

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD of BELLRINGERS
SONNING DEANERY BRANCH
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING at TWYFORD
on SATURDAY 21st FEBRUARY 2010

1. Apologies

There were 28 members present. Apologies had been received from Aidan Hopkins, Liz Hopkins, Sue Thomas, Mary Elliott, Michael Boys, Sarah Boys & Tricia Amos.

After the list was read out, one minute's silence was observed in memory of Chris Brown, who had died during the year.

2. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

Accepted without dispute.

3. Officers Reports

Officers' Reports as received are attached to these Minutes.

There was no Ringing Master's report, but the Ringing Master stated that practices were flexible and rang what was required by those present. Quarter Peal Week was disappointing, and we should make more effort in 2010. There was no written report from Newsletter Editor; she requested more copy to put into the newsletter. It was requested that we keep the Peals section distinct from the Quarter Peal section. It was suggested that we put the ODG logo on the front of the newsletter.

4. Election of New Members/Honorary Ringing Members:

Nominee	Tower	Proposer & Seconder
Philippa Mitchell	Wokingham All Saints	[ratification from Branch Practice]
Rachel Leitch-Devlin	Wokingham All Saints [now transferred to Twyford]	[ratification from Branch Practice]
Alistair Vorster	Twyford	George Roberts, Simon Farrar
Simon Mabbott	Twyford	George Roberts, Simon Farrar
Victoria Parkin	Twyford	George Roberts, Simon Farrar
Jack Stanford	Wokingham All Saints	John Harrison, Simon Farrar

Owing to a Guild rule change, the category of Honorary Ringing Member has been replaced by Distinguished Membership; this is for people who have made significant contribution to the Guild. They would receive a special certificate but still continue to pay subscriptions.

5. Election of Officers

Officer	Name	Proposer	Seconder
Chairman	Simon Milford	Rob Needham	Pam Elliston
Treasurer	Eric Bowes	Andrew Moss	Rob Needham
Secretary	Pam Elliston & Andrew Elliston	Rachel Moss	Simon Farrar
Ringing Master	Ken Davenport	Rachel Moss	David Sullivan
Deputy Ringing Master	John Manley	Simon Farrar	Sue Davenport
2nd Branch representative (with Andrew Elliston)	Sue Davenport	Andrew Moss	Andrew Elliston

Newsletter editor	Sarah Boys	Andrew Moss	Rob Needham
Bookstall holder	Rob Needham	Simon Farrar	Rachel Moss
Training officer	John Harrison	Rachel Moss	Simon Farrar
Webmaster	John Harrison	Andrew Moss	Pam Elliston
Independent Examiner	Steve Wells	Rachel Moss	Simon Farrar

6. Branch Practices and events

It was stated that Wokingham All Saints was a good venue for the monthly afternoon practices; perhaps an article about these practices could be written for the newsletter. It was also suggested that Twyford could submit an article about how things had improved, and report on the film about Teddy Edward visiting the tower and bells.

John Harrison emphasized the need to continually try to popularize ringing, and try to work with the church, as church members may offer support even if they do not ring. He regularly takes interested groups on tours of the tower. He had put an article in the current Wokingham Times about the centenary of the death of Revd FE Robinson.

7. Striking Competitions

There was discussion on how to encourage support for these.

8. Fundraising & social events

It was suggested that we have another quiz. It was stated that we should have a definite purpose for fundraising events, but another opinion was that fundraising and social events should go together and need not return a huge profit.

Twyford is planning restoration work in the near future. The bells were last rehung in 1913; sound control is desirable, especially on the Brook Street side. Official fundraising would begin with a handbell concert in May 2010 and a concert by keyboard player Charles Timberlake in October 2010. The amount required is probably about £35,000, which could be reduced by self-help with the work. They would be asking for financial help, and hoped that the work would be completed before the 100th anniversary.

It was also suggested that we consider donating to Guild funds

9. AOB

John Harrison wanted the number present to be minuted. He also requested ideas for the website. Joyce Crockford gave notice of a Three Counties Ringing Day on 23/3/2010. She would also be crewing on a tall ship and needed sponsorship for this. Rachel Moss gave notice of a quiz for Easthampsted church funds on 20/3/2010. David Sullivan suggested that we could have a google group like some other branches so that we could notify many people at once of e.g. cancellation of a practice; it was countered that such groups could suffer from spamming.

New members can be elected at branch practices; as soon as they have paid their subs they are covered by Guild insurance and can go on courses. This should be recorded in the Minutes of the next meeting, and the Secretary must be notified of such elections.

Simon Farrar said that the Twyford ringers had prepared tea for 40, but fewer than this estimate had actually wanted it. A contribution towards the cost incurred would be appreciated.

The Chairman thanked Rachel & Andrew Moss for all their past efforts on behalf of the branch. This was echoed by Robert Newton on behalf of the Guild. He also read a letter from Hilarie Rogers, who apologised for her absence and thanked the officers for their support during the year.

At the end of the meeting, Simon Milford thanked: the Vicar of Twyford Simon Howard for officiating at the service and Sylvia Collins for playing the organ, the two branch members who read the lessons, and the Twyford ringers for providing an excellent tea. The meeting closed at 18:55.