

Coventry Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, Held on 22nd April 2017 at Wellesbourne Church Centre.

1. President's welcome.

Joy Pluckrose (JP) opened the meeting by welcoming 42 members from across the Guild. Concerns about poor acoustics raised at previous meetings had been addressed by holding this meeting, and future business meetings, in church rooms rather than the body of the Church. The agenda had been published on the website along with minutes from previous meetings. JP highlighted the comradery amongst ringers within the Guild of all ages and how encouraging it was to see a cross section of both Districts and ages attending the meeting.

2. Vote of thanks

Keith Chambers (KC) thanked the Revd. Kate Meir for conducting the service and for the use of the Church, Bells and Hall. He also thanked Jackson Towers for playing the organ and Peter and Veronica Quinn (and their team) for all their hard work. The wonderful tea was a great link to our heritage as bell ringers when all Saturday meetings were accompanied by a ringers' tea.

3. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Janice and Ray Sheasby; David Leafe, Andrew and Audrey Alldrick; Doug Kempton; Ian Thompson; Roger Howes; Geoff Pratt; Gerald Trevor; George Wrycroft; Jayne and Eileen Hancocks.

4. Obituaries

Four members had passed away since the last meeting.

Doris Randall of Warwick

Carole Evans of Aston Cantlow

Margaret Pratt of Bulkington

Les Allman of Alveston

The meeting stood in silence as a sign of respect.

5. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes had been published on the Guild webpage, and copies placed on tables in the meeting for members to read. Chris Mew (CM) proposed and Mike Chester seconded adoption of the minutes which were signed as a true copy of the meeting.

6. Matters arising from the minutes

Item 10: Election of Central Council Reps. CM had been elected to stand for a further 3 years, but his name had been omitted from the minutes.

7. Adoption of Accounts

Copies of the accounts had been distributed before the meeting and also printed in the annual report. Simon Rogers (SR) Treasurer indicated the General Fund had a deficit in 2016 owing to increased expenditure on training, the newsletter and a one off amount spent on the Peal books, which were on display for members to see. £2000 had been donated to the BRF from the General fund.

The Bell Repair fund brought in over £6000 owing to the above and also the increase in subs, the Draw club and a legacy from Rosemary Furze from Henley in Arden. CM proposed and Barbara Howes seconded that the accounts be adopted and this was agreed unanimously by the meeting.

SR presented the budget for 2017 (See App 1). JP reminded the meeting the Guild rules require a budget to be published.

8. Receipt and ratification of Report

The annual report had been distributed to all towers prior to the meeting and also published on the Guild Website. JP thanked everyone who had written a section of the report, and particularly AH for her work in preparing the report. Issues had been raised by Ruth Border concerning the accuracy of the report on the Draw club, which could be seen as misleading. JP agreed it was unclear and with the fall in membership this might question its viability for the future.

9. Notification of members elected at District meetings

Name	Tower	Name	Tower
Patricia Chadband	Keresley	Alan Wright	Cherington
Cuckoo Kurian	Kenilworth	Rebecca Young	Henley in Arden
Valerie Burford	Fillongley	Laura Floyd	Henley in Arden
Mark Goodman	Fillongley	Josie Allen (j)	Leek Wootton
Molly Woodier(j)	Lillington	Alice Cooke	Leek Wootton
Katherine Male	Allesley	Louis Adam	Leamington Spa

10. Notification of District officers

Coventry District	Rugby District	Warwick District
Chris Worley, Chairman	Chris Idle, Chairman	Sue Roderick, Secretary
Janice Sheasby, Secretary	Mike Burdett, Secretary	Barbara Howes, Ringing Master
Ray Sheasby Ringing Master	Christine Homer, Ringing Master. Tim Wykes deputy	George Wrycroft, Guild Committee member and membership secretary
Gerald Trevor, Membership Secretary	Keith Chambers Committee member	Emma Hooper, Committee member
	Sally Idle, Finance	

11. Election of Officers-

The following Guild officers were elected for the coming year.

Joy Pluckrose Guild President	Annie Hall Guild Secretary	Simon Rogers, Treasurer and Peal Secretary
Mark Sayers Guild Ringing Master	Mike Chester, Web Master	Chris Mew, Child Protections Officer,

12. Newsletter.

Following 7 years editing the Newsletter, Freda Bennett has decided to retire. Over this time, Freda has been assisted by Margaret Ingham in producing the quarterly publication. JP said the Guild was very fortunate to have a regular newsletter of such high quality. It is always rewarding to go into Belfries and see people reading the latest edition. JP thanked Freda and Margaret for all their hard work and dedication. The meeting applauded while flowers were presented to both ladies as a sign of the Guilds' appreciation.

Rosemary Spencer of Kenilworth has agreed to take on the role which will be renamed 'Guild Matters'. Rosemary requested items should be produced in 'word' and restricted to 300 words, where possible.

13. Appointment of Independent Examiner

David Leafe of Warwick had agreed to stand as the Independent Examiner for the following year.

14. Appointment of Working Groups (was committees)

The Tower and Belfry is the only working group at present in the Guild. KC reminded the meeting about the 2 redundant bells from Radford in Coventry. The smaller bell has been rehomed and the larger one will be stored by Taylors.

50-60 towers had major work done in the last 37 years and there is further work planned in the future. The Towers and Belfry Committee is available to help when required, and particularly at towers where there are no ringers to ensure the bells remain safe. A lot of work has been done to towers in the south of the County, and thanks were recorded to Graham Nabb who has lead this initiative.

CM informed the meeting the Diocesan Bell Advisors conference had been held in Warwick last July and KC gave a speech which had been very well received. CM thought the Guild had a lot to be proud of in its contribution to national events.

15. Applications for Bell Repair Fund Grants

No new requests had been received. Pillerton Hersey bells are now at Taylors. They have purchased a 4th bell and have now decided not to keep the original wooden frame but have a new steel frame for 5 bells. A letter from Pillerton Hersey PCC was read to the meeting indicating the bells would be rehung in November.

16. Election of New Members

One new member was elected to the Guild.

Andrew Jackson of Walsgrave, proposed by A Guest and Seconded by V Smith.

Non Resident life members elected:

Alison Williams of Bredon

Adam Crocker of Rock

17. Budget for 2017

See Item 7.

18. Safeguarding

CM reported towers were continuing to notify him of ringers who are DBS checked. Only tower captains and deputies are required to be checked, **not all ringers**. The checks are portable between towers in the Guild and there is the possibility to sign up to the online service which allows the DBS to be carried across Dioceses.

19. Guild Training Centre and Training Strategy

AH informed the meeting of the Guild training days which had been introduced during the past year. Beginning in September 2016, three sessions had been held on the fourth Saturday in each month at three central towers within the Guild. These had been well supported by both learners and experienced members of the Guild, who were thanked for their contribution. Learners had made good progress and each session had been well attended and good fun. Prior to the AGM, four quarter peals had been rung at local towers involving 8 members of the training courses. All four were successful and 2 members had rung their first quarter. Ian Wilson and Norris Poon were in attendance and the meeting applauded them warmly on their success.

The training programmes continue for the next three months, on 27th May, 24th June and 22nd July, when the success of the first year's programme will be evaluated and a decision made about future years.

20. District ringing at the Cathedral

JP invited all districts to think about ringing a quarter peal at the Cathedral before Evensong on Sunday afternoon. On the second or fourth Sunday in the month, if members of a tower or branch would like to attempt to ring a quarter, to contact Andrew Alldrick, Ringing Master, to arrange a suitable date.

21. Dates for the Diary

The next Guild Social meeting will be on 15th July and will be a Guild Outing to Leicester to ring at the towers associated with Richard 111.

The business meeting on 14th October will be held at Brinklow where the 8 bell striking competition will take place.

It is hoped the Carol service will be held at St Mary's Warwick on 9th December when a Christmas Tree festival is being held.

The 2018 AGM will be held on 28th April in the Coventry district.

To ensure the Guild meetings are distributed evenly between Districts the following calendar has been agreed by District Secretaries. This is presented here for members' information.

YEAR	Jan 1/4ly	6 bell SC	AGM	July 1/4ly	Oct meeting +8 bell SC	Carol service
2017	Rugby	Coventry	Warwick	Coventry	Rugby	Warwick
2018	Warwick	Rugby	Coventry	Rugby	Warwick	Coventry
2019	Coventry	Warwick	Rugby	Warwick	Coventry	Rugby

22. Draw Club

The winners of this month's draw club are:

James Ingham of Leamington Spa.

Bryan Hall of Warwick

Mike Bennett of Dunchurch

23. AOB

Kenilworth show. The organisers of the Kenilworth show had contacted the Guild to help support the use of the Lichfield belfry at the show to be held on 10th June. The trustees will only allow the belfry to be hired if it is supported by the local Guild. This was considered to be a useful promotion event and the meeting expressed enthusiasm to support the event. AH to arrange a rota of ringers to ring the bells and a further team to assemble the belfry.

The National Youth Striking competition is being held in Birmingham on 1st July. AH encouraged all members to come along and support our Guild team, 'Coventry Spires'.

Sue Roderick said the Warwick District were holding progressive practices on the second Tuesday of the month at Napton and invited members to attend. Theory classes will be held in the church at the same time. Open afternoons are being held in Bishops Itchington and Horley to try and attract new ringers.

Bob Taylor (BT) informed the meeting that Harry Bodenham of Stoneleigh had completed 70 years of ringing but was not eligible for the 50 years' service certificate as his membership was not continuous. JP said she would check the information.

Steve Tibbetts told the meeting Leslie Lunn of Berkswell was thought to be the oldest regular Sunday Service ringer in the Guild. He has arranged for CM, in his capacity of President of the Central Council, to attend the morning service on 7th May to make a presentation to Leslie.

In response to a question regarding the future of territorial Guilds, CM replied that successful Guilds relied on people to get involved and not rely on others to arrange events. It

is the synergy from bringing people together that makes for successful Guilds. It is too easy to leave it to other people. He encouraged everyone to get involved and make a contribution. He said he was delighted to see new faces at the meeting and especially members of the youth team.

Lucy Gwynne said the ART publications were available in the room and drew attention to the new 50 activities in ringing booklet which has been very well received.

CM reminded the meeting about the three booklets on ringing which were available from himself.

Michael Gray, past President, is very ill in hospital in Oxfordshire. A card had been sent to him, on behalf of the members, to arrive on AGM day as Michael had been a regular attender. The Guilds thoughts and prayers are with Michael and his family.

John Davis of Aston Cantlow is in hospital and the best wishes of the meeting were sent for a speedy recovery.

24. Next Meeting.

The next meeting will be held in Brinklow on 14th October.

JP thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 18.25

App 1: Guild Budget for 2017.

Coventry Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers Budget 2017

<u>Income</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Resident Subscriptions	5100	
Gift Aid	600	
Non Resident Subscriptions	50	
Other	50	
	5800	
<u>Expenditure</u>		
BRF Contribution	2500	
Officers Expenses	400	
Insurance	350	
Annual Report	310	
Newsletters	200	
Central Council Subs	120	
Education/Training	500	
PR etc	100	
Youth Team	300	
Contingency	1020	
	5800	

Notes:

- Income based on 500 adults at £10 plus juniors, lates etc.
- Budget levels are indicative and expenditure can be reallocated if necessary.
- Any surplus (contingency) will be discussed and allocated by the *General Committee*.
- Should membership numbers fall, funds will be taken from reserves to make up the shortfall.