

Peterborough Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Seaton on Saturday June 8th 2019.

824. The President opened the meeting and **welcomed** everyone. James Thorpe, on behalf of the Peterborough Branch, proposed a **Vote of Thanks** to Alan Wordie, Chairman of the Rutland Branch, and the sub-committee members who organised today. Louis Totaro, Branch Ringing Master and his deputy, Alan Ellis for stewarding the towers at Belton and Uppingham and to Cannon Rachel West, for allowing us to ring at both towers, to Hilary Williams, for making all the local arrangements at Seaton, to Rev. Jane Baxter, for allowing us to ring at Seaton and for taking the Service, to Diana Wordie, for playing the organ, to Huiyen Bloodworth and her team for the splendid tea and to everyone for coming and making the day such a success.

825. Apologies for absence were received from:- Jim and Sarah Bence, Hilda Collins, Alex Dyer, Chris FitzGerald, Elaine Greatrex, James Grennan, Frank and Chris Jenkins, Paul Mason, Jane Rands, Derek and Jane Sibson, Nick Watts, Sue Webster, Ian and Alison Willgress.

826. The following items were declared under **Any Other Business**:-

- A Guild initiative to complete the missing data fields for Dove's Guide on line facility
- To update the Guild Inventory produced by Denis Pearson in 1989.
- Disposal of Denis Pearson's collected materials

827. **Membership**:-

Members who had passed away since the last AGM were remembered in the Service and recorded as follows:- Jean Costello (Roade), Tim Wooding (Yardley Hastings), Ivor Dickin (Irchester), Richard Waddy (Daventry), Tony Riley (Easton on the Hill) and Eric Walker (Wollaston).

50 Year Membership Certificates were awarded and presented to the following members: - Paul Loxston, Peggy Jennings and Roger Scholes. Unfortunately Sue Parker was unable to attend to receive hers. Roger then spoke briefly about the importance ringing and its fellowship in his life.

The Secretary, on behalf of the Executive, proposed Alan Marks for **Life Honorary Membership** of the Guild speaking of his 10 years as Guild Treasurer, his willingness to visit Branches and practices, his wisdom, sense of humour,

hours spent at home keeping the accounts up to date and in good order and last but by no means least his attendance in the pub after any ringing event to socialise with members. Brenda Dixon, Past President, seconded the proposal speaking of the mess Alan had to sort out when he volunteered to take on the role of Treasurer and his long association with the Thrapston and Wellingborough Branches serving as an officer in more than one role.

All members were in agreement with this proposal and the President was delighted to present Alan with his certificate of Life Honorary Membership.

Alison Byrnes, on behalf of the Thrapston Branch, was delighted to propose Len Hallifax from Lowick for **Life Honorary Membership** of the Guild. She spoke of Len's faithfulness to the Thrapston Branch as Ringing Master, Steward and GMC representative. She spoke of the fact that it was only through recent ill health that Len had regretfully given up being Branch Steward. Ted Buckby, then seconded this proposal saying that when he first learned to ring it was Len and Alan that transported him to ringing events and that he was very grateful for Len's work and friendship.

All members were in agreement with this proposal, and it was noted in Len's absence, that he would be presented with his certificate at a later date.

828. **Minutes** of the **2018 AGM** held at Thrapston, the **2018 Summer Festival** held at Rothwell and the **2019 Spring Guild Meeting** held at Cotterstock were approved, with minor amendments to spelling and signed by President. There were **no matters arising**.

829. The **adoption of the 2018 Annual Report, Accounts and GMC Report** was introduced by the President. In the absence of the Guild Treasurer the President read what the Treasurer had said at the Spring Guild Meeting informing members that he had transferred some of the Guild's financial assets into different accounts to earn more interest. Members were informed that they would in the future have to think about raising funds for the training fund as well as the bell fund as more towers and members are now making calls on this fund, which is good to see. Nick Elks proposed and Derek Jones seconded that the Annual Report, Accounts and GMC report be adopted. This was carried unanimously with the President thanking Jim and Gwynneth White for all their hard work in producing an excellent report.

830. The Secretary on behalf of the Finance and General Purposes Committee proposed that there be **no changes to the subscription rates** (adults £7.00,

students £3.50) and **peal fees** (20p per rope). This was seconded by Helen Allton. All were in favour.

831. The Steward informed members that there was one **grant application** to consider from Weekley, 6 bells, in the Kettering Branch. Parts of the frame have corroded and need replacing i.e. sections of the frame under the 3rd, 5th and tenor pits and also to weld repair the cracked frame side on the 5th bell pit at a cost of £14,295 by John Taylor. A grant of £1,450 was approved. Nick Churchman proposed and Rob Palmer seconded that £1,000 be set aside for **minor grants** during the year. All were in favour.

832. Notice was given of the proposed **Guild Meetings** for the rest of 2019 and 2020.

21.09.19.	Summer Festival & 8 Bell Inter Branch Striking Competition	Wellingborough Branch
.Afternoon ringing at Stanwick,	Competition ringing at Rushden.	Evening Ringing at Wellingborough.
25.04.20.	Spring Guild Meeting & 6 Bell Striking Competition.	Culworth Branch
13.06.20.	Annual General Meeting	Towcester Branch
19.09.20.	Summer Festival & 8 Bell Inter Branch Striking Competition	Guilsborough Branch

833. The Master then took the Chair to begin the **Election of Guild Officers**. Nominations had been received from the Branches including the vacant posts due to the retirement of the Secretary, Steward and Peal Secretary. Guild Officers were elected as follows:-

President Geoff Pullin

Master Simon Dixon

For the post of Secretary two people had been proposed. Helen Allton by the Towcester Branch and Alison Byrnes by the Thrapston Branch. Both candidates were invited to speak before members voting took place. Brenda Dixon and Alan Marks acted as tellers.

Secretary Helen Allton

Treasurer Chris FitzGerald

Steward John Beresford

Peal Secretary Paul Mason

Report Editors Jim & Gwynneth White

Newsletter Editor Chris Pearson

The post of PRO and Web Master was split. Cathy Dixon proposed and Richard Allton seconded that Alison Byrnes be elected to this position. All were in favour.

PRO Alison Byrnes

Web Master Geoff Pullin

The President thanked all of the Officers for the work they had done throughout the year and announced that he would not be seeking re-election next year.

834. Richard Allton proposed and Robert Palmer seconded that Stephen Hayward be appointed to continue as **Independent Examiner**. The Secretary informed members that he was willing to continue in this role.

835. Due to the retirement of Derek Jones as **100 Club Co-Ordinator** after 33 years Cathy Dixon was appointed.

836. The President, in his role as **PRO and Web Master** said that since last year's AGM the web site had received 61,000 hits up 33% on last year. The most popular pages were the welcome page, latest Guild news, towers and events. Alan Chantler informed members that the old Peterborough Diocesan Guild Link was still open. The Guild pop-up displays are regularly being used in the Guild and that it was important that Branch Web Sites are kept up to date.

837. **Central Council Matters**. With 2019's meeting being moved to September from May there was no report to be given. The Secretary reported that the F&GP had recommended to the GMC that this year's expenses for our four representatives be set at no more than £150 per representative. This was agreed by the meeting. Questions were asked about the changes in procedure and the role of our representatives now that decisions are being made by the Central Council Executive with no vote taking place. A report from September's meeting will be made at the Summer Festival. Further discussion about the role of our Central Council's representatives and the value of membership will be put onto next year's GMC agenda.

838. The **100 Club Draw** took place with the winners coming from the Northampton and Wellingborough Branches.

839. The President informed members of the work that Rob Palmer (Guilsborough Branch Steward) was undertaking to help complete the missing data field for Dove's Guide on line facility. He would be grateful for any offers of help in completing this work with inscriptions of bells, photographs, the description of the frame etc. Alongside this work Rob would also like to update

the 1989 inventory that Denis Pearson produced whilst Guild Steward. Rob informed members he would be happy to chat with anybody who is interested in this project after the meeting or to get in touch with him directly through the link on the Guild Web Site.

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The Secretary announced that the collection for the Guild Bell Fund amounted to £170.49.

The President closed the meeting at 7.30 pm after having surprised the outgoing Secretary with a bouquet of flowers. Evening ringing continued at Seaton followed by about 20 members enjoying some time socialising in the George and the Dragon.