

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

Minutes of the Annual District Meeting held on Saturday 11th February 2006 at New Alresford

Ringling at St. Andrew's Tichborne, which currently has no local band, and at New Alresford, including the service touch, took place before Evensong followed by tea, provided by the New Alresford ringers and enjoyed by all. After tea, in the absence of the Richard Thompson, Elizabeth Johnson served as temporary Chairman during the meeting which was followed by open ringling.

Chairman's Welcome

Elizabeth Johnson opened the meeting promptly at 6:00. She welcomed the vicar, Rev. Phil Collins and particular guests; Cyril Lewington from Bucklebury, Robin Milford from Curdrige, Chris Caryer and Liz Thornton from St. Mary Bourne, Charlotte Colliss from Swanmore, Guild Master Andrew Craddock, Guild Secretary Steve Castle and 47 members. She also thanked Alec Fry, the organist and the local ringers for putting on an excellent tea. Additionally she announced the death of Peter Cumberland, active at Micheldever in the early 1980's and reported that Les Tremeer, a former member of this District now living on Jersey, is seriously ill with lung cancer. Les made and presented to the District the Chairman's gong.

Election of New Members

Confirmation of Probationary Members

Winchester Cathedral	4 Jan 2006 Tom Wolf, proposed by Colin Cook and seconded by Carrie Eisenhauer
Candover Valley	9 Jan 2006 Ann Hobson, proposed by Jill Parr and seconded by Jean Kelly
Owslebury	16 Jan 2006 Cathy, Craig, Jonathan, Jenni and Kerrin Koetsier, proposed Gary Brown and seconded by Sarah Macdonald
Winchester Cathedral	1 Feb 2006 Harriet Townsend, proposed by Andy Townsend and seconded by Colin Cook
New Alresford	3 Feb 2006 Emily and Luke Carpenter, Mary Corfield, Matthew James, Nathan Smith and Veronica Whitwell, proposed by Elizabeth Johnson and seconded by Theo Johnson
Romsey	8 Feb 2006 Sid Bull, proposed by Martin Daniels and seconded by Andrew Glover

New Ringing Members

Candover Valley	Emma and Laura Stevens, proposed by Jill Parr and seconded by Jean Kelly
Crawley	Philip Gillibrand, proposed by Edmund Wratten and seconded by Amanda Bayford
Easton	Susannah Anderson and James Pinder, proposed by Judy Bishop and seconded by Sara Janssen
King's Worthy	Russell McPartland, proposed by Ron White and seconded by Dave Goodwin
Lockerley	Madeleine FitzGerald-Gradwell, proposed by Jen Churchill and seconded by Joy Scanlan
New Alresford	David Richards, proposed by Andrew Johnson and seconded by Ian Redway
North Stoneham	Aimée and Emma Catt and Georgia Kelly, proposed by Alison Martin and seconded by Martin Kelly
Owslebury	Chris Ramler, proposed by Gary Brown and seconded by Sarah Macdonald
Romsey	Madeleine Brown and Charlotte Meader, proposed by Martin Daniels and seconded by Andrew Glover
Twyford	David Abbott, proposed by John Denham and seconded by Jennie Richardson
Winchester Cathedral	Abigail Andrews and David Fairhurst, proposed by John Colliss and seconded by Carrie Eisenhauer
Unattached	Michael K Till, proposed by Drew Craddock and seconded by John Colliss

New Associate Members

Headbourne Worthy	Mike French and Bob Stillwell proposed by Trish Spurling and seconded by Robert Howland
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All were elected unanimously.

Transfers

Romsey	Jonathan Hetherington and Lizzy Asbury (Christchurch & Southampton District)
Unattached	Lucy Walpole (Basingstoke District)

Minutes of last Quarterly meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held at Bishopstoke on 12th November 2005 were previously circulated. Theo Johnson proposed one change, suggested by Wendy Ling, that in Matters Arising the quarter peal for Gladys Matcham should read 'of Eling, rung by the Ladies' Guild at Easton'. With this change made, their adoption was proposed by Andrew Johnson and seconded by Tony Smith. This was accepted by the meeting and signed by the acting Chairman as an accurate record.

Matters arising from the previous minutes

none

Events since the last Meeting

November Education Day

Jen Churchill reported that the Ringing Up & Down in Peal course had been a great success. There were lots of students at Bishopstoke for this course run by John Colliss. The learners had made lots of progress and it had been an enjoyable day.

Striking League

Jen Churchill reported that both sections of the league were progressing well. In the lower league King's Somborne was emerging as a leader and in the upper league, Hursley were playing lots of matches and had organised a three way match with Bishopstoke and the Cathedral but Romsey and New Alresford still had a match to play. She encouraged towers to keep up with the schedule of fixtures so that the trophy could be presented at the QDM in May.

Carol Service

The Secretary reported that this had been most enjoyable and thanked Caroline Fairley especially for all her hard work. It was on the whole well-attended with approximately 45 of the 300 district members present.

Officers' Reports

Chairman

The Chairman's report had been circulated. As Richard Thompson was not present, not much was said about his report.

Secretary

The Secretary's report had been circulated. This was duly adopted by the meeting, proposed by Judy Bishop and seconded by Tom Hinks.

Treasurer

The Treasurer's Report had been circulated. Tony pointed out that the District had increased its loan to the Guild BRF to £1,000. He also mentioned that the number of members had risen slightly and that although when he prepared the report Winchester College's dues had been in arrears they had since paid their debt and also dues up front for the coming year. Additionally, he explained that with the transfer to the new treasurer the District accounts with the Alliance and Leicester would have the chairman, in addition to the treasurer, as account holder and signatory, although the accounts would still normally be operated by the treasurer. The accounts were then proposed for adoption by Tony Smith, seconded by Peter Clarke and signed by Elizabeth Johnson.

Elizabeth then went on to praise Tony for doing a fantastic job of keeping up with the accounts so thoroughly for the last eight years.

Tony also thanked the District members for being so prompt with their subscriptions this year and encouraged their continued early payment in future years.

Ringing Masters

The Ringing Masters' report had been circulated.

Public Relations

Tom Hinks reported that he had hoped more members would send him information about their towers to publish in local papers and newsletters. He also mentioned a concert which had been held at Romsey Abbey in aid of their new bell frame and encouraged members to give him more notification of public events like outings or open days which he could then publicise.

Election of Officers

Office	Nominee	Proposer	Secunder
Chairman	Richard Thompson	John Croft	Elizabeth Johnson
Secretary	Theo Johnson	Jen Churchill	Edmund Wratten
Treasurer	Clare Griffiths	Peter Clarke	Graham Wright
Ringing Masters	Jen Churchill	Theo Johnson	Elizabeth Johnson
	Edmund Wratten	Judy Bishop	Tony Smith
Guild Exec Rep	Wendy Ling	Theo Johnson	Sue Spurling
Public Relations	Tom Hinks	Andrew Craddock	Joy Scanlan

All were elected unanimously

There were no nominations for the office of Social Secretary, which remains open. Elizabeth Johnson pointed out that towers are large and self-sufficient and so tend to organise their own social events.

Future Events

Tony Smith had gone to extra effort to produce a yellow card with a calendar of District events and some Guild events as well. This was sized just right to fit inside a Ringing World diary. He encouraged members to collect theirs and to help distribute these to towers with no representative at this meeting. Theo Johnson announced one change of date: the District practice at Micheldever will take place on 1 April, 9:30 – 11am.

Although there was no date set for the District Outing, Graham Wright has agreed to arrange this, probably in September.

Sue Craddock reported that tickets for the Guild Dinner at the Potter's Heron, Ampfield, were going quickly and urged members to reserve theirs soon to avoid disappointment.

Elizabeth Johnson mentioned that Mark Place (Bitterne Park, So'ton District) was organising an open day in the Winchester District to raise funds for augmentation from eight to twelve bells at Bitterne Park.

District Website

Rosemary Oakeshott encouraged members to sign on to the WinPort e-mail list so that they could receive e-mail reminders about what was happening all across the Guild. She had distributed slips of paper with directions for how to do this. At her request, David Forder spoke about the WinPort list explaining that members need not be nervous of receiving spam from it since it is closed and very secure. He said that it generated approximately six to eight messages a month with useful news for its 160 or so members.

Any Other Business

Tony Smith: The BRF collection had raised £30.

Jen Churchill: Please send striking league results directly to her and to Rosemary Oakeshott, who will then post them on the District Website.

Andrew Craddock: Vote of thanks to District officers and for their hard work this year.

Phil Watts: George Evenden, a friend, supporter and ringer in the Southampton area has died. His eulogy was read by Christine Hill.

Tom Hinks: Romsey Abbey is in the final stages of fundraising for work on their bells. They are hosting an Open Day on 25 March 1-5pm and a poster is forthcoming.

Peter Hill: Two trebles have now been cast at Whitechapel for Hursley's augmentation to 12. The bells will be out just after Easter and should be back in August or September.

Jen Churchill: The District Striking Competition will be held at King's Somborne this year. The test piece will be 120 Minor method. A second competition for Call Changes only could be arranged at Broughton but she would like to hear from more towers first before making a decision about whether to ask for Broughton's bells.

In the absence of any other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 6:45pm.

Minutes of the Quarterly District Meeting held Saturday, 13 May 2006, at King's Somborne

Before the meeting the District Striking Competition took place at King's Somborne church. Mark Esbester, who judged, gave the results of the competition in the church following the competition. Four bands entered the Doubles and Minor methods competition and one band entered the Call Changes competition. As the only entrant, King's Somborne was awarded the Call Changes trophy, a framed piece of embroidery stitched by Elizabeth Johnson.

Method Competition

Tower	Rang	Drawn	Faults
1 Hursley	Cambridge	4 th	21
2 Cathedral	Plain Bob	1 st	26
3 Bishopstoke	Grandsire	2 nd	28
4 New Alresford	Grandsire	3 rd	38

Following the results the winning band rang the service touch before Evensong after which tea was provided by the King's Somborne band in the Village Hall. Following the meeting there was open ringing until 7:00pm.

Chairman's Welcome

Richard Thompson opened the meeting at 5:30pm and welcomed the 37 members to the meeting especially Tina Allen, Bradley Allen, and Guild Master Andrew Craddock. He also welcomed guests Margaret Chapman and Charlotte Colliss. He thanked the Rev. Sue Holligan, the organist, Guy Boney, and the judge, Mark Esbester, for their contributions to the day. He also thanked the King's Somborne band for providing tea. He then reported the sad news that Ruth Burrows of Micheldever had died.

Presentation of Certificates & Trophies

Guild Master Andrew Craddock presented to Bradley Allen of Lockerly his Blue Badge, an Ambitious Apprentice's certificate. He also presented the District Call Changes trophy to Sue Spurling for King's Somborne. Jen Churchill then presented the District Method trophy to Peter Hill for Hursley.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

As the minutes of the last meeting, held at New Alresford on 11 February 2006 had been previously circulated, Christine Hill proposed and Jen Churchill seconded that they be accepted. This was carried unanimously by the members and the minutes were duly signed by the chairman as an accurate record.

Striking League Update

Jen Churchill, District ringing master, reported that all matches had been played in division II with the following results: Romsey B won overall, King's Somborne came second and Lockerley came third. She also reported that in Division I New Alresford had completed all their matches and Hursley had withdrawn and were thus ineligible for the trophy. However some matches were still to be played: those between Bishopstoke and Romsey and between Romsey and Winchester Cathedral. The trophies for both divisions will be presented at the next quarterly meeting at Owslebury in August.

Matters Arising

None

Election of New Members

Confirmation of Probationary Election

Broughton 13 Feb 2006 Tim Corfield, Nick Jarrett, Alan Josling, Anita Mason and Michael Moore
Proposed by Sally Josling and seconded by Sally Loader

Cheriton 3 May 2006 Amy Farrer, Miles Greenwood, Ellie Hardwick, Tom Hardwick and Hilary Moore
Proposed by Caroline Fairley and seconded by Edmund Wratten

Confirmation of Compounding Elections

29 Dec 2005 Christine Andrew of Ashton-Under-Lyne
Proposed by Roy LeMarechal and seconded by James Hodkin at Kingston, Dorset

8 Jan 2006 Robert H. Jordan of Hessele
Proposed by Roy LeMarechal and seconded by John Colliss at Birmingham

22 Apr 2006 Jonathan S. Frye of Dunblane
Proposed by Roy LeMarechal and seconded by Ann LeMarechal at Stirling, Central, Scotland

New Ringing Members

Cheriton George Ayling, Beth Farrer and Stephen Tompsett, Proposed by Caroline Fairley and seconded by Edmund Wratten

Ropley Heather Saltmarsh, Tim Saltmarsh and Tim Wyeth, Proposed by Jason Clements and seconded by Paddy Tarr

All were elected unanimously.

Future Events

Richard reminded members of the upcoming district practices at Crawley on 6 June and at East Tytherley on 13 July. The next quarterly meeting will be at Owslebury on 12 August.

He also announced two new District practices: Advanced 6 Bell: London & Cambridge Surprise Minor at Bishopstoke on 17 June, 7 – 8:30pm and Advanced 8 Bell: Yorkshire & Lincolnshire Surprise Major at Bishopstoke on 29 July, 7 – 8:30pm

The District Outing, arranged by Graham Wright, will be 23 September in Oxford; further details will be available nearer the time.

AOB

Clare Griffiths: collection for the Bell Restoration Fund raised £22

Elizabeth Johnson: No practice at New Alresford on 26 May due to a concert in the church. Joyce Croft of Micheldever now out of hospital, recovering at home and hoping to go on the Mid-monthly Outing in June.

Tom Hinks: Guild 6 & 8 Bell Striking Competition at All Saints, Basingstoke on 20 May at 10am with John Couperthwaite judging.

Apologies: Phil Watts, Tony Smith

In the absence of any other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 5:42pm.

Minutes of the Quarterly District Meeting held Saturday, 12 August 2006, at Owslebury

Before the meeting there was open ringing in Owslebury church. After this, members had a picnic tea in the churchyard. During tea and the meeting, Edmund Wratten, assisted by Sarah MacDonald, made repairs to the treble so that there could be ringing on all six bells after the meeting. Following the meeting there was open ringing until 6:40pm.

Chairman's Welcome

Richard Thompson opened the meeting at 5:05pm and welcomed the 23 members to the meeting especially Guild Master Andrew Craddock and Guild Secretary Steve Castle. He thanked the Rev. Mark Bailey and the Owslebury band for the use of the church and the bells. He then reported the sad news that Les Tremeer, formerly of New Alresford had died on Jersey in the Channel Islands, to which he had retired some years ago. Les, a life-member of the Guild had been tower captain of New Alresford from 1933 to 1988. Additionally he made the District Chairman's bell from a lime tree which had fallen in the New Alresford churchyard.

Election of New Members

Confirmation of Probationary Election

Crawley	6 June 2006	Charlotte Breen & Nicola Breen, proposed by Amanda Bayford, seconded by Edmund Wratten
Lockerley & E. Tytherley	3 July 2006 1 Aug 2006	Abby-gail Fearon, proposed by Jen Churchill, seconded by Joy Scanlan Jacqueline Horne, proposed by Jen Churchill, seconded by Joy Scanlan
Candover Valley	31 July 2006	John Hawes, Kay Hawes, Peter Willis, proposed by Jill Parr, seconded by Jean Kelly

Confirmation of Compounding Elections

29 May 2006	Andrew I. Bradford of London & Martin Cansdale of London Proposed by Roy LeMarechal and seconded by John P. Colliss at Winchester Cathedral
17 June 2006	William T. Bosworth of Blandford Forum Proposed by Jonathan C. Hetherington and seconded by Benjamin D. Constant at Curdrige

New Ringing Members

Candover Valley	Carol Herring, Proposed by Jill Parr and seconded by Jean Kelly
Lockerley	Bradley Allen, Proposed by Jen Churchill and seconded by Joy Scanlan

All were elected unanimously.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

As the minutes of the last meeting, held at King's Somborne on 13 May 2006 had been previously circulated, Rosemary Oakeshott proposed and Clare Griffiths seconded that they be accepted. This was carried unanimously by the members and the minutes were duly signed by the chairman as an accurate record.

Matters Arising

None

Future Events

Richard reminded members of the upcoming district practice at Winchester Cathedral on 30 August at 7pm. He also announced an Advanced 6 Bell practice: London & Cambridge Surprise Minor at Bishopstoke on 9 September, 7 – 8:30pm. The Interdistrict 10 Bell Striking Competition will be held at Whitchurch on 2 September. The District Outing, arranged by Graham Wright, will be Saturday, 23 September in Oxford; the details continue to develop. Interested parties should advise Graham that they are planning to attend. G.Wright 023 8061 4247). The next quarterly meeting will be at Twyford & Bishopstoke on 11 November. This will also be the District Education Day and courses will be offered on 'Calling Changes' and 'Plain Bob Minor'. Interested helpers and pupils should contact the District ringing masters. Quarterpeal Week will take place 23 September – 1 October; unlike some years, there is no theme. Members should report their details to Jen Churchill, please.

Presentation of Certificates & Trophies

Guild Master Andrew Craddock presented to Charlotte Breen of Crawley her Blue Badge, an Ambitious Apprentice's certificate. He also presented a certificate for Life Membership to David Forder, recognising his 50 years' membership in the Guild and his many and varied contributions including at stint as Guild General Secretary and currently as Convenor of the Public Relations committee, managing the Guild website, editing the Guild newsletter and frequently judging striking competitions. Chairman, Richard Thompson then presented the District Striking League trophy to Rosemary Oakeshott on behalf of Romsey Abbey winners of Division II. In Division I, Hursley had withdrawn and were not eligible for the trophy. Of the towers remaining, Romsey Abbey, Winchester Cathedral and Bishopstoke, the only tower to complete all matches, had earned equal points thus the trophy was awarded to them jointly. Roy LeMarechal received the trophy on Bishopstoke's behalf for the first part of the year.

Striking League

Jen Churchill, District ringing master, reminded members that it was now time to think about signing up for next year's league.

Presentation of Certificates

Theo Johnson presented first quarterpeal certificates to Dave Richards and Madeline FitzGerald-Gradwell. These were collected by other members of their towers for them. She also presented a Guild membership certificate to Christine Harding. Membership certificates for the following new members were collected by other ringers from their respective towers:

Cheriton	George Ayling, Beth Farrer and Stephen Tompsett, collected by Caroline Fairley
Crawley	Philip Gillibrand, collected by Coral Northeast
Easton	Susannah Anderson and James Pinder, collected by Judy Bishop
Lockerley	Madeleine FitzGerald-Gradwell, collected by Jen Churchill
New Alresford	David Richards, collected by Elizabeth Johnson

Members thanked Graham Grant with a round of applause for his diligent work and beautiful writing on so many certificates. Several certificates were not presented because there was no tower representative to collect them. These will be presented at the Quarterly Meeting in November at Twyford.

AOB

Clare Griffiths: collection for the Bell Restoration Fund raised £19.60. Also several bronze bell badges for sale at £1.70 each. Additionally, the District telephone directories are ready and could representatives from towers collect them after the meeting.

Apologies: Sue Spurling

In the absence of any other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 5:26pm.

Minutes of the Quarterly District Meeting held Saturday, 11 November 2006, at Twyford

Before the meeting there were simultaneous Education courses at Twyford church. Richard Thompson led a course on Plain Bob Minor and Edmund Wratten led a course on Calling Changes. After this, members enjoyed an impressive tea in St. Mary's church rooms. Following the meeting there was open ringing until 6:30pm.

Chairman's Welcome

Richard Thompson opened the meeting at 4:41pm and welcomed the 20 members to the meeting including Guild Master Andrew Craddock. He thanked the Rev. Mark Bailey for the use of the church and the bells and the Twyford band for an excellent tea. He then reported the sad loss of John Spice of Winchester and asked Drew Craddock, who knew him well, to make a few remarks. Drew mentioned that John had been a member of the Cathedral band and was at one time a don at Winchester College where he had been a keen member of the band. He was an accomplished ringer of both tower and handbells. He had learnt to ring at Oxford University and rang in the first peal of Glasgow Surprise Major.

Edmund Wratten, having noticed that he was mentioned in the previous meeting's minutes as absent because he was repairing Owslebury bells, reported that he had done further work, tightening bolts and such, and that the bells were now going very much better.

Drew also took this opportunity to say that his presence at District meetings need not be minuted every time since he is in fact a member of this District in addition to being Guild Master.

Election of New Members

Confirmation of Probationary Election

Crawley	1 September 2006	Wendy Hammond-Parker, Proposed by Edmund J Wratten, Seconded by Amanda Bayford
	3 October 2006	Robert Orlebar, Proposed by Edmund J Wratten, Seconded by Amanda Bayford
New Alresford	10 Nov 2006	Jane Brookes & Katie Brookes, proposed by Andrew Johnson, seconded by Theo Johnson

Confirmation of Compounding Elections

18 August 2006	Alan G Reading of Sheffield Proposed by Roy LeMarechal and seconded by John P Colliss at East Tytherley
19 August 2006	Gabrielle L Cowcill of Bristol Proposed by Roy LeMarechal and seconded by John P Colliss at North Stoneham
1 October 2006	Martin Mansley of St.Marychurch Proposed by Roy LeMarechal and seconded by John P Colliss at St.Marychurch
28 October 2006	Mark Backhouse of Erith Proposed by Barry Fry and seconded by Steve Castle at Hursley
28 October 2006	Janet Hill of Thames Ditton Proposed by Barry Fry and seconded by Steve Castle at Hursley
28 October 2006	Neil Thomas of Norwich Proposed by Barry Fry, Seconded by Steve Castle, at Hursley

All were elected unanimously.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

As the minutes of the last meeting, held at Owslebury on 12 August 2006 had been previously circulated, Elizabeth Johnson proposed and Rosemary Oakeshott seconded that they be accepted. This was carried unanimously by the members and the minutes were duly signed by the chairman as an accurate record.

Matters Arising

None

Presentation of Certificates

Although a list of certificates to be presented at this meeting had been circulated amongst the towers none of the recipients was present to receive a certificate. Tom Hinks collected certificates for John Williams and Alison Graham Smith of Romsey. Edmund Wratten collected a certificate for Russell McPartland of King's Worthy and David Abbot's certificate was taken by Andrew Johnson to the Twyford ringing chamber.

Striking League

Jen Churchill, District ringing master, reported that there remained only two towers, Romsey and New Alresford, in the upper league and that no towers had chosen to participate in the lower league.

Future Events

Richard reminded members that the carol service this year would be at North Stoneham on 2 December starting at 5:15 for 6pm. Theo then mentioned that North Stoneham had already sent around to tower correspondents by e-mail a poster advertising this event. Richard then reminded members of the upcoming district practice at Owslebury on 11 December at 7:30pm and of the January district practice at New Alresford on 5 January 2007. The next meeting will be the Annual District Meeting on 10 February at Hursley. Andrew Johnson asked to be reminded of the days of the week for these

events and Theo replied that Owslebury practiced on a Monday, New Alresford a Friday and that the ADM would be on a Saturday.

AOB

Clare Griffiths: Collection for the Bell Restoration Fund raised £22.50.

Richard Thompson: Thanks to all helpers on the two Education Day courses.

Caroline Fairley: Tichborne would like some ringers to ring for their carol service at 6:30pm on 17 December. Any interested ringers should please contact Caroline who is organising this.

Apologies: Tony Smith, Wendy Ling, Carrie Eisenhauer

In the absence of any other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 4:55pm.