

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held via Zoom,

Saturday, 15th May 2021 at 5pm

The meeting was chaired by Catherine Lane, the Guild Master and technical support was provided by Stuart Gibson. Katie Lane welcomed everyone and explained how the meeting would work: voting could be done using poll cards on screen or by telephone and “hands” to be raised on screen for questions or written into the “chat” box.

The meeting was attended by 83 Guild members.

The Master opened the meeting with a prayer.

1. Obituaries: There was a minute’s silence at the start of the meeting in remembrance of Guild members who had died since the last AGM: Ron Howarth (Stratton Audley), Geoffrey Runnicles (Long Crendon), Roger Hazell (Hughenden & Aston Clinton), Bill Bamford (Little Compton), Derek Fowler (Charlbury), Brian Hall (Burford), Nick Leadbitter (Ascott-u-Wychwood), Bob Withey (Hook Norton), Myles Hawkins (Chalfont St Giles), Graham Jones (Langley), Ken Lees (Chalfont St Giles), Evelyn Neal (West Wycombe), Diana M Bridle (Newbury Branch), Denis Parfoot (West Hanney), Elizabeth Gill (Harwell), John Money (Cholsey), Angela Smith (Abingdon), Claire Ward (Steventon), Peter Skelton (Shinfield), Paul Lawrence (formerly Chalgrove), Rob Johnson (formerly Chalgrove), Mike Woolford (formerly Chalgrove), Margaret Coombe (Chalgrove), Terry Rouse (Bampton).

2. Apologies for Absence – 27 were received.

3. Any Other Business – none received in advance.

4. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 30th May 2020

One amendment: Item 1, On the obituaries Angela Blunden should read Angela Blundell.

Proposed by K. Darvill (KD), Seconded by C. Lane (CL): approved by those in attendance.

5. Matters arising

Election of General Committee Members:

KD explained that Bobbie May was elected as a member of the General Committee but after the meeting she kindly volunteered for the role of Steward and thus is a member of the General Committee. Therefore, she is not included in the list of elected members and we have an additional vacancy.

Discussion

Timothy Pett (TGP) - What happened to the Youth Fund set up at the last AGM?

Stuart Gibson (SFG) - currently there is a restricted fund in the accounts and that is where the money is held at present.

6. Correspondence

None from KD.

CL has had correspondence with Elizabeth Lydekker, relative of the Rev FE Robinson. On 17th July 1899 the Guild presented a silver rose bowl to the Rev FE Robinson in recognition of 19 years of service as Guild Master. His granddaughter the late Kathleen Robinson, in her will, left the bowl to the Guild and Liz Lydekker, the next generation, will return it to the safe keeping of the Guild later in May.

7. Accounts

The accounts were circulated prior to the meeting.

Stuart Gibson (SFG) presented the accounts and noted that due to the circumstances of the pandemic there was little to report. He thanked the Deputy Treasurer, Susan Read (SR), for her day-to-day management of the accounts.

Discussion

John Harrison (JH) - The accounts refer to Guild assets which raises the question where are the accounts for our tangible assets?

SFG - The tangible assets are included under the insurance. There will be a revision of the Guild's assets to include the rose bowl and the e-handbells.

(Note – for the information of members, although not mentioned at the meeting, other assets are the Guild Banner, the Master's Chain of Office, the Gavel and the model bell)

Timothy Pett (TGP) – referred back to his earlier question about the Youth Fund: Item 5 in the notes only mentions Youth Grants, it was thought that monies could be received from other sources.

SFG/SR –explained that the figure in the accounts is money that has been received from the Bradfield Course as at 31.12.2020. Further monies have been received since then.

Giles Winter commented that in the minutes it was recorded that a transfer of £1000 would go to the Youth Fund. That transfer has not appeared in the accounts.

SFG – no Youth Activities have taken place, therefore no transfer into the Youth Fund has been made.

Proposed by SFG, Seconded by Angela Darvill approved by those in attendance

8. Report of the General Committee circulated prior to the meeting.

KD had no further points to bring forward.

Discussion

JH – what progress has been made re Public Relations Group?

CL – a request for volunteers to join the PR working group resulted in one additional person joining the officers. Work has been taking place to restructure and update the website. We would welcome further volunteers to help with the work of the PR Group, either on a temporary basis for a project or more permanently. We acknowledge that the role is too

big for one person so we work together and would especially appreciate someone who could actively promote the Guild in other media.

JH – you say that progress has been made, but not very much other than updating the website.

JH - The Education Committee has changed its title to Learning and Development Workgroup. What practical effect has that had what can be achieved by the new label that couldn't be achieved by the old label?

Robert Newton (RHN) – Colin Newman, the chair of the L&D WG, considered that the new title better described the work of the group.

JH requested an example of what has been achieved by the new label that couldn't have been achieved by the old label?

CL – could not provide an example at this time but would look back at the minutes to provide the information requested.

Proposed by KD, Seconded by SFG: approved by those in attendance.

9. Report of the Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund circulated prior to the meeting.

Alan Marchbank reminded that this is the first annual report since the amalgamation with the Restoration Fund.

There were no further comments.

10. Donations

a) Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund ratified by SFG. The General Committee agreed a donation of £2000 to the Bell Fund: approved by those in attendance.

b) The Ringing World

Discussion

RHN spoke in favour of raising the donation to the Ringing World. The Ringing World is facing hard times, not only because of the knock-on effects of the pandemic but also because of the internal upheaval within the Board. RHN considers that the Ringing World presents a far broader range of articles that appeal to a wide range of interests, it is an historic record of ringing, maintains Bell Board, keeps older ringers informed in a familiar and accessible format and includes important announcements. He has concerns that it may not survive without sustained support and advocated subscribing to an online or hard copy. The current donation of £200 has been in place since 2010 and is overdue a review therefore RHN proposed that the Guild should increase the donation from £200 to £500.

SFG – the increase can be afforded if the members wish to proceed.

Proposed by RHN, Seconded JH – approved by those in attendance.

c) ART donation: the sum of £750 was agreed at the Spring General Committee Meeting.

Comments: Philip Dobson noted from the information distributed by ART that the ODG seems to be a major contributor to ART: “A grand thing for the Guild to be doing.”
Ratification by SFG and approved by those in attendance.

There was a query as to whether we might make a donation to Ringing Room. CL undertake to look into this for the future.

11. Election of Officers.

The election process was discussed at length with a variety of suggestions from the floor as to how it show be carried out. There were some changes to the proposed plan, but the outcomes were not affected.

| Office | Nomination | Proposer | Secunder | Result |
|------------------------------------|--|--|--|--------------------|
| Master | Catherine Lane | Bobbie May | Susan Read | Elected |
| Deputy Master | Tony Crabtree | Susan Read | Keith Vernon | Elected |
| Hon Gen Secretary | Ken Darvill | Susan Read | Keith Vernon | Elected |
| Hon Gen Treasurer/assistant | Stuart Gibson Susan Read | Susan Read Keith Vernon | Keith Vernon Robert Newton | Elected Elected |
| Hon Librarian | Douglas Beaumont | Diana McClure | Keith Vernon | Elected |
| Report Editor | Heather Browning | Keith Vernon | Patricia Newton | Elected |
| Newsletter Editor | Rob Needham | Keith Vernon | Robert Newton | Elected |
| Peal Secretary | Ken Davenport | Keith Vernon | Patricia Newton | Elected |
| PR Officer | Vacant | | | |
| Membership Sec | John Payne | Keith Vernon | Robert Newton | Elected |
| Safeguarding Officer | June Wells | Keith Vernon | Patricia Newton | Elected |
| Minutes Secretary/assistant | Lindsay Powell Vacant | Keith Vernon Keith Vernon | Patricia Newton Robert Newton | Elected |
| Website manager | Andrew Goldthorpe | C. Lane | | Elected |
| Server manager/assistant | Richard Stanworth | Susan Read | Keith Vernon | Elected |
| Stewards (5) | Patricia Newton Ruth Groves Tony Crabtree Colin Lee Bobbie May | Susan Read Keith Vernon Keith Vernon Keith Vernon Keith Vernon | Keith Vernon Patricia Newton Ken Darvill Robert Newton Patricia Newton | All elected |

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|---|--|--|---|-------------|
| Elected General Comm Members (6) | Jenny Page Mike Hopkins Till Ken Wakefield Angela Darvill | Keith Vernon Keith Vernon Chris Harris Keith Vernon | Ken Darvill Ken Darvill Keith Vernon Patricia Newton | All elected |
| Independent Assessor | Alison Mignanelli | Keith Vernon | Ken Darvill | |
| *Central Council Representative | No nomination | | | |

* We are able to elect an additional CC Rep.

Comment JH – the number of the CC Representatives required is on the agenda of the Central Council to discuss making a reduction in the number of association representatives, so it is not essential for us to make additional appointments.

12. Distinguish Membership Awards. No recommendations received.

13. Ratification of Non-resident Ringing Members. None during 2020.

14. Presentation of striking competition certificates. No competitions have taken place.

15. Any Other Business (as agreed at the beginning of the meeting)

CL thanked everyone for attending and fellow officers, Ken and Stuart, whose preparation and skill enabled us to manage this 2021 virtual AGM.