



OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD of CHURCH BELL RINGERS
North Bucks Branch

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held on Saturday 7th March 2020 at All Saints, Emberton

1) **Chairman's Welcome**

Martin Petchey welcomed 40 members of the Branch, representing 16 towers, and Ruth Groves, Guild Representative to the meeting.

2) **In Memoriam**

Barry Eglesfield shared memories of John White who died this week. He lived in Towcester and rang at Easton Neston. Barry ask members to note the peal board in the Emberton tower recording a double peal of minor in which John took part. All present stood in quiet remembrance of this much loved and respected ringer.

3) **Apologies for Absence were received from:**

Jean Mattinsley - Woughton
Ann Birch - Shenley
Anne Macintyre - Loughton
Patricia Rosewell - Wavendon
Phillip Starr - Whaddon
Simon Head - Woughton
Mark and Dougie Vale - Sherington
Steve Thomason - Downs Barn
Christ Crompton - Stony Stratford
Jenny Brookman - Bradwell
Anne Nightingale - Shenley
David Middleton - Gt Brickhill

4) **Approval of Minutes of AGM held at Woughton on 2nd March 2019.**

These were agreed by all present as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. There were no matters arising.

5) **Annual Reports and Accounts.**

These two reports were presented and approved separately. Both were proposed for adoption by Graham Bartholomew and seconded by Alan Marchbank. There were no matters arising.

6) **Election of New Members.** The following nomination forms were received. Those with an asterisk were present at the meeting and apologies were received from the rest of the nominees. The Chairman proposed en bloc their adoption as Members and welcomed them to the Guild. The proposal was unanimously carried.

Victoria Ward – Bletchley*
Samantha Bradford – Woughton*
Roger Waite – Lillingstone Lovell
Gillian Harris – Great Brickhill
Paul Cannon – Great Brickhill
Rhoda Thompson – Loughton
Duncan Macey – Maids Moreton
Nick Coppock – Lavendon
Freddie Wallace – Lavendon

7) Election of Officers

The existing Officers had advised that they are available for election, except Patricia Rosewell, who has decided to take a sabbatical to deal with family responsibilities. This left a vacancy for a Guild Representative. Edward Fawcett offered to take the post of Guild Representative. There were no other nominations and Alan Marchbank proposed en bloc and Graham Bartholomew seconded the election of the following Officers. This was approved unanimously.

Martin Petchey – Chair
Brian Baldwin – Secretary
Anne Nightingale – Treasurer
Barry Eglesfield – Ringing Master
Graham Bartholomew – Assistant Ringing Master
Phillip Starr – Communications
Keith Wagstaff – Membership Database
Steve Thomason – Webmaster
Douglas Hird – Archivist
Alan Marchbank – Guild Representative
Edward Fawcett – Guild Representative

It was noted that Janet Bond attends Officers Meeting to help improve links with the Western Towers.

8) Election of Independent Examiner

Peter Green had advised his availability to continue in this role. Alan Marchbank proposed and Graham Bartholomew seconded this. It was unanimously approved.

9) Bell Fund Grant Applications

A request from Stoke Goldington for a grant towards the estimated cost of £900 to rebush their clappers was proposed by Doug Hird and seconded by Alan Marchbank. The current Branch rules offer a minimum grant of £50 plus 1% of cost of the work to a maximum of £450.00. The sum agreed for this grant is £100 and this was agreed unanimously. The Officers were asked to have another look at the Branch policy.

Alan Marchbank explained the latest situation whereby the Hanslope project has met a situation whereby there is some essential specialist welding required, at a cost of £15,000, not foreseen in

the original proposal. He asked the tower to provide the Secretary with a report with a view to a further review of branch grants available.

10) Any Other Business

Diary. The Secretary presented the current programme in the agenda bundle. He confirmed that the Diary is available on the branch website and this can be downloaded and printed to be used in each tower. The Ringing Master presented a list of changes and highlighted the following items below. The Secretary confirmed that this latest batch of changes will be added to the website in the next few days and members should watch the website for all future changes. <http://www.northbucksbranch.org.uk/the-branch/diary/>

- 18th April – Leighton Buzzard – This is now timed at the standard wintertime of 5.00-6.30pm and can be extended to 7.00pm if required.
- 16th May – Shalstone and Beachampton is changed to 2nd May to be confirmed

Can you help us Spread the Word? The Secretary presented a flyer, prepared by the Guild, with the following objectives:-

- To raise the profile of the Guild amongst its members and the wider community of ringers and potential ringers
- To further develop strategies that focus on recruitment and retention

He asked all members to contribute ideas and skills by email to prworkinggroup@odg.org.uk Gordon Abbott suggested appropriate flyers should be posted in all local libraries.

Safeguarding Policy. The Secretary advised that a detailed multipage policy has been published by the Guild <http://odg.org.uk/safeguarding/> He read out some examples of the duties of those involved in training vulnerable children and the requirement for the Tower Captain, as an Officer of the Church, to conform with Church policy and DBS registration. He was asked to establish the Guild contact for this topic and publish this and a copy of the policy on the branch website and to all Towers.

VE Day arrangements. The Chairman asked if all Towers in the MK Borough would let him know of ringing arrangements planned for 7.00pm on 8th May so that these arrangements can be included in MK event publicity. If possible QPs would be good.

Ringing World Pathways 2020. The Chair asked if any member needed more information or support to this initiative please let him know.

2020 Heritage Days. The Chair advised of the intention to include information about and demonstrations of ringing activity in selected towers in conjunction with the national heritage events in September, He asked towers to advise him of their local plans and he will publish more detailed plans in due course.

11) Thanks.

The Chairman thanked Emberton Ringers for an excellent tea, all the arrangements for today and Nick Read for being our organist. Also, all members present in making this an enjoyable and successful AGM.