

## Coventry Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers

### Minutes of the Guild Meeting held in Brinklow Community Hall October 14th 2017 beginning at 5.00pm

1. The President opened the meeting by welcoming all present. Over 50 members had been present for the 8 bell striking competition, with many staying for the Guild meeting. She emphasised the comradery and good relationships which had been a feature of Guild meetings for many years and how apparent that feeling remained today. Joy thanked everyone for attending and taken part.
  - a. The results of the 8 bell striking competition were given by the Judge Colin Lee. They are as follows:
    - i. First, Rugby A
    - ii. Second, Warwick A
    - iii. Third, Coventry A
    - iv. Fourth, Warwick B
    - v. Joint fifth, Rugby B/ Coventry Scratch.
2. Mike Chester proposed a vote of thanks to Colin for judging the competition. He also thanked Tim Wykes and the Brinklow ringers for arranging refreshments throughout the afternoon and arranging the meeting venue.
3. Apologies for absence were received from Ray and Janice Sheasby, Simon and Jane Rogers, Andrew and Audrey Alldrick, Sue and Graham Nabb, Sandra Parker, Doug Kempton.
4. The minutes of the AGM held on 22<sup>nd</sup> April had been published on the Guild website. It was proposed by Mike Chester and seconded by Barbara Howes the minutes be accepted as an accurate record of the meeting. This was agreed unanimously by the meeting.
5. Matters arising from the minutes.
  - a. Rugby District response to Cathedral quarter peals. On 23<sup>rd</sup> October, the District is attempting a quarter peal on the bells and the Warwick District have also expressed an interest.
  - b. The King Richard III tour had been well attended with over 70 members ringing at the towers during the day.
  - c. The Kenilworth show had been a great PR success with many members helping to put up the tower, provide ringing

demonstrations during the day and then taking the tower down at the end. Thanks were expressed to all who had helped out and offered members of the public the opportunity to have a go at ringing.

6. Obituaries. Sandra Archer, wife of Keith Archer from Ladbroke had passed away.
  - a. The illness of Michael Gray had been recorded at the AGM and it was with sadness the meeting recognised the passing of a previous President and General secretary. Chris Mew gave a moving account of Michael's life recalling him as a true Warwickshire lad and a true gentleman. The meeting stood in silence as a sign of respect to their passing.

7. 4 New members were elected

Tony Reece	Sherbourne	Edward Alexander	Sherbourne
Alyson Jackson	Sherbourne	Conor McVeigh	Sherbourne

a. New members elected at District meetings

Nick Brett		Lyndsey Brett	
Natalie Brett		Sammi Brett	
Christopher Scott	Clifton on Dunsmore		

- b. One non resident life member was elected: Luke Groom of Stoke Golding

8. Training

- a. Guild training mornings. MS reported that 30 new ringers have attended the first course of which 12 have gone on to ring a quarter peal. The three sessions at Leek Wootton, Honiley and Stretton have been well attended and also well supported by Guild members. These will continue for the next two months and then reviewed at Christmas for continuation in 2018.
- b. ART programmes. A conductors workshop was being considered for 2018, if there was sufficient interest in the Guild. Simon Linford had offered to run the workshop. CM thought running it in-house would offer greater flexibility on times and dates.

9. Chris Mew made a short presentation on CRAG. The report had been produced the week of the Guild AGM so there had been no time for the Guild to consider its recommendations. The reform of the Central Council has been discussed many times, but the current review is looking at quite wide ranging reform which might affect our Guild. The establishment of the Executive Committee and the proposed rule changes will take place this year. All the relevant documents have been placed on the Guild website. Concern was expressed about an executive Committee taking the organisation in a direction not supported by the membership.
10. The Diocese Centenary is 6<sup>th</sup> September 2018. The Diocesan office know the Guild would like to be involved in any celebrations, but plans are still being finalised. The Archbishop of Canterbury will be in the diocese from 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> May 2018.
11. BRF
  - a. Bidford on Avon have submitted an application for the repairs to the clappers. The total cost is expected to be £690. It was proposed by Chris Mew the Guild offer £100. This was seconded by Ruth Border and agreed by the meeting.
  - b. A grant of £4000 had been made 3 years ago to Pillerton Hersey to augment their bells to a ring of 4. Keith Chambers had been working closely with Pillerton, Graham Nabb and the Kelteck trust and a new bell had been identified to make Pillerton a 5 bell tower. Very generously, the Kelteck Trust had donated the bell and it was hoped the Guild could review their grant to cover the additional installation costs. It was proposed by Simon Rogers this grant be increased to £6500, which represents 15% of the new costs. This was seconded by Chris Worley and agreed unanimously. It is hope the installation of the new bells will begin on 13<sup>th</sup> November and Graham Nabb had asked for volunteers to help keep the costs down.
12. Towers and Belfry working group. The report produced by Andrew Alldrick was read to the meeting (copy in App 1). Chris Worley reported 4 Guild members had attended a maintenance course in Northampton and recommended the course to others.
13. The proposal to produce a Guild Handbook was discussed. Initially, the idea had been to provide a handbook for new members. This had been

extended to include putting a handbook in each belfry. It was agreed to put a copy of the handbook onto the web site for consideration and any comments sent to Joy.

14. A number of events had been planned for the youth team this year, before the structured practices begin for the National Competition to be held on 7th July in Southwark.
15. The Carol service will be held at St Mary's Warwick on 9<sup>th</sup> December. Ringing will be available at St Nicks from 2.00-3.00 and then at St Mary's from 3.00-4.00. John Newbold will be playing the organ. Richard Taulbut will be conducting the choir, which Barbara Howes will be arranging.
16. Chris Mew provided a brief update on safe guarding.
17. Budget. Simon Rogers had reported the income and expenditure is going much as planned and we could end up with a surplus of £800-£1000 although some of this may be taken up in the production of the Guild Handbook
18. A new president will need to be appointed in April 2018. Members were asked to consider who might be willing to stand.
19. Ringing for significant occasions
  - a. It was hoped many towers would ring a quarter peal for the Queen's 70 wedding anniversary. The Coventry District is extending the quarter peal week to incorporate the actual date of 20<sup>th</sup> November.
20. Newsletter. The monthly newsletter was distributed and has been placed on the website. Mike Chester reminded members to use [editor@coventrydg.co.uk](mailto:editor@coventrydg.co.uk); to submit articles.
21. The next Guild Social Meeting will be held in the Warwick District on 6<sup>th</sup> January. The AGM will be held on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2018 in the Coventry District. The summer quarterly will be held in the Rugby District.
22. AOB
  - a. The Ringing World diaries, Christmas cards and additional gifts are now available
23. Draw club
24. The meeting closed at 18.00