

**Annual General Meeting of the Oxford City branch of the Oxford Diocesan
Guild of Church Bell Ringers**

Held on Saturday 18th November 2017 at

St Peter's Church Wolvercote 3.30pm

26 members of the branch attended the meeting, and we were also joined by Hilarie Rogers, Guild Ringing Master.

Simon Edwards thanked the Wolvercote ringers for the wonderful tea and for the use of the tower bells and dumb bell beforehand.

Apologies

These were received from – Katie Lane, Mary Carroll, Simon and Susan King, Margaret Craig, Mary Bayliss, Wendy Austin, Tony Crabtree, Katy Routh, Claire Malone-Lee.

Matters Arising: None.

Election of New Members:

Benjamin Poole Marston – proposed Hugh Deam, seconded Andrew Freer

Derek Nesbitt Kidlington – proposed Ron Burgess, Seconded Jane Burgess

Alan Bainbridge and Elizabeth Mullett Iffley – proposed Hugh Deam, seconded Anthony Hughes

David Benny, Julie Goldsmith, Catherine Billimore - Proposed Peter Bayliss, Seconded Jenny Stonnard.

Presentation of Certificates:

Certificates were presented to new members who had been elected at the half yearly meeting in May by Hilarie Rogers.

Reports from Officers

Ringing Master's report: Andrew Freer reported that there had been a variable turnout at the Branch practices, ranging from over 20 to only six. There had also been low attendance at the Ringing Up and Down training, although the feedback had been very positive. He asked if the times of the practices should remain as they are. The general feeling is that the late afternoon practices are good in summer but not so good in winter. Andrew said he would be keen to hear from members if they wanted to try quarter peals or peals and was also open to training suggestions. Please contact him.

Treasurers Report: Dorothy Hall reported that the money for Stanton St John is still being held, and she is waiting to hear from them when they need it. There has been very little expenditure this year, and the subscriptions and outgoings have remained very similar. The detail will be available at the Finance meeting in February. A question was raised over the subscription rate for next year. This will be decided at next week's Guild meeting, and Lindsay Powell will email all towers.

Election of Officers

Chairman – Simon Edwards was willing to stand again, there were no other nominations. Dorothy Hall Proposed, Rosanna Cretney seconded, and he was duly elected.

Secretary – Lindsay Powell was willing to stand again. There were no other nominations. Claire Fairbairn proposed and Rosie Cretney seconded and she was duly elected.

Treasurer – Dorothy Hall was willing to stand again. There were no other nominations. Lindsay Powell proposed, Paul Lucas seconded and she was duly elected.

Vice Chair – Paul Lucas was willing to stand again and there were no other nominations. Ron Burgess proposed, Andrew Freer seconded and he was duly elected.

Ringing Master: Andrew Freer was willing to stand again. Paul Lucas proposed Lindsay Powell Seconded and he was duly elected.

Branch Representatives - Rosie Cretney agreed to stand again. She was proposed by Lindsay Powell and seconded by Simon Edwards, and duly elected.

There were no nominations for the second post which will remain vacant.

Independent examiner: Katherine Stonham was willing to stand again, there were no other nominations. Proposed by Simon Edwards and seconded by Lindsay Powell. She was duly elected.

Any other Business –

Hugh Deam brought up fundraising. He gave the treasurer the money he had raised over the year, and said that the price of aluminium has now dropped to a point where it is not worth collecting. Any brass, lead, computer boards or zinc is fetching a good price however. Simon Edwards thanked Hugh for his fundraising efforts.

Katie Lane brought up Safeguarding. As the Guild safeguarding officer, she has been working closely with the Diocese to find a workable way of ensuring there are good safeguarding procedures across the Guild. Katie has produced a form for towers to complete, answering a few questions on the proposal to have a safeguarding officer in every tower, who should always be present when there are young people or vulnerable adults.

Please complete and return to her, as they will form the basis of future discussions with the Diocesan Committee on this issue.

Cuddesdon Bells – Katie Lane has spoken with their fundraising team, and wanted to ask for a donation on their behalf. It was agreed that the branch would provide £500 now and discuss further at the half yearly meeting. Proposed by Katie Lane and seconded by Hugh Deam.

Anthony Hughes asked if there had been any progress at Stanton St John. We have not had a recent update from them.

Andrew Freer said he would be keen to help any members with quarter peals if they wanted – either first quarters or in a method which it might be difficult to get a band for in your own tower. Please let Andrew know.

Branch Practices – the timing of these was discussed, and it was agreed that where possible we should aim for mornings in the winter and evenings in the summer.

The meeting closed at 4.35pm