



OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021
Saturday 15th May 2021 via Zoom

AGENDA AND PAPERS

1. Obituaries.
2. Apologies for Absence. (Please send to the Secretary in advance)
3. Request to take items of Any Other Business.
4. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 30th May 2020 (see below).
5. Matters Arising.
6. Correspondence.
7. 2020 Accounts (see separate document)
8. Report of the General Committee (see below).
9. Report of the Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund (see below).
10. Donations
 - a) Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund
 - b) The Ringing World
 - c) Association of Ringing Teachers
11. Election of Officers. (Further nominations may be made at the meeting).

Office	Nomination	Proposer	Seconder
Master	Catherine Lane	Bobbie May	Susan Read
Deputy Master	Tony Crabtree	Susan Read	Keith Vernon
Hon Gen Secretary	Ken Darvill	Susan Read	Keith Vernon
Hon Gen Treasurer	Stuart Gibson	Susan Read	Keith Vernon
Hon Assistant Gen Treasurer	Susan Read	Keith Vernon	Robert Newton
Hon Librarian	Douglas Beaumont	Diana McClure	Keith Vernon
Report Editor	Heather Browning	Keith Vernon	Patricia Newton
Newsletter Editor	Rob Needham	Keith Vernon	Robert Newton
Peal Secretary	Ken Davenport	Keith Vernon	Patricia Newton
Public Relations Officer	No nomination		
Membership Secretary	John Payne	Keith Vernon	Robert Newton
Safeguarding Officer	June Wells	Keith Vernon	Patricia Newton
Minutes Secretary	Lindsey Powell	Keith Vernon	Robert Newton
Minutes Secretary	No nomination		
Website Manager	Andrew Goldthorpe	Catherine Lane	=
Server Manager	Richard Stanworth	Susan Read	Keith Vernon
Assistant Server Manager	No nomination		
Stewards (5)	Patricia Newton	Susan Read	Keith Vernon
	Ruth Groves	Keith Vernon	Patricia Newton
	Tony Crabtree	Keith Vernon	Ken Darvill
	Colin Lee	Keith Vernon	Robert Newton
	Bobbie May	Keith Vernon	Patricia Newton
Elected Gen Comm Members (6)	Jenny Page	Keith Vernon	Ken Darvill
	Mike Hopkins Till	Keith Vernon	Ken Darvill
	Ken Wakefield	Chris Harris	Keith Vernon
	Angela Darvill	Keith Vernon	Patricia Newton

Independent Assessor	Alison Mignanelli	Keith Vernon	Ken Darvill
Central Council Representative	No nomination		

12. Distinguished Membership Awards. No recommendations received.
13. Ratification of Non-resident Ringing Members. None during 2020.
14. Presentation of striking competition certificates. No competitions.
15. Any Other Business (as agreed at the beginning of the meeting).

Ken Darvill – Hon General Secretary
01494 713217 secretary@odg.org.uk

ITEM 4 - MINUTES OF LAST AGM (subject to ratification)

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held via Webinar meeting,

Saturday, 30th May 2020 at 5pm

The meeting was chaired by Catherine Lane, the Guild Master and technical support was provided by Colin Newman and Jonathan Cresshull. 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 118 Guild members.

1. Obituaries: There was a minute’s silence at the start of the meeting in remembrance of Guild members who had died in the last year: Dave Tuckey, Rousham; Philip Curtis, formerly Stratton Audley; Tony Pearce, Piddington; Richard Samways, Steeple Claydon; Geoff Aldridge, Wingrave; John White, Aston Clinton and then Drayton St Leonard; Pat Stafford, Hook Norton; Michael Collett, Burford; Les Hollingbery, Clewer; Brian Edwards, Beaconsfield; Doreen Cox (nee Coker), formerly High Wycombe and Hughenden; Angela Blunden, Burnham; Derek Fowles, Bray; Joyce Pearson, formerly Bray; Anthony Cox, formerly Hughenden; Derek Stainsby, Loughton; Cliff Garlick, East Hagbourne; Brian Hunnisett, Blewbury; Sandra Robinson, Caversham; Laurie Hall, Arborfield; Stan Scott, Easthampstead; David Willis, formerly Sonning; Graham Griffiths, Great Milton; Marion Cherry, Benson; Margaret Tapley, formerly Stanford in the Vale; Ted Venn, formerly Woodstock; Simon Haviland, Stonesfield; Steve Ebanja, South Leigh.

2. Apologies for absence: 30 apologies for absence were received in advance of or during the meeting.

3. Any other items of business: No issue was raised for discussion at the end of the meeting.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting: Ken Darvill said there was one amendment to a typing error – *Editor Reported* should read *Report Editor*. The minutes were approved.

Proposed Ken Davenport, Seconded Patricia Newton. Approved by those in attendance.

5. Matters arising: Ken Darvill reported on one item. Alan Marchbank had been elected to the General Committee as an Elected Member, but was already a member as he is a Central Council Representative so had stood down as an Elected Member.

6. Correspondence: There was no correspondence to report.

7.a Accounts: Stuart Gibson presented the accounts. Course costs had increased slightly, but so did the income, and there has been an increased spend on the Youth band with the costs of travelling to Liverpool. Stuart thanked Susan Read for all of her work preparing the accounts.

Proposed Stuart Gibson, Seconded Angela Darvill. The accounts were accepted by those in attendance.

7.b Restoration Fund accounts: Stuart Gibson presented these. Six branches have contributed and Stuart thanked them. Assets have now been transferred to the Bell Fund; the Longworth fund is a restricted fund within this. There are 4 outstanding grants which have been preserved.

Proposed Stuart Gibson, Seconded Angela Darvill. The Restoration Fund accounts were accepted.

8. Setting up of ODG Youth Fund: This was discussed at the March Committee meeting. Stuart Gibson has been following this up and has been obtaining information from HMRC. HMRC have advised registering with the Charity Commission if funds are likely to exceed £5,000. Today approval in principle is needed from ODG members. There will be one amendment. At present it reads under age 21. This will be changed to Under 19s.

Proposed Stuart Gibson, Seconded Katie Lane. The meeting accepted the proposal.

9. Report of the General Committee: Ken Darvill presented this. The paper has been circulated and is on the website. There is one clarification – the second to last paragraph should end with “the National Youth competition has been agreed”.

Proposed Ken Darvill, Seconded Katie Lane. The meeting accepted the report.

10. ODG Bell Fund report. Stuart Gibson presented this. It was the ODG sponsored quarter peal week in February which happens every 4 years. All funds go to the Bell Fund. Five branches took part, with Chipping Norton taking the trophy for raising £1,895. Thanks were given to all of the Branches who took part: Chipping Norton, Reading, EBSB, VOWH and South Oxon. Over £4,000 was raised in total.

The report was noted.

Action: Katie Lane will deliver the trophy to the Chipping Norton branch.

11. Donations: Stuart Gibson reported that the General Committee had recommended that £2,000 should go to the Bell fund, £200 to Ringing World, and £500 to ART. This was accepted by the meeting.

Stuart Gibson proposed that £1,000 should go to the Youth fund. Seconded Susan Read. Accepted by the meeting.

12. Election of Officers. The officers all stood down while votes were taken for their positions. The following were elected:

Master: Catherine Lane was elected. Proposed Robert Newton, Seconded Colin Lee

Deputy Master: Tony Crabtree was elected. Proposed Richard Stanworth, Seconded Colin Lee

Trustee: One new position as Derek Fowles had died during the year. Robert Newton agreed to stand and was elected. Proposed Stuart Gibson, Seconded Ken Darvill

Hon. General Secretary: Ken Darvill was elected. Proposed John Harrison, Seconded Richard Stanworth

Treasurer: Stuart Gibson. Proposed Katie Lane, Seconded Colin Lee

Assistant Treasurer: Susan Read. Proposed Katie Lane, Seconded Colin Lee. Both elected.

Librarian: Doug Beaumont was elected. Proposed Colin Newman, Seconded Rob Needham

Report Editor: Heather Browning. Proposed Ken Darvill, Seconded Richard Stanworth

Newsletter Editor: Rob Needham. Proposed John Harrison, Seconded Richard Stanworth

Peal Secretary: Ken Davenport. Proposed Ken Darvill, Seconded Richard Stanworth

Membership Secretary: John Payne. Proposed Colin Lee, Seconded Richard Stanworth. All four were elected.

Safeguarding Officer: June Wells. Proposed Colin Newman, Seconded Richard Stanworth

Minutes Secretaries (shared role) Lindsay Powell and Elizabeth Mullett. Proposed Ken Darvill, Seconded Angela Darvill. All three were elected.

Website manager: Tim Hayward. Proposed Colin Newman, Seconded Rob Needham
Server manager: Richard Stanworth. Proposed Colin Lee, Seconded Ken Darvill
Assistant Server Manager: Colin Newman. Proposed John Harrison, Seconded Ken Darvill. All three were elected.

Stewards: Katie Lane reported that there is one vacancy for a steward and until someone stands for the post, she will look after the role. The other stewards are: Tony Crabtree, Ruth Groves, Patricia Newton, and Colin Lee. All were proposed by Richard Stanworth and seconded by Angela Darvill. They were elected.

General Committee Reps: Mike Hopkins Till (Proposed Colin Lee, Seconded Richard Stanworth), Ken Wakefield (Proposed Chris Harris, Seconded Colin Lee), Bobbie May (Proposed Colin Lee, Seconded Richard Stanworth), Angela Darvill (Proposed Patricia Newton, Seconded Richard Stanworth), Jenny Page (Proposed Ken Darvill, Seconded Richard Stanworth) and one vacant post. They were accepted.

Independent Examiner: Alison Mignanelli. Proposed Ken Darvill, Seconded Angela Darvill. Elected.

Central Council Representatives – effective from 2021: John Harrison (Proposed Colin Newman, Seconded Ken Darvill), Alan Marchbank (Proposed Colin Newman, Seconded John Harrison), Tim Pett (Proposed Colin Newman, Seconded John Harrison), Graham John (Proposed Robert Newton, Seconded Colin Newman), Lucy Hopkins Till (Proposed Colin Newman, Seconded John Harrison), with one position vacant. They were all accepted.

13. Distinguished Membership Award: Katie Lane said she had enormous pleasure in presenting this to John Davidge. He has made a significant contribution at both Guild and Branch level. He has supported the Towers and Belfries sub-committee and been very active in tower inspections and the maintenance award scheme. He has been Branch chair of EBSB for 10 years and has given huge support to other towers and been involved with training. Recommended by Ken Darvill and Patricia Newton. This was agreed by the members present.

14. Young Ringers' Award Scheme: Robert Newton spoke about the awards to be made under this scheme. These awards are made every two years and this time there were 4 applicants originally. Of these 2 submitted details of their ringing activities. Jack Knowles of the Banbury Branch has been awarded a Silver Award. Holley Wakeling of the Sonning Deanery Branch has been awarded a Gold Certificate and she also receives the Alison Rodrick Trophy. Katie Lane also offered her congratulations to both Jack and Holley.

15. Ratification of Non-resident Ringing Members: The following were proposed for ratification by Katie Lane: Sarah E Jacot, Richard M Trueman, Angela Blackburn, Roger H Hunt, Neil J Garner, Ian M Redway, Aaron Hallett, and Hannah Read. This was carried.

16. Striking Competition Certificates: Tony Crabtree said that under the circumstances we could not unfortunately present the certificates at the AGM. The six-bell competition in October had been won by Abingdon with High Wycombe second and Drayton St Leonard third. The ten-bell certificates go to the Reading Branch (first), the EBSB Branch (second) and the Sonning Deanery Branch (third) resulting from the competition in November.

17. Any Other Business: There were no matters raised from the floor. Katie Lane said that it is unfortunate that because of the Covid-19 we have to meet in this way and that we can do no ringing. We will keep everyone informed as and when we hear from the Diocese and the Central Council with any change in advice or regulation. She thanked the Old North Berks Branch for the preparations that they had made for the original plan of holding the meeting at Blewbury and regretted that we had to miss out on the opportunity particularly of seeing the new stained glass window. She also thanked Colin Newman and

Jonathan Cresshull for their work as moderators during the meeting and their technical expertise in preparation for setting it up.

Katie Lane closed the meeting.

ITEM 8 – REPORT OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE

General Committee Report for Guild AGM May 2021.

The General Committee met in November 2020 and in March 2021, on both occasions virtually via Zoom. They were attended by the typically same number of members that we would expect.

In the absence of a Public Relations Officer, a Working Group has been set up and progress has been made in development of this function. Further offers of help would be very welcome.

The Covid pandemic since March 2020 has had a significant impact on ringing activities including Guild events. All business meetings have been held virtually and striking competitions have been cancelled as have in-person courses. The Ringing Festival had been planned for July 2021, very soon after Covid restrictions are likely to be lifted. It was therefore decided to postpone it for two years. Catherine Lane reported that she was in contact with the Oxford Society and had booked Christ Church (Cathedral) for 8 July 2023.

At the March meeting the subject of the survival and recovery of ringing post-Covid was introduced. The Master commended to the meeting the collaboration between the Central Council and the Association of Ringing Teachers which had produced comprehensive recovery plans including the concept of Recovery Champions. Within the Guild, each Branch is connected to its Steward and volunteer Recovery Champions will work in each area.

Katie Lane reported that she had been contacted by the executors of the will of Kathleen Mary Robinson, the last surviving granddaughter of the Revd. F. E. Robinson. The will includes the bequest to the Guild of a commemorative silver bowl from the estate, to be known as the F. E. Robinson Silver Bowl. Katie Lane will collect the bowl, ensure that it is receipted and photograph it.

At the March meeting the General Treasurer reported that a restricted Youth Fund had been created to receive youth-specific donations, including donations from the Bradfield courses to be used for youth training. It was still a possibility that the Guild as a whole could become a registered charity in future, but in the meantime it was hoped that the creation of a restricted fund might encourage HMRC to allow Gift Aid.

The March meeting received and approved the General Fund accounts for 2020. . It also decided that donations of £2,000 to the Bell Fund, £200 to The Ringing World and £750 to the Association of Ringing Teachers (ART) should be put to the AGM.

It also heard reports from the Peal Secretary, Librarian, Website Manager, Server Manager and Report Editor. The Safeguarding Officer reported on a new development in the Diocese in that the training requirement for Tower Captains has changed. Last year the C2 and C3 (leadership) courses had been merged and Tower Captains were no longer required to attend C2. A discussion was planned with the Learning and Development Workgroup to develop and deliver in-Guild training for Tower Captains, as aspects were felt to be very valuable.

The work of the subcommittees continues. The Finance and General Purposes Subcommittee (F&GP) has been concerned in the planning for the recovery of ringing. They are also hoping that even once we can get back to in-person meetings particularly the Guild AGM, we can open them up to include other members attending online, effectively staging hybrid meetings.

The Education Subcommittee has changed its terms of reference and will be operating in future under the name of the Learning and Development Workgroup. Although in-person courses have not been possible, several webinars have been organised and they will probably remain a feature even after normal courses resume which is expected to be September.

The Towers and Belfries Subcommittee reported on its activities including inspections for the Tower Maintenance Awards and those connected with grants. The website has been updated with advice and information from the subcommittee.

ITEM 9 – REPORT OF OXFORD DIOCESAN BELL FUND

OXFORD DIOCESAN BELL FUND

(Registered Charity No. 268390)

Report of the Managing Trustees for the year ending 31st December 2020.

Trustees

In accordance with the Fund's Rules and Constitution, at the Annual General Meeting of the Governors of the fund, held on Saturday 14th March 2020, the following Trustees were elected:

Chairman	Alan Marchbank
Secretary	Catherine Lane
4, The Sidings Station Road Wheatley Oxon OX33 1FU	
Treasurer	Stuart Gibson
Additional Managing Trustees:	Graham Clifton, Brian Gatward, Ken Davenport, Jon Chamberlain

Public Benefit

The fund's object of raising and collecting sums of money and to applying the income arising from the investment of such sums in or towards the repair and renewal of church bells in the Diocese of Oxford has been met during the year as detailed in the paragraphs below, and by raising awareness of the Charity within the Churches of the Oxford Diocese.

Across the Diocese, the public benefit from the preservation of a unique tradition and heritage. Local communities will be able to hear the bells ring for Divine Service, for weddings and on other occasions, and members of the public are able to participate in an inclusive activity that benefits them both physically and mentally.

Fund Raising

Ringling was severely affected by the Covid 19 Pandemic, with the country in lock-down from 21st March 2020. Most ringling events were not able to proceed.

The Trustees met twice in the virtual world provided by Zoom.

New money raised in 2020 amounted to £11,688, which includes £3741 from the Leap Year Quarter Peal Week.

Regular fund raising included £3999 from Branch donations; £215 from towers; pledge giving £422; donations from PCCs £215; and the Guild donated £2000.

A tax refund on Gift Aid Donations of £1,048 was received.

The Managing Trustees would like to thank all who have contributed to the continued success of the Fund.

Grants

During the year, new applications were received and provisional grants were allocated: Steeple Aston (£790); Tilehurst (£10,000); Broadwell (£1000).

Grants were paid during the year towards eligible works at; Letcombe Bassett; Hanslope and Great Tew.

In accordance with the Trustees' Policy, an independent assessment of completion of work is undertaken before a grant is paid. Members of the Towers and Belfries Committee carry out these inspections on the Fund's behalf. The Managing Trustees wish to record their gratitude for this service.

During the year the Managing Trustees maintained the level of provisional grant allocations at 20% of the estimated costs of eligible work. If the final cost is materially different from the indicated cost at the time of application, the grant is reviewed and may be revised. The level of grant allocated depends on the number of applications and the income available and so may vary from year to year.

Investments

Investment income for the year was £38,501, (2019: £25,341). This includes £14,721 transferred from the ODG Restoration Fund.

The new money raised has been invested on a regular basis in accordance with advice received from the Diocesan Financial Advisor. Transactions are made on behalf of the Fund by the Diocesan authorities. Money is invested in a number of different charitable investments and these include:

Church of England Investment Fund
Charifund Income Fund
COIF Fixed Interest
COIF Income Fund
Charinco Income Fund
CBF Global Equity Fund
CBF Property Fund

The market value of the investments at 31st December 2020 was £853,149 (2019: £788,604).

Alan Marchbank

ITEM 13 – RATIFICATION OF NON-RESIDENT RINGING MEMBERS

Non-resident life members elected during 2020

None for ratification.