley for playing the organ
Marcus Allum for making the arrangements
Tessa Allum for reading Psalm 150
Sue Rice for providing the cakes

14. Any other Business

a) Six Bell Striking Competition

Martin reported that the Guild Six Bell Competition on Saturday 10 October is to be hosted by the Newbury Branch. Martin proposed that this should be held at Shaw, details to be finalised by the Officers.

There was a discussion regarding how to select a Tower to represent the Newbury Branch. Tony Smith proposed that we should hold a Branch Striking Competition, which was seconded by Dave Thorpe and approved by a majority of the members present.

It was provisionally agreed that this would be at Beenham and include a barbecue. Details to be finalised by the officers.

b) Branch Ringing Week

Martin reported on behalf of Mark Robins who had organised the event.

43 ringers took part.
7 quarter peals were rung at
Bucklebury
Hungerford
Lambourn
Midgham
Newbury (2)
Thatcham

540 Grandsire Doubles at Speen

A donation of £30.00 was sent to the Ringing World by the Branch

(continued)

14. continued

c) East Garston

Maureen Velvick reminded the meeting that she was undertaking a sponsored walk on Saturday 9 April for their Bell Fund and that she welcomed sponsorship or anyone who wished to join her.

The bells are being removed on Saturday 16 May and they are seeking volunteer labour to assist.

d) Geoff Dodd Peal Board

Lucy Hopkins Till reminded the meeting that a peal board commemorating the life of Geoff Dodd will be dedicated during the service at Highclere at 11.00 am on Sunday 20 March. Ringing before and after the service. Names to Lucy for catering numbers.

The Meeting closed at 12.45 pm

Distribution

Newbury Branch Members
Stuart Gibson
Katie Lane

ADS 07. 03. 22