

**Sonning Deanery Branch, Business Meeting,
Wokingham St Paul's, 21st November 2015**

AGENDA

1. Apologies Lesley
2. Financial update Sue
3. Officers for 2016
4. Training Jacquie
5. Publicity event: scope, venues, dates (*see note 5*) JAH
6. Communication with adjoining branches and districts (*see note 6*) JAH
7. Rolling Ring challenge on St. George's Day (*see note 7*) Steve
8. Recording of non-active members (*see note 8*) JAH
9. Tower opening during Heritage Weekend 2016 (*see note 9*) JAH
10. Update on Guild matters by Branch Reps Sue/Jacquie
11. 2016 'skeleton' calendar: competitions / practices / meetings
12. Branch events: fundraising / quiz / outing
13. AOB

Notes to the Agenda

Item 5 note – Tower correspondents were asked for the views of their bands about hiring a mini ring for a publicity/recruitment event within the Branch, as discussed at the AGM. The six responses don't provide a basis for making a decision. We need to agree a way ahead.

Item 6 note – The Guild Master asked the officers to consider what we could (or already do) share with neighbouring branches. We listed: sharing event calendars, joint striking competitions, shared training courses, joint outings, exchange of newsletter articles, and officers attending each other's AGM.

Item 7 note – From Libby, *Ringing for England*:

A 'ROLLING RING' challenge for 23rd April 2016

In the past there has been a wonderful support for St. George's Day from ringers, and across the country several Guild Branches organised a 'Rolling Ring'. This idea has grown – to get as many towers as possible to ring during the whole day of April 23rd, not just in their city but throughout their entire Branch, and so set a national record. It will bring the ringing world and ringers into the national limelight and get more people, of all ages, interested in joining you. *Ringing for England* will be only too willing to help if needed. Will you take up the challenge for 2016?

Item 8 note – Our membership survey showed a significant number of members who never or rarely ring. We recognise that ringers who give up regular ringing (for whatever reason) often value retaining their link with the Guild and their tower by continuing their membership. However, we are concerned that counting them as 'resident ringing members' of the Guild distorts the statistics and can give a misleading impression of the health of ringing in the Branch, and any changes. We would welcome members' views.

Item 9 note – Some Branch towers have in the past held open days during Heritage Weekend (2nd weekend in September). In 2016 the Central Council will be promoting this with as many towers as possible taking part. The organisers of Heritage Weekend are working on a combined logo including a bell for use in publicity. This is a major opportunity for local publicity.