

GUILD MANAGEMENT REPORT 2018

INTRODUCTION: National matters of safeguarding, health and safety, insurance and data protection occupied officers' time and appear to be resolved in relation to the Guild.

Following the change of Treasurer, the 100 Club figures have been amalgamated into the accounts which have been switched from a partial cash basis to an accruals basis for reporting. The General Fund comprises £10,001 (2017: £9,288). The total of all our funds is £86,750 (£90,115).

MEMBERSHIP: The adult subscription was raised to £7 for this year. The Guild now has 914 (927) members, comprising 850 (852) adults, 51 (62) students and 13 (13) associate members.

The following members died during the year: Kathleen Wilson (Yelvertoft). Stanley Ruddlesden (Life Honorary Member - Long Buckby), Roger Wilkins (Earls Barton), Derek Thornton (Life Honorary Member - Woodford Halse), Charlie Truman (Whittlebury), Tony Webster (Byfield), Jude Coulter (Ecton), Timothy Wooding (Yardley Hastings), Jean Costello (Roade), Ivor Dickin (Irchester), Richard Waddy (Daventry) and Tony Riley (Easton on the Hill).

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: Thrapston hosted the meeting on June 9 attended by over 50 (60) members. 50-year membership certificates were announced for Janet Collins, Christopher Groome, Len Hallifax, Alan Marks, Penny Pardoe, Joan Parker and Sandra Whitlam and were presented to Len and Alan.

The Guild Officers were re-elected except that Chris FitzGerald replaced Alan Marks who had given good notice that he did not wish to stand again after ten years as Treasurer.

FESTIVALS: The Spring Festival and 6-bell competition was held at Flore on April 28. Ten (8) teams entered the competition, judged by Emma Cundiff and Stuart Cox from Tunstall, Kent. Towcester tower won.

The Summer Festival on September 22 began with a quarter peal of Grandsire Caters at Kettering with representatives of seven branches. Seven (6) branches entered the 8-bell striking competition on the light eight at Rothwell. Judge Andrew Young from Oadby awarded the Harry Wooding Memorial Trophy to the Northampton Branch for the first time. During the afternoon Alistair Donaldson's mini-ring was kept busy in the south aisle.

BELL WORK: The projects to rehang the bells at Cosgrove and Wilbarston were completed, with the latter also being augmented to six. The overhaul of the installation at Guilsborough was completed as was the project to install a sharp second at Kettering, to create a light eight. Work on clappers was undertaken at Rushden, Thrapston and Duston.

BELL FUND: The Guild Bell Fund stands at £70,959 (£74,949) of which £1,600 (£6,300) is allocated. The income was £8,182 (£7,956) and grants amounting to £11,844 (£13,073) were paid. The affiliation scheme letter that was sent out in May resulted in £3,667 (£3,370) being received from 164 (163) parishes. We are grateful for the help given by the Diocesan Office, in distributing the letters free of charge, and the continued support given by parishes. Fund raising events were fewer this year. The 100-Club raised £599, Guild quizzes and sales raised £413. Kettering Branch continued with the sponsored cycle ride and raised a commendable £715. Members were involved in bell projects thereby reducing the costs to the relevant parishes.

TRAINING, RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION: Ten-bell practices changed to a 5th Saturday basis after the AGM. The national Ringing Remembers campaign resulted in some new recruits and a great deal of special ringing across the diocese to mark the Centenary of the Armistice on November 11. Most of the recruits from Ringing Remembers continued ringing after November 11.

The Training Fund stands at £5,790 (£5,878). One (3) award of £100 (£256) was paid.

PEALS AND QUARTER PEALS: 67 (51) peals were rung during the year. Congratulations to Nigel E Buckby, Nick Hiams, Oliver Rice and Angela Whiteway who rang their first peal. The total number of quarter peals rung in the Diocese was 316 (356) of which 50 (67) were rung for service. 15 (28) ringers rang their first quarter peal, 4 (7) their first inside and 5 (2) their first as conductor – congratulations to them all.

WEBSITE: The Guild website had 55,037 (46,045) hits, with the Towers, Latest Guild News and Events pages being the most popular again.

CONCLUSION: The Management Committee acknowledges the efforts made in recruitment, training, restoration work and fund raising. It thanks all branch officers, members, incumbents and friends who support and develop change ringing.

GMC 2/3/19 Membership updated 13/3/19

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