

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

**Minutes of the Quarterly District Meeting held on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2012 at the John Pearson Hall, Parish Church of St John the Baptist, New Alresford .**

The meeting started at 5.37 p.m., with 23 members of the District from six towers and two guests present.

The Chairman, John Palk, opened the meeting with a welcome to those present, including the Rector, the Revd Philip Collins and with thanks to him and the wardens for the use of their bells, also to Elizabeth Johnson as the local contact and to Jackie and Chris Beresford and their helpers who laid on the splendid baked-potato and salad tea.

**Apologies for absence.** Apologies for absence were received from Christine and Peter Hill, Rosemary Oakeshott, Jill Parr, Trish Spink, Susan Spurling, Jenny Watson

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting.** The minutes of the Quarterly District Meeting held on 11 August at Cheriton were accepted as a true record: proposed by Mike Hopkins Till, seconded by David Strong and passed on a show of hands.

**Matters Arising.** There were no matters arising.

**Loss of members.** The meeting noted with sadness death of Ray Aldington (Winchester Cathedral, † 25 September 2012).

**Certificates.** Membership certificates were taken for Phil and Stephanie Nicholls of North Stoneham, by Phil Watts, and for Nicky Atkins and Katie Gould of West Tytherley by David Strong.

**Recent Events.**

*Striking Competition.* John Palk thanked Peter Niblett for judging the Striking Competition held on 12 May, and added what a useful experience it had been for him and for Sue Spurling, who made up the judging panel. Certificates were taken for Bishopstoke, by John Colliss, for Hursley, by Richard Thompson and for Lockerley by David Strong.

*District Outing.* John Palk gave a brief report on the District Outing to mid-Somerset on 8 September, comprising visits to Ston Easton, Chilcompton, Pilton, Ditcheat, Batcombe, and St Leonard's church and the Pig-le-Tower campanile at Marston Bigot. The towers were all well worth visiting, with the new 12 at Chilcompton, Ditcheat and Pig-le-Tower providing a variety of highlights; the weather on the day had been kind. David Strong proposed a vote of thanks, passed on a show of hands.

*Young Ringers' Outing.* Jen Churchill reported that the Outing had gone ahead on Tuesday 28 August with visits to Sherfield English, Lockerley and West Tytherley and a game of cricket on Butt's Green, Lockerley, in which once more Jen ended up on the losing side. The meeting thanked Jen for her work.

*Best Kept Tower.* Mike Hopkins Till reported on this year's Best Kept Towers, for which the review period had been the month of September. Three towers had been

evaluated, as follows: Romsey, scoring 95.5% - Gold, Lockerley, scoring 91% - Gold, East Tytherley, scoring 73% - Silver. Joy Scanlan took the certificate for Romsey, David Strong took those for Lockerley and East Tytherley. Elizabeth Johnson pointed out that New Alresford had applied to be considered for the award, and the Secretary apologised for his oversight in failing to send her the criteria for evaluation. It was agreed that the evaluation would be carried out and the certificate issued in due course.

*District Ringing Festival.* Mike Hopkins Till reported on the District Ringing Festival, held this year between Sunday 14 October and Sunday 4 November: one peal and eight quarters were rung, at six towers: Bishopstoke, Hurstbourne Priors, Lockerley, New Alresford, Romsey Abbey and Winchester Cathedral. Fifty-two ringers took part, the top scorers being Lucy and Mike Hopkins Till (1 peal and 1 quarter each), Alistair Brown, Caroline Daniels and Martin Daniels (3 quarters each). The top conductors were Mike Hopkins Till (1 peal, 1 quarter), Alistair Brown and Andrew Johnson (2 quarters each). Personal milestones were those of David Strong: 425 quarters conducted, Joy Scanlan: 1<sup>st</sup> Superlative, Mary Edelsten: 1<sup>st</sup> caters; Gillian Gardner and Simon Lipscombe: 1<sup>st</sup> peal of major. The methods rung were: Plain Bob Major, the peal, and quarters of Plain Bob Minor, Grandsire Caters, Belfast Surprise Major, Cambridge Surprise Major (x2), Superlative Surprise Major (x2), and three methods of Doubles. The chairman added that it would be good to see more first attempts and more first attempts as conductor, and that perhaps the district should encourage such attempts by helping to arrange strong bands for ringers wishing to go for 'firsts'.

### **Future Events.**

8 December: Carol Service at King's Somborne: Bruce Purvis confirmed that arrangements were in hand: Andrew Johnson asked when details were to be published and the secretary advised that a poster would be sent out imminently.

14 or 15 January: District Practice at Micheldever: Bruce Purvis reported that he was in contact with Juliet Pattinson at Micheldever and that the date for the District Practice would soon be determined.

9 February: Annual District Meeting at Lockerley and the Tytherleys: Bruce Purvis reported that arrangements were in hand.

For the rest of 2013, a District practice was planned for the week beginning 11 March, and a Training event for the week beginning 8 April: the rest of the year would be planned at a forthcoming meeting of the officers.

The question was raised as to whether tower donations should be made – as they are on outings or mid-monthly meetings – for events like District practices and Training sessions. On the ground that these events were arranged for the benefit of towers within the district, Lucy Hopkins Till proposed that no such donations should be made, unless the tower in question specifically asked for one. John Croft seconded the proposal, passed on a show of hands.

### **Any other business.**

Lucy Hopkins Till advised the meeting that there was a Guild Executive Committee meeting next Saturday, 17 November, and that if anyone had a concern which they wished to be raised at that meeting, she would do so on their behalf as the District's representative.

Richard Thompson reminded the meeting about the District Surprise Major practices at Hursley on the second Tuesday of each month, from 7.00 to 8.30 p.m.: methods rung were the standard repertoire up to eight-spliced, but could include whatever people were keen to ring.

Elizabeth Johnson advised the meeting that Wendy Ling, who does much of the District's printing, was undergoing therapy for chronic lymphoblastic leukaemia, and a good-wishes card was being circulated for Jacquie to give to Wendy when she visited her on Tuesday 13 November.

Rosemary Oakeshott, the District's web-master, had stated that she wished to stand down with effect from the New Year, and was giving notice for a successor to be recruited.

John Palk gave notice of his intention to stand down as Chairman at the Annual District Meeting.

Rosemary Haviland had stated that she wished to stand down as tower contact for Micheldever, and had suggested that Juliet Pattinson, a member of the new band, might like to take on the role.

David Strong, who had compiled and sent to Buckingham Palace a record of commemorative ringing for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee throughout the Guild had received a letter of thanks from Her Majesty's Lady-in-Waiting.

Elizabeth Johnson advised the meeting that there would be no practice at New Alresford on 23 November, and, therefore, that there would be a practice on that evening at Old Alresford.

The collection for the Bell Restoration Fund raised £13.51.

The meeting closed at 6.04 p.m.