

Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell ringers Oxford City Branch

Half yearly meeting held on Saturday 14th May at St Nicholas Marston 2.30pm

1. Apologies:

Jonathan and Janice Beale, Katie Lane, Hilarie Rogers, Claire Fairbairn

2. Minutes of the AGM:

Under point 7, Election of Officers, line 5, branches should read towers. Lindsay Powell to amend this, otherwise the minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

3. Matters arising:

There were no matters arising

4. Election of new members:

St Giles had four new members to elect – Caillan Crowe-McAuliffe, Isobel Errington, Rachel Norris and Jamie Allport. They were proposed by John Pusey and seconded by Paul Lucas and duly elected.

Stanton St John had two new members to elect – Rosemary Weigand and Carmen Sherry. They were proposed by Paul Lansdown and seconded by Rachel Woodford and duly elected.

Wheatley had one new member to elect, but as there was no one present from Wheatley to propose or nominate, Simon Edwards suggested this should be carried forward to the AGM in November. Lindsay Powell to inform Wheatley.

Marston had one new member to elect – Matthew Jordan. He was proposed by Hugh Deam and seconded by Paul Lucas and duly elected.

Cowley had one new member to elect – Mary Bayliss. She was proposed by Lindsay Powell and seconded by Rosie Cretney and duly elected.

There were two unattached members to elect – Stephen Jones and Elizabeth Frye. They were proposed by Dorothy Hall and seconded by Simon Edwards and duly elected.

5. Certificates for members elected at the 2015 AGM:

These were given out to new members or representatives from their towers.

6. Fundraising and Outings:

Hugh Deam reported that there was a small amount of income from tin cans and the raffle. He asked if any one wanted the can collection to continue, considering the small revenue stream this provided. Hugh suggested that if 10 people were to join in it might be possible to raise more money. After discussion the chair suggested that a

possible target of £25 should be considered – less than this meant it was not really worth the time and effort needed. It can be discussed again at AGM if necessary.

Hugh asked that people forward email addresses to him if they were interested in attending any of the outings. Since the AGM there have been 12 events, and there has been considerable success in joining together with Witney and Woodstock branch. Specific method practices have been popular. Hugh provided a summary of all of the outings so far, and those planned for the rest of the year. Simon Edwards expressed his thanks to Hugh for all the work he does.

7. AOB:

Susan Read, the Guild Assistant treasurer reported that the Guild as a whole is gradually losing ringers. The way forward is seen as good quality teaching of new recruits. The Association of Ringing Teachers provide high quality ringing teacher training and there is a course running in Abingdon in June. Please contact her for further details.

Ron Burgess reported on the new band he has been training at Kirtlington. The numbers have dropped to 7 but they are now remaining steady and have made good progress.

Tony Crabtree the Guild Steward said he was keen to work to create links between Branches and ensure good practice was shared. He reported on the forthcoming Guild AGM and Activity Day which would be held in the Vale of the White Horse this year. This will include Open Towers, mini ring, dumb bell, Tours of Whites of Appleton, handbell ringing and an exhibition at Faringdon. Tony is also a representative of the Towers and Belfries sub-committee, so please approach him for any queries in this area. Tony also reported on the individual members mailing list which was in use in many Branches, and wondered if Oxford City would like to take the same approach. It is stored on a secure site managed by the Guild and is anonymous. There were no objections to proceeding. Lindsay Powell will collate this and liaise with guild over setting one up for Oxford City Branch.

Anthony Hughes reported on Roy Jones library. It is now catalogued, and City Branch members are all welcome to have a look. The rest will be offered to the Guild Library.

The meeting ended at 3.15pm