

Annual General Meeting of the Oxford City branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers

Held on Saturday 19th November 2016 at

St Mary the Virgin, Kidlington 3.30pm

28 members of the branch attended the meeting, and we were also joined by Hilarie Rogers, Guild Ringing Master, Tony Crabtree, Guild Representative, Susan Read, Guild Assistant Treasurer and Tim Pett, who assisted with the handbell ringing.

Before the meeting opened, Simon Edwards spoke about Basil Townsend who died recently, and had been an active and much respected member of the Branch.

Simon Edwards also thanked the Kidlington ringers for the excellent tea and the hand bell ringers for their performance at the start of the service.

Apologies

These were received from – Stuart Gibson, Katie Lane, Jonathan Cresshull, Chris Fenn, Leslie Smith, Mary Carroll, Simon and Susan King, Paul Lucas, Tim Hillsdon, Janice and Jonathan Beale, Bernard Masterman, Rachel Woodford.

Matters Arising: None.

Election of New Members:

The following new members were elected –

Dana Josephson – St Giles proposed John Pusey, seconded Hugh Deam

Tertia Softley and Annika Everett – Headington proposed Claire Fairbairn, seconded Katy Routh

Brenda Gratwicke Kidlington proposed Ron Burgess, seconded Hugh Deam

Wendy Keely Wheatley, proposed Peter Bayliss, seconded Hugh Deam

Emma Stanford, Isobel Fray and Daniel Gregory St Aldates, proposed Simon Edwards, seconded Dorothy Hall

All these new members will have certificates presented to them at the Half Yearly meeting in May 2017.

Presentation of Certificates:

Certificates were presented to new members who had been elected at the half yearly meeting in May by Hilarie Rogers.

Reports from Officers

Treasurers Report: Dorothy Hall reported that our funds currently stand at £2797, which is an increase of just over £300 compared to last year. Membership numbers have remained fairly similar to last year, and the increase is mainly due to people not requesting reimbursement for training courses. People were reminded that there is money available towards training and were asked to contact Dorothy if they had any queries about it.

No other officers had reports to give.

Election of Officers

Chairman – Simon Edwards was willing to stand again, there were no other nominations. Dorothy Hall Proposed, Hugh Deam seconded, and he was duly elected.

Secretary – Lindsay Powell was willing to stand again. There were no other nominations. Claire Fairbairn proposed and Rosie Cretney seconded and she was duly elected.

Treasurer – Dorothy Hall was willing to stand again. There were no other nominations. Lindsay Powell proposed, Andrew Freer seconded and she was duly elected.

Vice Chair – Paul Lucas was willing to stand again and there were no other nominations. Simon Edwards proposed, Ron Burgess seconded and he was duly elected.

Ringling Master: This post is currently vacant, but Andrew Freer agreed to stand for election, his was the only nomination. John Pusey proposed and Rosie Cretney seconded. He was duly elected.

Branch Representatives – there are two positions available, but Andrew Freer is currently the only representative. Andrew said he would be standing down to take on the Ringling Master Role. Rosie Cretney agreed to stand, she was proposed by Lindsay Powell and seconded by Simon Edwards, and duly elected.

There were no nominations for the second post which will remain vacant.

Independent examiner: Katherine Stonham was willing to stand again, there were no other nominations. Proposed by Simon Edwards and seconded by Katy Routh. She was duly elected.

Any other Business

Dorothy Hall reported that Stanton St John had asked for a grant towards rehangng their bells. Dorothy circulated information on the project. They are aiming to raise £42,000 in total, and currently have pledges of £12,000. Dorothy proposed we give a grant of £1,000 towards the work. Simon Edwards asked when this would be paid? Dorothy said not until the work was due to be done. Hugh Deam seconded and the proposal was agreed.

Andrew Freer was invited to say a few words as the new Ringing Master. He reported that there is now a simulator at St Giles, thanks to a bequest from Lizzie Edmonson who rang there before her death. Andrew wants to use this as a teaching resource. The first Branch Practice will be on Saturday 3rd December at St Giles as a slot has become vacant then. Going forward, there will be branch practices planned throughout 2017, and Andrew would welcome suggestions for training topics. He is planning to run a ringing up and down practice, and would also like to instigate some 10 bell practices. The Committee will meet to put together a calendar of practices which will be circulated to all towers.

Hugh Deam said there was already a practice organised at Kidlington in February with a finance meeting afterwards.

John Pusey said that the standard at the St Giles advanced practices had been declining recently, and said anyone who wanted to ring Stedman triples, plain and little bob major were very welcome to attend. These practices are the 2nd Thursday of the month.

Susan Read said people would be very welcome in other branches as well. She also reminded people about the young ringers outings in school holidays.

Hilarie was asked about the discussion topics for the Guild Meeting. The next one will be circulated after the march Committee meeting.

Lindsay Powell asked if there was anything anyone wanted brought up at the Guild Meeting next week. There wasn't.

Hugh Deam said he was still raising money from aluminium cans, and will report back at the half yearly meeting on fundraising progress.

The meeting closed at 4.45pm