

Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers

Oxford City branch AGM minutes

The meeting was held on Saturday 17th November 2018 at St Mary's Church

Wheatley, at 4.30pm.

Simon Edwards chaired the meeting. He opened by thanking the Wheatley ringers for the very good tea they had provided for us. There were 21 members in attendance.

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** Apologies were received from: Stuart Gibson, Claire Malone-Lee, Mary Bayliss, Paul Lucas, Dana Josephson, Elizabeth Mullett, Wendy Austin, Annika Everett, Emma Stanford, Tony Crabtree, Nora Tarczy-Novak, Rachel Woodforde, Lesley Smith and a group apology from the ringers at Iffley who have a wedding this afternoon.
- 2. Minutes of the Half Yearly meeting:** These were approved and a copy signed by the chair.
- 3. Matters arising:** There were no matters arising.
- 4. Election of New Members:**

Vera Pockley – Kidlington proposed by Ron Burgess, seconded by Hugh Deam

Marion West, Lynda Ware, Lorna Robertson, Susan Palmer, Richard Palmer, Paul Sellar, - Cuddesdon proposed by Brian Lowe, seconded by Lindsay Powell.

All the above were elected to the Branch. Brian Lowe said the new Cuddesdon ringers were now ringing for Sunday services and there was general agreement that it was wonderful to have a new band to welcome into the branch.

- 5. Presentation of Certificates:** This has been deferred as the Secretary has been unable to contact the membership secretary. Certificates will be forwarded to towers to pass to their new members. The secretary will liaise with Katie Lane, the Guild Master as there is an issue with using the email addresses through the guild website.
- 6. Reports from Officers:**

Ringling Master: Andrew Freer reported that the outing had been a success, with City Branch and Old North Berks branch members attending. There has been a slight

decline in attendance at Branch practices, so he encouraged more members to attend these. The City Branch was not represented in the eight or ten bell competitions this year as Andrew was moving house, so he apologised for this.

Treasurer: Dorothy Hall reported that there had been little movement. The income has been from subs and the raffle, and outgoings to the Guild bell restoration fund and the training fund. The striking competition cup has also been engraved, and there was a broken stay on an outing. Money is still set aside for Stanton St John and Cuddesdon, leaving us with a balance of £1,794.13. There were no questions on the accounts, and a finance meeting will take place in February.

7. Election of Officers:

No nominations were received for any of the positions, and all officers were prepared to stand again. Lindsay Powell said this would be her last year as Branch Secretary as she was taking on the organisation of the Radley course, and time would not permit her to do both. It is therefore important that the members think about a replacement, to enable a smooth handover. If you are interested, please let Lindsay know.

The following elections were endorsed by the members present:

Simon Edwards (Chair) proposed Lindsay Powell, Seconded Katie Lane
Lindsay Powell (Secretary) proposed Dorothy Hall, Seconded Rosanna Cretney
Paul Lucas (Vice-Chair) proposed Simon Edwards, seconded Ron Burgess
Dorothy Hall (Treasurer) Proposed Lindsay Powell, seconded Ron Burgess
Andrew Freer (Ringing Master) Proposed Colin Taylor, seconded Hugh Deam
Katherine Stonham (Auditor) Proposed Andrew Freer, seconded Lindsay Powell
Rosanna Cretney (Branch Representative) Proposed Lindsay Powell, seconded Simon Edwards. No one was prepared to stand for the second Branch Representative role. Lindsay Powell said if it was still vacant in a year's time; she would be prepared to take it on when she stood down as Branch Secretary.

- 8. Guild Annual Report and Data Protection:** Following on from the general discussions at the half yearly meeting, Lindsay Powell said that in January each year she has to submit a report to the Guild to go into the Guild annual report. This includes a list of the names of all members of each tower. She has produced a form for tower captains to complete to ensure all members consent to having their names published. If they do not, she will just submit initials. Katie Lane said that all tower correspondents would need to have their details published. This was agreed, or they would not be able to fulfil their roles. Lindsay will circulate the form to all towers, and will need them completed and returned by mid January.

9. Any Other Business:

Anthony Hughes said he had had the cup engraved after Marston won it. This was presented to Hugh Deam as the captain of the winning team.

Newsletter – Paul Lucas has decided that he will no longer continue as Editor. He has been finding it increasingly difficult to get submissions from people and was spending too much time having to chase people for copy. If someone else wants to take it on, he is more than happy to provide support to them. Claire pointed out that the last issue had been in July, and only three people had asked Paul what had happened to it, so he feels it has run its course in the current format. Lindsay Powell suggested that everyone should take some time to think about it, and as there was a relatively low turnout at this meeting, it should be an agenda item at the half yearly meeting. This was agreed. Simon Edwards proposed a vote of thanks to Paul Lucas for all of his hard work on it over the years. This was agreed.

Guild Committee meeting next week: Katie Lane said the Guild is currently working on a report on how to move the Guild forward, and this will be circulated soon. There is also a lot of work being done to sort out the Guild website. The first version of the new website has proven unworkable, and Katie has been pushing the second version forward. She will keep everyone informed. Rosanna Cretney asked if there was anything anyone wanted raising at the Guild meeting. There wasn't.

Stanton St John – Ron Burgess asked what progress was being made. It was reported that work is proceeding, but we do not have information on when the work will be completed. Once this is known, it will be forwarded to all towers. There was also a question about Beckley, but Katie Lane said there had been no movement on this.

Remembrance ringing: John Pusey said it might be nice if all towers with a representative present said what they had done for Remembrance ringing. St Giles rang for the Open-Air morning service, and at lunchtime and before and after the evening service. Horspath rang half muffled in the morning before the unveiling of the new War Memorial, Garsington rang at lunchtime, Cuddesdon rang in the evening, Wheatley rang in the morning and at lunchtime half muffled, and open in the evening. Kidlington rang half muffled in the morning and open in the evening, and had a bugle player before the evening ringing. Marston rang a quarter peal, as did Headington and there was a quarter peal on the day before at Cowley as well as ringing open on the Sunday evening. St Aldates rang half muffled. Lindsay Powell said she would ask all towers to submit details of their ringing to her so the information could be included in the next guild report. Katie Lane said that 133 ringers from the Oxford Diocesan Guild were killed in WW1. Ron Burgess said that

one local ringer, Raymond Judge is on the Kidlington War Memorial, and a course of grandsire triples was rung and dedicated to him.

There was no other business and the meeting closed at 5.15.