

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS
BICESTER BRANCH**

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT ISLIP
ON SATURDAY 19th FEBRUARY 2011**

(1) OPENING REMARKS

The President asked Mrs Teresa Carter to take the chair. She first asked members to stand in silence to remember Mr Geoff James. She thanked Mrs Penny Wood for taking the service, Mr David Richardson for playing the organ and Mr Jeremy Adams for making the arrangements for the meeting. She welcomed 17 members of the Branch to the meeting and the Guild Secretary, Ms Hilarie Rogers.

(2) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Robert Newton (Guild Master), David Joyce (Guild Steward), Sue Macready, Steve Jeffery, Keith Thomas, John Harris

(3) MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of 20 February 2010 were read, accepted and signed with apologies from the Secretary for their lateness. The minutes were amended to show that it had been agreed to give £56 each to the Bell Fund and Restoration Fund of the ODG, due to the fall in interest rates.

(4) CORRESPONDENCE

None

(5) OFFICERS' REPORTS

Secretary

We had our AGM on Saturday 20 February at Islip. Numbers attending were down on previous years and all officers agreed to stay in post so formalities were reasonably short! The annual service was taken by the Area Dean of the Bicester and Islip Deanery, the Reverend Charles Masheded, and Mrs Mary Hatwell, a ringer from Charlton-on-Otmoor, played the organ which was much appreciated. Anthony Cole, as well as organising the website for the Bicester Branch, also organised a well supported Spring Car Outing a month later on Saturday 20 March in the Buckingham Area. We rang at Maids Moreton, Buckingham, Great Horwood and Winslow and much enjoyed them all – our thanks go to those who unlocked for us as well as to Anthony who managed it all with such aplomb!

The funeral of Geoff James, long standing Tower Captain of Middleton Stoney, took place on 25 May at Middleton Stoney (he had just celebrated 50 years membership of the ODG). The Guild banner was displayed during the service and many ringing friends attended the service. The Middleton Stoney band has however been active in building on his work and has some recent learners to encourage. Most towers have rung for summer weddings and Branch Practices have continued.

On the proposal of Fay Harris, seconded by Michael MacArthur, the report was adopted.

All in favour.

Treasurer

The Deposit Account stands at £7,523.12 receiving only £37.91 in interest at 0.5%. The Current Account in January 2010 stood at £584.62 and £786.65. The increase was due to reduced donations to the Oxford Diocesan Bell and Restoration Funds (£56 each rather than the £250 each as in 2009). This had been decided at last year's AGM as the deposit account interest had fallen from 3.05% in January 2009 to 0.5% in December 2010.

There were 81 ringers in 2010 (79 in 2009). Subscriptions were slow to come and were only complete by August. Since they should be paid to the Guild by the end of March (insurance is at risk if a ringer has not paid his/ her subscription) the Treasurer made a plea for them to be paid promptly preferably collectively from each tower to make accounting easier.

A suggestion that the account should be moved to improve the rate of interest was made and the Treasurer agreed to investigate with the Guild Treasurer.

Another suggestion was made that each tower should pay the subscriptions on behalf of their ringers (as in the case of Launton and Islip) and monies paid from tower funds augmented by retaining part of the wedding fees paid. The Treasurer would write to tower correspondents in November to reiterate the need for prompt payment.

The accounts had been audited by Les Harris to whom a letter of thanks had been sent.

On the proposal of Jeremy Adams, seconded by John Hadfield, the accounts were adopted.

Branch Representative

No report but Guild events had taken place as advertised.

Branch Ringing Master

Teresa Carter gave the report on behalf of both Ringing Masters. She said that although Branch Practices had taken place with some disappointing attendance, the outing had been very successful with 15 people taking part. The suggestion was made that the 8 bell practices currently poorly attended in Bicester might alternate with Islip in future. More reminders should be sent out. Enthusiasm was expressed for another car outing in early April and Anthony Cole agreed to organise it again.

On the proposal of Sally Wale, seconded by Anthony Cole, the report was adopted.

Website Manager

During the last year the Website Manager has investigated moving the website from his server to the guild's web server. However this has still not happened due to problems testing the site on the guild server.

The website is kept up to date with events and information as received, and last week it was given a face lift so it now looks a little smarter and more in line with modern website styles. There will be

additions over the coming weeks (such as links to Google maps for towers) but if anyone would like to write an interesting article then it would be gladly published as it would give life to the website (www.bicesterbranch.org.uk) which may help attract more learners.

(6) ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS

The following new members were elected:

Gay Hawkins (Middleton Stoney)	P: Jen Hudson	S: Willie Haynes
Leigh Thompson (Middleton Stoney)	P: Jen Hudson	S: Willie Haynes
Stacey Penny (Middleton Stoney)	P: Jen Hudson	S: Willie Haynes
Wendy Foster (Launton)	P: Michael MacArthur	S: Teresa Carter
Anne Martin (Launton)	P: Michael MacArthur	S: Teresa Carter

(7) ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following officers were elected.

President: Willie Haynes	P: Michael MacArthur	S: Jeremy Adams
Vice President: Teresa Carter	P: Jeremy Adams	S: John Hadfield
Vice President: John Harris	P: Michael MacArthur	S: Kathryn Grant
Secretary: Kathryn Grant	P: Jeremy Adams	S: Anthony Cole
Treasurer: Sally Wale	P: Teresa Carter	S: Michael MacArthur
Joint Ringing Masters: Jeremy Adams/ Anthony Cole	P: John Hadfield	S: Fay Harris
Branch Training Officer:	Position held	
Branch Rep: Keith Thomas	P: Teresa Carter	S: Kathryn Grant
Website officer: Anthony Cole	P: Jen Hudson	S: Jeremy Adams
Auditor: Fay Harris	P: Sally Wale	S: John Hadfield

All in favour

(8) Guild events

Spring General Committee Meeting on 12 March 2011 at Great Brickhill

Radley course on 16 April 2011

Annual Ringing Day on 2 May 2011 hosted by the Old North Berks Branch

Guild AGM on 21 May 2011 in Islip

Guild Festival 9 July 2011

6 bell striking competition on 1 October hosted by the Reading Branch

Steeple Aston course on 29 October in Steeple Aston

Autumn General Committee Meeting at Clanfield on 26 November

(9) Branch Events

(10) Donations to Bell Fund and Restoration Fund of ODG

On the proposal of Michael MacArthur, seconded by Willie Haynes £75 will be given to each fund. All in favour.

(11) Church Collection

The collection at the service would be given to church funds.

(12) AOB

Each tower is encouraged to mark the Royal Wedding appropriately.

Since St George's Day falls on the Saturday of Holy Week there will be no ringing to mark the day.

The Secretary was encouraged to post more material to towers where there are few members on email.

(13) DATE OF NEXT MEETING

AGM on Saturday morning 25th February in Bicester (probably).

The meeting was closed by the Branch President with prayers.