

**Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers
Winchester District**

Minutes of the Annual District Meeting held on Saturday 8th February 2014 in the Parish Church of St Nicolas, North Stoneham

The meeting started at 5.15 p.m., with 33 members of the District from nine towers and unattached, and five guests present, as follows:- Roy LeMarechal (Bishopstoke), Judy Bishop (Easton), Andrew Craddock, Christine Hill, Peter Hill, Tessa Smith, Tony Smith (all of Hursley), Sue Spurling (King's Somborne), Jen Churchill, Gary Davies, Carol Higgins, Bradley Lewis, Brenda Palk, John Palk (all of Lockerley), Andrew Johnson, Elizabeth Johnson, Rodney Skinner (all of New Alresford), Charles Harrison, Wayne Irish, Phil Nicholls, Stephanie Nicholls, Phil Watts (all of North Stoneham), Andrew Glover, Jennifer Herriott, Nigel Herriott, Kathryn McGregor, Joy Scanlan (all of Romsey), John Colliss, Jackie Downham, John Downham, Graham Grant, Bruce Purvis (all of Winchester) and John Croft (unattached); Charlotte Colliss, Katie Hill, Julia Johnson, Susanna Johnson, Viv Nobbs (Guild Master), comprising the guests.

The Chairman, John Palk, opened the meeting with a welcome to those present and with thanks to the North Stoneham Band for hosting the day, to the rector, the Revd Stephen Holmes for the use of the bells, to Dorothy Berwick for devising and leading the service, to Gary Davies for playing the organ and to Phil and Stephanie Nicholls and their team for providing a splendid ringers' tea.

Loss of Members through Death in 2013. Jen Churchill gave a brief eulogy for Pam Bridger, who had died on 6th February, remarking that throughout her ringing career 'she brought to Lockerley an enthusiasm for what she was doing and a love for all her fellow-ringers'. The Secretary then advised the meeting of the members who had died during the previous year: Sidney Bull (Romsey Abbey), George Eastwood (Sherfield English), David Strong (Lockerley), Prisca Tremeer, Life Member, late New Alresford and St John, Jersey), Canon Keith Walker (late Winchester Cathedral): a few moments' silence was observed.

Apologies for absence. Apologies for absence were received from Philip Carter, Gerry Cornick, Joyce Croft, Caroline Daniels, Martin Daniels, Hugh Hill, Rosemary Oakeshott, Nicola Plummer and Jenny Watson.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting. The minutes of the Quarterly District Meeting held on 9 November at Bishopstoke were adopted on a show of hands.

Matters Arising. *Item 8 Tichborne Bell Restoration Fund.* The Treasurer read out a letter of thanks dated 22 November 2013 from Mr Angus Macpherson for the District's contribution of £500 toward the restoration.

Officers' Reports. *Treasurer's Report and accounts:* In response to a question from Andrew Johnson, the Treasurer advised that the difference between expenditure on advertising in 2012 and 2013 resulted from a reduction in the number of notices placed in *The Ringing World*. He added that the difference between the amounts of grants to towers resulted in the refund of all of the grant in 2012 to New Alresford. The accounts were proposed by Tony Smith, seconded by Peter Hill. *Secretary's Report:* The Secretary's report was proposed by Bruce Purvis, seconded by Nigel Herriott.

Confirmation of belfry elections.

Compounding members:

Henry J W Pipe of Cambridge prior to a peal at Milton, Oxfordshire, on 17 November 2013 proposed by Roy LeMarechal, seconded by Janet Morris.

Paul M Mason of Kettering prior to a peal at Chilvers Coton on 30 November 2013 proposed by Roy LeMarechal, seconded by John Colliss.

Probationary members:

Wendy Trice of Sherfield English on 19 November 2013 proposed by Heather Harris, seconded by Caroline Gannon.

Adam and Kai Gawne-Cain of Sparsholt on 2 January 2014 proposed by John Cleverley, seconded by Jenny Watson.

Colin Child and Jill Prince of Headbourne Worthy on 2 January 2014 proposed by Bob Howland, seconded by Martin Macpherson.

Charlotte Rimmington and Helen Vincent of West Tytherley on 6 January 2014 proposed by Louise Gould, seconded by Jen Churchill.

William Maurency, William Nestor-Sherman and Michael Turner of Winchester College on 14 January 2014 proposed by Hugh Hill, seconded by Martin Kelly.

Henry Fraser-Urquhart of Winchester College on 14 January 2014 proposed by Martin Kelly, seconded by Hugh Hill.

Jim Woodley of Sherfield English on 21 January 2014 proposed by Michael Eastwood, seconded by Heather Harris.

Imogen Breen and Freya Bennett of Crawley on 28 January 2014 proposed by Edmund Wratten, seconded by Amanda Bayford.

Election of new members.

Ringling members:

Tina Hedger of Barton Stacey proposed by Elayne Norman, seconded by Nicola Plummer.

David Edgar of Ropley proposed by Jason Clements, seconded by Roy Wyeth.

Dennis Applebaum of Sparsholt proposed by John Cleverley, seconded by Jenny Watson.

Maggie Lippiett of Twyford proposed by Andrew Johnson, seconded by Angela Forder-Stent.

Associate members:

Colin Child and Jill Prince of Headbourne Worthy proposed by Bob Howland, seconded by Martin Macpherson.

All confirmed/elected on a show of hands.

Election of Officers.

Chairman: John Palk, proposed by Peter Hill, seconded by Tony Smith;

Secretary: Bruce Purvis, proposed by John Croft, seconded by Peter Hill;

Treasurer: Tony Smith, proposed by Elizabeth Johnson, seconded by Sue Spurling;

Ringing Master: Edmund Wratten, proposed by Bruce Purvis, seconded by Judy Bishop;

Executive Committee Representative: With no nominations the post remained vacant, subject to co-option in the future.

Independent Examiner of Accounts: John Colliss, proposed by Bruce Purvis, seconded by another;

Web Editor: Andrew Glover, proposed by Nigel Herriott, seconded by Joy Scanlan; all elected on a show of hands.

The Chairman stated that although he would continue in office for the coming year, he gave notice of his intention to stand down at the next ADM, and reminded the meeting that ideally the District should have two ringing masters, the second such post being open to co-option.

Future Events.

The following events were planned: 29 March: District Practice, Romsey; 12 April: Training, Raising and lowering, Micheldever; 10 May: QDM and Striking Contests, Sparsholt; 27 May: Tower Reps' Meeting, Winchester; 14 June: Training, Cambridge/London Minor, Sheffield English; 12 July: Training, Doubles Methods, Wonston; 9 August, QDM and Walk in the Itchen Valley, Easton and Avington; 13 August: District practice, Winchester; late August/Early September: Young Ringers' Outing; 11 October: Training, Beyond Bob Minor, Tichborne; 18 October: District Outing, NE Hants/Surrey; 18 October-2 November: Peal and Quarter-Peal Fortnight; 11 November: QDM and Education Day, Stedman, Hursley; 6 December: Carol Service, Lockerley; 10 January: District Practice, Wonston; 14 February: ADM, Alresford; 9 March: District Practice, Preston Candover; 11 April: Training, Listening Skills (suggested), Easton. All events, including the venue for next year's Annual Meeting, were confirmed with the exception of the Quarterly Meetings in August and November, and the events planned for October and next March and April, confirmation being awaited from the secretaries of the host towers. The Young Ringers' Outing was subject to arrangement nearer the date.

Guild Striking Competitions.

The chairman reminded the meeting of the dates for the Guild striking competitions, viz.: the inter-tower six- and eight-bell competitions on 17 May, and the inter-district eight-bell competition in the morning of the AGM on 5 July at Goodworth Clatford. Nigel Herriott encouraged all towers to consider entering teams for the inter-tower competitions and urged the newly appointed ringing master to organize a team for the inter-district contest.

Guild Master.

The Guild Master, Viv Nobbs, thanked everyone in the district for all that they did: it was a fabulous amount of work. Specifically, she thanked everyone for the tributes to **David Strong**, embracing all levels of expertise and all ages. She apologized for the lack of a **Guild dinner** this year: the relevant committee comprised but one individual, Jenny Brudenell, who was planning a less formal event. She urged everyone to put in a team for the **striking competitions**, and not simply assume they were the sole preserve of the expert bands. She encouraged everyone to take advantage of the **education events**, both Guild and District, and also to attend the **Ringing Road Show** on 6 September at Newbury Racecourse, as there was so much to see and to enjoy. Viv encouraged people to consider standing for the vacant post of **Guild Central Council Representative**: an important post, and now was 'a good time to be getting involved' in the work of the Council. She reminded the meeting of the Council's '**Have your Say**' Meeting on 22 March in Winchester: it was our opportunity to 'carve out where ringing is going in the 21st century and to plan what the Guild should be doing to contribute to this process'.

Any other business.

District Outing. Andrew Glover had volunteered to organise this year's outing, and to encourage more people to join in, the featured towers were almost all within the Guild, comprising Crondall, Farnham, Binsted, Holybourne and the two Alton towers.

Education and Training. The Chairman urged the meeting to let the committee know if there was any specific area in which training was wanted.

Hursley Surprise Major Practices. Peter Hill reminded the meeting that the surprise major practices were still being held at Hursley, on the second Tuesday of every month: remarking that support had fallen off, he asked whether an exclusively surprise was what people wanted: Andrew Glover, Joy Scanlan and Bruce Purvis all pledged their support.

Next Meeting. The Chairman drew attention to our next meeting, a late-afternoon district practice at Romsey on 29 March, with the opportunity to go for a drink – or more – afterwards at The Olive Tree. Nigel Herriott wondered whether the format of our events was sufficiently attractive to our membership. Acknowledging that what made for a suitable format was not clear, he said he would be happy to participate in any discussion about the district's future programme.

Teenage Practices. Jen Churchill reminded the meeting that there were now regular practices for younger ringers, generally held on the afternoon of the second Sunday every month, and that helpers were always welcome.

Tower Inspection. Phil Watts asked for volunteers to ring the bells at a tower for a structural survey on 21 February for the Diocesan Advisory Committee: John and Charlotte Colliss and Bruce Purvis obliged.

The collection for the Bell Restoration Fund raised £22.00.

The meeting closed at 5.55 p.m.