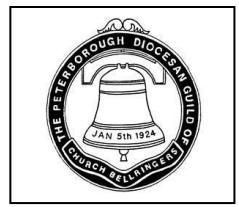


PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS

Rutland branch



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Great Casterton Village Hall

6.00 pm on 14th January 2023

1. Vote of thanks

Chairman Alan Wordie thanked Rev Don McGarrigle for presiding over the church service, organist Betty Lamb and Ann Archer and her band of helpers for organising the splendid tea after the service.

2. Welcome

37 People present including Guild President Alistair Donaldson and Treasurer Chris Fitzgerald were welcomed.

3. Apologies received

15 members had sent their apologies to the secretary

4. Minutes of the last AGM

The minutes of the last AGM at Caldecott were unanimously accepted with 2 amendments

- Spelling of Jasie Newman incorrect
- Sue Baker's appointment as Secretary not included

5. Matters arising

The branch report circulated prior to the meeting was accepted.

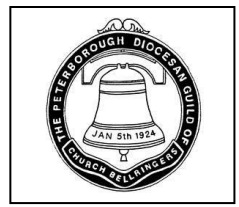
Nominated: David Rippin, Seconded: Sue Webster

6. Treasurer's report

Report and accounts circulated prior to meeting. Treasurer Simon Forster reported that

- Payment of subs up on last year. Majority now paying on line
- Surplus after proportion paid to Guild, website fees and bank charges- £2523

Proposal for adoption of accounts: Simon Forster, Seconded: Alan Ellis



7. Masters Report

Unfortunately report not circulated prior to meeting. Will be sent out to members.

- Many learners are active in branch. Thanks to those assisting with teaching and supporting learners. *Ring for the king* good opportunity to promote recruitment of new ringers.
- Branch team entered in Guild 6 and 8 bell ringing competitions during 2022. Thanks to those who took part and helped with hosting the Guild Summer festival.
- Tower Captains meeting via zoom useful and mutual help was discussed as well as recruitment. Disappointed at the numbers attending. Hope to have another face to face meeting of Tower Captains early next year.
- Branch Programme is designed to encourage attendance at special practices and then help generate small self- help groups who will meet to carry on learning a particular skill introduced in the branch practices.

Proposal for adoption of Report: Brian Newman, Seconded : Mary Davidson

8. Stewards Report

Unfortunately report not circulated prior to meeting. To be sent out to members.

- Minutes from Guild Restoration and Maintenance Committee Meeting available from Ted Phillips on request.
- Hot weather in summer caused problems including loose bolts, broken stays and handling difficulties. Possibly weakened ash stays from Ash Die-back
- 5 towers inspected with steeple-keepers/Tower Captains. Aim to get around all Towers as time allows.
- Thanks to all steeple-keepers for assistance. Reminder to stay safe and observe safety rules. Advice available on website.

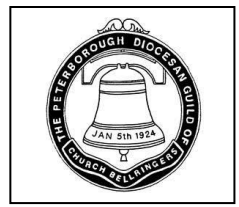
Website

Ted reported that website has had 750 hits. There is lots of information on the website but Ted know if there is anything you want to add.

Proposal for adoption of report : Ted Phillips, Seconded : Sue Baker

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS

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9. Admittance of new members

Nigel Barratt	Gretton	proposed Sally Watts,	seconded Brian Newman
Sam Ryder	Gt Casterton	proposed Ann Archer	seconded Kate Riley
Charlie Winstanley	Gt Casterton	proposed Ann Archer	seconded Kate Riley

First Quarter Peal

Gill Martin Braunston

Sally Watts Gretton

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL

10. Chairman's remarks

Branch report circulated prior to meeting. Noted one amendment to spelling of Paul Loxsley.

Alan Wordie thanked all the officers on the committee and especially Sue Webster for maintaining the flow of information via comms and the newsletter to all members. Sue asked that anyone with a ringing story sends it to her and she will publish it in the newsletter.

Alan also praised the Tower Captains as the unsung heroes acting as link between the branch and ringers. Appointed by the PCC they manage the towers, ensure health and safety advise is followed and much more.

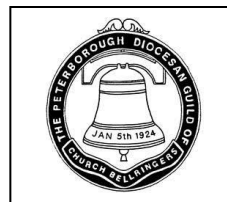
Alan also thanked the Guild officers for their help with teaching sessions, especially the flying squad and the support and encouragement offered to the branch. He particularly mentioned Simon and Cathy Dixon and Alan Marks.

A vote of thanks in the form of applause was given to John Tomalin for his longstanding role as Branch representative on the Guild Management Committee (GMC) from which he is standing down.

Finally he urged everyone to pay their subs for 2023 and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS

Rutland branch



11. Election of branch officers and committee members

Position	Nominees	Proposer	Seconded	Elected
Chairman	Alan Wordie	Alan Ellis	Mary Davidson	yes
Ringling Master	Brian Newman	Sue Webster	Ted Phillips	yes
Deputy Ringing Master	Roger Scholes	Brian Newman	Alan Ellis	yes
Secretary	Sue Baker	Alan Wordie	David Rippin	yes
Treasurer/ Membership secretary	Simon Forster	John Tomalin	Sue Baker	yes
Steward	Ted Phillips	Sue Webster	Ann Archer	yes
Social Secretary				Vacant
Newsletter and press	Sue Webster	Ann Archer	Rachel Szyszka	yes
Branch website	Ted Philips	Sharon Bromilow	Sue Webster	yes
Guild Management Committee	Alan Wordie			All in favour
Coronation co-ordinator	Alan Ellis and Sharon Bromilow			All in favour
Independent Examiner	James Robinson			All in favour
New Committee members	Ian Bell	Sue Baker	Alan Ellis	yes
Other members of committee	Henrie Kiddle Tim Holt Allan Ellis Charles Kiddle			

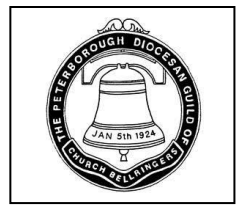
12. Update from Guild Representative

Chairman introduced Chris Fitzgerald and Alistair Donaldson from the Guild to talk to those present.

- Chris Fitzgerald gave an overview of the history of the proposed National Ringing Training Centre in the Old Black Lion pub in Northampton (close to the railway station). £2.4M has been raised for the restoration. Work on the pub is due to finish in January 2024 and then work on the stable block will commence to include a dumbbell / simulator, training resources for branches and ART, capability to use St Peters church next door for practical ringing. A grant has been obtained for sound control in St Peters church. Updates on progress is available on the website and in the Guild newsletter.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS

Rutland branch



Alistair Donaldson commenced by pointing out that the Guild will be in its centenary year next year. He thanked the flying Squad for their support of the branch.

- An overhaul of the rules within the Constitution is long overdue and a subcommittee has been set up to look at this. The time scale is short as it has to be discussed at the General Management Committee in March and voted on at the AGM in June. The rule changing Committee will meet in the next 2 weeks and comments from branch members are welcomed. Certain rules relate to the charitable status and others to operation of the Guild.
- Reshaping the Guild A paper has been circulated proposing 3 possible solutions to problems in some branches within the Guild. The President reported there are 10 branches of which Rutland is the biggest. Thrapston is deemed unworkable due to having no officers, 3 other branches are in danger of folding and one has a year to transition to a workable situation. Alastair will continue to support all branches but the GMC has to come up with remedial options for discussion at the AGM. The 3 options briefly include
 - a. Absorbing struggling branches into existing branches geographically resulting in reduction of branches to 9
 - b. Combine branches to 5 larger branches therefore less officers required, numbers evened out. Guild would provide essential support in a flexible way.
 - c. “Minster” model of 3 branches with central management of all resources to make life easier eg members database, central accounting

These options are all explained in a draft paper available to view on the Guild website. If any queries or clarification required Alistair is happy to be contacted.

Chairman, Alan Wordie thanked Alistair for his presentation and explained to those present that Rutland need to provide a measured response to the Paper. There will be consultation with the Tower Captains at their next meeting. Alan will then take Rutland’s response to the GMC meeting.

13. Any Other Business

- John Tomalin happy to continue organising branch dinner this year. Struggling with venues and suggestions were made. Cost to increase to around £30 a head
- Alistair Donaldson reminded members that Guild quiz is still available.

MEETING CLOSED 18:52

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Rutland branch

