

Oxford City Branch AGM

13 February 2021 at 3pm via zoom meeting

The meeting was chaired by Simon Edwards

Present: Claire Fairbairn, Craig Robertson, Steve Everett, Annika Everett, Wendy Austen, Colin Taylor, Lindsay Powell, Dorothy Hall, Paul Lucas, Geraint Jones, Sara Jones, Rachel Croft, John Pusey, Jamie Brown, David Barrington, Elizabeth Mullett, Simon Edwards, Mary Bayliss, Hazel Rothera, Peter Bayliss, Catherine Lane, Gillie Ruscombe-King, Tony Crabtree

Apologies: Philip Armstrong, Toby Armstrong, Katy Routh, Tertia Softley

Mary Bayliss led the meeting in a prayer before the meeting began.

Matters Arising: None

Election of new members: William Godfrey was elected to the branch (Iffley tower). Proposed by Elizabeth Mullett and seconded by Craig Robertson

Reports from Officers:

Treasurer – Dorothy Hall reported on the City branch finances and provided accounts for viewing via the zoom share facility. There were no questions about the accounts. She also said that the subs this year would consist of £5 (guild contribution) and between £1 and £4 to the branch – the final £1 of this is the voluntary contribution to the bell fund. Several towers reported that their members had agreed to pay the usual full £9. Subs can be paid to Dorothy by cheque or by internet banking. The bank details were circulated for those who needed them.

Internet banking - Dorothy is in the process of setting this up. In order to proceed, the following wording needs to be accepted by the meeting:

It was resolved at a meeting of the Oxford City Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers held on 13th February 2021 that an individual be nominated as Primary User for the purposes of HSBC UK Business Internet Banking. It was acknowledged and agreed the Primary User would have full access and authority over the HSBC UK bank accounts, authority to appoint Additional Users, no restriction on what they can do using HSBC UK Business Internet Banking, as appropriate.

For example, they can ask and apply for credit cards, overdrafts and loans; make payments into and out of HSBC UK bank accounts, increase/decrease cardholder limits. The meeting was reminded that full details of what the Primary User can do are set out in the HSBC UK Business Banking Terms and Conditions and the Business Internet Banking Additional Conditions.

It was agreed that the Branch was happy for Dorothy to proceed.

Simon Edwards is also a signatory of the account. More signatories can be added. If a longer term branch secretary is found they could be added.

Branch Representative report: Lindsay Powell said there had been lots of work going on at Guild level to work out what support may be needed by branches when we return to ringing. The Guild website is being updated and there are lots of links to resources and webinars there. Lindsay handed over to the Guild Master Katie Lane to give more detail of what is being planned. Katie said there is a big piece of work being carried out between the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers and the Association of Ringing Teachers to produce a recovery toolbox. The Guild Steward will be circulating this and other relevant information via branch secretaries. A series of meetings have been set up between the Guild and representatives of Branches to understand what support branches and towers may need. There is ongoing work to identify Recovery Champions within branches. Please watch your emails closely and have a look at the ODG website resources. There are some concerns that some churches may not re-open. Nothing is known for sure yet, but online services have proved popular. This could affect some churches with bells and the situation is being monitored. It's useful to stay in touch with the local clergy and PCCs in case any of our churches are at risk, and involve the Guild at an early stage.

Election of Officers:

Chair: Simon Edwards was willing to stand again and there were no other nominations. Proposed Lindsay Powell, Seconded Steve Everett and duly elected.

Vice-Chair: Paul Lucas was willing to stand again and there were no other nominations. Proposed Simon Edwards and seconded Wendy Austin and duly elected.

Branch Secretary: This post is now vacant. There were no volunteers so Lindsay Powell said she would volunteer to take the role on temporarily. Proposed by Dorothy Hall, seconded Simon Edwards and duly elected. Rachel Croft said she may be able to take the role on going forward. Lindsay and Rachel to arrange a virtual meeting to discuss further.

Treasurer: Dorothy Hall was willing to stand again. There were no other nominations. Proposed Craig Robertson, seconded Lindsay Powell and duly elected.

Ringling Master: This post has been vacant. Steve Everett said he was prepared to take the role on temporarily while he was living in the UK. Proposed Wendy Austen, seconded John Pusey and duly elected.

Branch Representatives: There are two posts. Lindsay Powell said she was prepared to stand again, proposed by Simon Edwards, seconded by Craig Robertson. Elizabeth Mullett was proposed as the second branch rep by Lindsay Powell and seconded by Paul Lucas. Both were duly elected.

Auditor: Katherine Stonham was prepared to stand again. Proposed by Lindsay Powell, seconded by Simon Edwards and duly elected.

AOB:

New Ringling Master – Steve Everett said he had some ideas for moving forward. Initially a monthly virtual branch practice, starting the first or second Saturday in March. Details to be circulated. He wants to foster a culture which encourages learning, mentoring, finding the appropriate learning for the individuals, and more cross tower work. He hopes everyone will remember that learning is

meant to be fun. In the near future he hopes to do some information gathering from towers to find out what support they want. This may mean asking a few people to help support practice nights, and encourage more people out from their home towers to other events or practice nights. There also needs to be some conversations which share good ideas about recruiting. We need to pool knowledge and ideas and help each other and identify skills within towers.

David Barrington asked if there was any use in a facebook group – the problem with this being that a lot of members don't use facebook. Tony Crabtree said if we reach a stage where meeting outside is allowed but not in towers then his mini ring is available.

Ellacombe chimes: David Barrington said in June it is the bicentenary of their creation. There is going to be a "Mexican wave" around the world – if any oxford towers (or others members are familiar with) have them, please let him know as there doesn't seem to be a centralised list. Tony Crabtree said if anyone needed music for Ellacombes he has published some and has spare copies.

Ringling World subscriptions: Elizabeth Mullett said it was now possible to take out a Tower subscription rather than an individual taking one out and then sharing with the tower.

Safeguarding: Jamie Brown asked if there was training still going on for this. Katie Lane said this had been suspended until we can meet in person, but would provide Jamie with the Guild Safeguarding Officer contact details in case he had any further queries. This is also available on the Guild website.

The meeting closed at 16.25pm