



# OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022

Saturday 21st May 2022 in Canterbury Room,  
Goring-on Thames

### AGENDA AND PAPERS

1. Obituaries.
2. Apologies for Absence.
3. Request to take items of Any Other Business.
4. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> May 2021 (see below).
5. Matters Arising.
6. Correspondence.
7. 2021 Accounts (see separate document)
8. Report of the General Committee (see below).
9. Donations
  - a) Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund
  - b) The Ringing World
  - c) Association of Ringing Teachers
10. Election of Officers. (Existing holders shown in brackets- \* if not wanting re-election).
  - a) Master (Catherine Lane)
  - b) Deputy Master (Tony Crabtree)
  - c) Honorary General Secretary (Ken Darvill\*)
  - d) Honorary General Treasurer (Stuart Gibson)
  - e) Assistant Treasurer (Susan Read\*)
  - f) Honorary Librarian (Doug Beaumont)
  - g) Report Editor (Heather Browning)
  - h) Peal Secretary (Ken Davenport)
  - i) Newsletter Editor (Rob Needham)
  - j) Public Relations Officer (currently left vacant)
  - k) Membership Secretary (John Payne)
  - l) Safeguarding Officer (June Wells)
  - m) Minutes Secretary (Lindsay Powell\*)
  - n) Website Manager (Andrew Goldthorpe)
  - o) Server Manager (Richard Stanworth)
  - p) Assistant Server Manager (vacant)
  - q) Guild Stewards (5) (Tony Crabtree, Ruth Groves, Colin Lee, Bobbie May\*, Patricia Newton)
  - r) Elected General Committee Members (6) (Angela Darvill\*, Mike Hopkins Till, Jenny Page, Ken Wakefield)
  - s) Independent Assessor (Alison Mignanelli)
  - t) Trustee (The late William Butler)
11. Distinguished Membership Awards.
12. Ratification of Non-resident Ringing Members.
13. Presentation of striking competition certificates.
14. Any Other Business (as agreed at the beginning of the meeting).

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

### OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

#### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held via Zoom

Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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 should be carried out. There were some changes to the proposed plan, but the outcomes were not affected.

Office	Nomination	Proposer	Secunder	Result
<b>Master</b>	Catherine Lane	Bobbie May	Susan Read	Elected
<b>Deputy Master</b>	Tony Crabtree	Susan Read	Keith Vernon	Elected
<b>Hon Gen Secretary</b>	Ken Darvill	Susan Read	Keith Vernon	Elected
<b>Hon Gen Treasurer/assistant</b>	Stuart Gibson Susan Read	Susan Read Keith Vernon	Keith Vernon Robert Newton	Elected Elected
<b>Hon Librarian</b>	Douglas Beaumont	Diana McClure	Keith Vernon	Elected
<b>Report Editor</b>	Heather Browning	Keith Vernon	Patricia Newton	Elected
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Rob Needham	Keith Vernon	Robert Newton	Elected
<b>Peal Secretary</b>	Ken Davenport	Keith Vernon	Patricia Newton	Elected
<b>PR Officer</b>	Vacant			
<b>Membership Sec</b>	John Payne	Keith Vernon	Robert Newton	Elected
<b>Safeguarding Officer</b>	June Wells	Keith Vernon	Patricia Newton	Elected
<b>Minutes Secretary/assistant</b>	Lindsay Powell	Keith Vernon	Patricia Newton	Elected
<b>Website manager</b>	Andrew Goldthorpe	C. Lane		Elected
<b>Server manager</b>	Richard Stanworth	Susan Read	Keith Vernon	Elected
<b>Stewards (5)</b>	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
<b>Elected General Comm Members (6)</b>	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
<b>Independent Assessor</b>	Alison Mignanelli	Keith Vernon	Ken Darvill	
<b>*Central Council Representative</b>	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.

## **ITEM 8 – REPORT OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE**

The General Committee has met twice in the past twelve months, both as in-person gatherings in churches, following the previous meetings which had been via Zoom.

The November 2021 meeting was at Cuddington and agreed that for 2022 subscriptions and peal fees should remain at £8 and 50p per ringer, respectively.

The March 2022 meeting was at Wendover and followed the AGM of the Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund.

Both meetings discussed Safeguarding and the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Oxford Botanic Garden. June Wells as Safeguarding Officer reported on the lack of information and conflicting and changing advice that she had received, particularly in respect of the courses necessary for tower captains. Subsequent to the March meeting she sent an email round to members to clarify the current requirements.

Catherine Lane reported that we are in contact with the Oxford Botanic Garden about their vast PR exercise leading up to the anniversary on 15th July. They have asked that bells be rung particularly in Oxford about 2:15pm. It would be nice if as many towers as possible throughout the Diocese could ring some time that day.

At the March meeting this year it was agreed to recommend to the AGM that the following donations be made:  
£2,000 donation to the Bell Fund  
£750 donation to the Association of Ringing Teachers (ART)  
£750 donation to the Ringing World.

The silver rose bowl which was presented to the Revd F E Robinson in 1899 has been bequeathed back to the Guild. It was shown at the March meeting together with a box made by Charles Morrish. The plan is that it would be held with the Master's artefacts and would be on display at Guild meetings and events such as the Festival.

The principal officers were also asked to revisit the issue of reorganising the Guild's structure and meetings in the light of the Central Council's restructuring, which has enabled it to operate in a more effective way.

The Learning and Development Workgroup (L&D) started to organise courses last November and a full set of courses is planned for this year. A Training Meeting was held on 30<sup>th</sup> April.

The Towers and Belfries Sub-committee (T&B) has also started to hold courses again on tower maintenance. The Tower Maintenance Award scheme (TMA) is still active, although many certificates expired during lockdown. The

T&B members have resumed inspections of towers for TMA, grant inspections and general advice, but would welcome more Guild members to help – you do not need to be a General Committee member.

The L&D and T&B workgroups have both comprehensively added material to the Guild website.

## **ITEM 12 – RATIFICATION OF NON-RESIDENT RINGING MEMBERS**

### **Non-resident life members elected during 2021**

Sue Turner    Roy Bridge, Scotland                      Elected at Tulloch on 2 Nov 2021