



MINUTES of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023

Saturday 18th May 2024 St Andrew's Hall Stoke Poges, Rogers Lane, SL2 4LN

The Master welcomed Guild members to the AGM with a short address highlighting that all needed to be mindful of our responsibilities for ringing in ODG. In addition, two important challenges required our attention:

- The aging profile of bellringers – vividly illustrated by a show of hands to indicate those that will be ringing in 5-, 10- & 15-years' time, so very clear that we are needing a buoyant stream of new younger ringers.
- Church closures and possible loss of bells expected in the coming years.

The meeting was chaired by Guild Master Catherine Lane. It started at 14:00.

The meeting was attended by 59 Guild members.

The Master opened the meeting with a prayer.

1. Obituaries Janet Frost (Wingrave), Jackie Hawkins (Cuddington), Colin Walter (Aston Clinton), Barry Cowper (Little Missenden), Wendy Summers (Chipping Norton), Mark Haskell (Burnham), Patti Walsh (Hambledon), Ian Desborough (Hughenden), Bishop Alan Wilson, Bishop of Buckingham, Sylvia Harrington (EBSB), Charles Knight (Olney), Liz Knight (Olney), Roy Keeves (Hanslope), Shirley Cozens (Hanslope), Jackie Gardener (Blewbury), Kate Crennell (Chilton), Jennifer Barson (St James Cowley), Andy Dunn (unattached Oxford City), David Coombs (Wheatley), Meg Way (Chinnor), Belinda Wood (Aston Rowant), Olive Lawrence (Brightwell Baldwin), Philip Laird (Shrivenham) & David Burbage (non-resident).

2. Apologies for Absence – all 28 apologies are noted in the attendance book.

3. Request to take items of Any Other Business – there were 4:

- Steeple Aston training course
- Guild Rules
- Young Ringers
- Courses to train new striking competition judges.

4. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 20th May 2023 in the Molyneaux Barn, Broadwell had been circulated, no matters arising. The Minutes were approved and signed.

Proposer – Pat Newton

Seconder – Alan Marchbank

5. Matters arising – ART Correspondence

At the AGM in Broadwell the Master was asked to contact ART to discuss how the ODG donation could be used directly for the benefit of the members. The Master confirmed that she had tried to contact the ART Chairman but had not received a response.

6. Correspondence

No official correspondence received.

An email was received about the Touring Tower Trust (which incorporates all mobile towers). There is a shortfall of £6,000 in costs for the new tower. ODG are asked to promote the towers in their branches. John Harrison advised that the tower had been booked for Hurst School.

It was noted that CCCBR had highlighted Volunteers Week during the 1st week of June 2024, and should members wish to highlight guild members and/or activities these would be published in Ringing World.

7. Accounts

The accounts were circulated prior to the meeting. The Treasurer, Stuart Gibson was available by phone for any questions.

A question was raised about the difference in monies awarded to ART (in the accounts £750 and in the minutes, it was £500).

Action: The Secretary will raise with the Treasurer so that this is appropriately rectified.

Proposer: Robert Newton proposed a vote of thanks to the ODG Finance team.

Seconded: Lindsay Powell

8. Report of the General Committee circulated prior to the meeting. The report was noted, and no comments were raised.

9. Report of the Safeguarding Officer circulated prior to meeting - no comments were raised.

10. Donations

At the last General Committee meeting no recommendations were made to come forward to this meeting.

The AGM discussed donations:

a) To the Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund, a donation of £0.

Proposed: Jenny Page

Seconded: Richard Stanworth

The reasoning: Alan Marchbank, Chairman of Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund, explained that a large bequest had been received. The fund did not need additional monies, as the funds available from interest made on the capital were sufficient.

Proposed: Robert Newton that **£1000 was made to The Touring Tower Trust**

Seconded: John Harrison

Action: The Master said that she will book the Touring Tower for the 2025 AGM

b) To The Ringing World a donation of £500.

Proposed: Robert Newton

Seconded: John Harrison

c) To ART a donation of £400 proposed by the Master.

Discussion took place regarding all three donations.

- Explanation was provided to clarify the constitution and organisation of the Bell Fund. Support for funds to be awarded to the Touring Tower were unanimously approved.
- A smaller sum to support the Ringing World was voted for noting the aims of the RW as a journal of bellringing record and a charity seeking to raise the next generation of ringers.
- There was a rounded debate regarding the donation to ART. The conclusion was that **a further £400.00 was to be made available to support young ODG ringers to develop their ringing.**

Action: The Learning and Development Workgroup to determine the administration of the £400.00 young ringers fund.

11. Election of Officers AGM 2024 (new to post marked *)

Agenda letter	Elect	Office	Nomination/post holder	Proposer	Seconded	Elected
a	Individually	Master	Catherine Lane	Craig Robertson	June Wells	Yes

b	Individually	Deputy Master	Chris Mundy	Robert Newton	Colin Lee	Yes
c	Individually	Honorary General Secretary	Karen Pile	Jan Glen	Kate Edgar	Yes
d	Individually	Hon General Treasurer	Stuart Gibson	Lindsay Powell	Ken Davenport	Yes
f	En-bloc	Assistant Treasurer	Kathryn Stonham	John Davidge	John Wells	Yes
g	Individually	Meetings Secretary *	John Hughes D'Aeth	Amy Herlihy	Pat Newton	Yes (John will shadow new role for 1 year)
h	En-bloc	Honorary Librarian	Doug Beaumont	John Davidge	John Wells	Yes
i	En-bloc	Report Editor	Heather Browning	John Davidge	John Wells	Yes
j	En-bloc	Peal Secretary	Ken Davenport	John Davidge	John Wells	Yes
k	Individually	Newsletter Editor *	Judd Flogdell	Master		Yes
l	Individually	Public Relations Officer	VACANT			
m	Individually	Membership Secretary *	Jenny Bennett	Master		Yes
n	En-bloc	Safeguarding Officer	June Wells	John Davidge	John Wells	Yes
o	En-bloc	Website Manager	Andrew Goldthorpe	John Davidge	John Wells	Yes
p	Individually	Assistant Website Manager	VACANT			
q	En-bloc	Server Manager	Richard Stanworth	John Davidge	John Wells	Yes
r	Individually	Assistant Server Manager	VACANT			
s	En-bloc	Stewards (5)	Patricia Newton, Peter Robson, Tony Crabtree, Colin Lee, Stephen Rossiter	Richard Stanworth	Rob Needham	Yes
t	En-bloc	Elected General	Jenny Page Mike Hopkins Till	Pat Newton	Robert Newton	Yes

		Committee members (6)	4 vacancies			
u	Individually	Independent Assessor	Alison Mignanelli	Robert Newton	Alan Marchbank	
v	Introduced	Trustees (3)	Kenneth Darvill, Robert Newton Graham Clifton			

The Master thanked those that had stepped forward to take on posts (these are marked with an asterisk * in the table above)

Rob Needham who stood down as Newsletter editor was thanked for many years of outstanding work taking forward our newsletter in new and innovative ways.

John Payne who stood down as Membership Secretary was thanked for his long service and commitment to resolving membership matters in a professional way.

Note that Doug Beaumont (ODG Librarian) has indicated that he will stand down at the AGM in 2025 and the Master asked that all members must consider who may be interested and available to replace him.

12. Distinguished Membership Awards. The Master, Deputy Master and General Secretary recommended that the nomination of Distinguished Membership to Nigel Harrison be ratified by this meeting.

13. Ratification of Non-resident Ringing Members. The meeting approved the ratification of Jadd Virji (omitted from last year's minutes - raised by Ken Davenport) and Kirsty Gifford. 7 people from the ODG 2023 Annual Report were ratified at the AGM. These are: Evie Newton, Jennifer E Elmes, Barbara D Murray, Frederick R M Barnes, Rebekah Hartley, Louise Read and Adam Turner.

14. To raise awareness & discuss:

- a. Rule change (under rule 5) – a junior category.

The meeting accepted that a junior membership category was appropriate. The meeting discussed the implications of this change. It was suggested that junior members would pay a reduced fee. Andy Bennett suggested that a Junior Member representative was needed in the guild organisation.

- b. General Committee meetings – proposal to change number of meetings from two to one meeting.

The meeting discussed implications of this change.

Action: The Finance and General Committee Sub-Committee (F&GP) to take consider both possible rule changes to determine how they should work & present these at the November 2024 General Committee meeting.

15. ODG IT Membership system (Membermojo (MM) progress update)

Jenny Bennett (newly appointed ODG Membership secretary & MM Project Manager) delivered a Membermojo progress update.

The project was proceeding to plan & schedule. The team met via Zoom at least fortnightly. The test system was up and running.

16. Presentation of striking competition certificates.

Certificates were presented to the following competition teams. Some pre-Covid competition certificates were also presented.

Guild 8 Bell 2023

1st Newbury

Treble	Rachel Backhouse	5.	Michael Hurst
2.	Eleanor Rice	6.	Mark Backhouse
3.	J Martin Rice	7.	Mark Robins (C)
4.	Tony Skilton	Tenor	Andrew Clark-Maxwell

2nd Reading Branch

Treble	June A Saint	5.	Elizabeth A Evans
2.	June D Wells	6.	Stephen R Smith
3.	Robert A Partridge	7.	Stephen A Rossiter (C)
4.	Jenny M Page	Tenor	E John Wells

3rd North Bucks Branch

Treble	Richard Stanworth	5.	Edward Fawcett
2.	Nicola King	6.	Simon Head

- | | | | |
|----|--------------|-------|--------------------|
| 3. | Wendy Haslam | 7. | Doug Hird (C) |
| 4. | Phil Haslam | Tenor | Graham Bartholomew |

Guild 6 Bell 2023

1st The Minster Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Reading

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|--------|--------------------|
| Treble | June A Saint |
| 2. | June D Wells |
| 3. | Gillian Carlill |
| 4. | Stephen A Rossiter |
| 5. | Peter R Ellis (C) |
| Tenor | E John Wells |

2nd St Nicolas, Newbury

- | | |
|--------|--------------------|
| Treble | Jenny Skilton |
| 2. | Deborah Bebbington |
| 3. | Eleanor Rice |
| 4. | J Martin Rice |
| 5. | Tony Skilton (C) |
| Tenor | Andy Osborne |

3rd All Saints, Faringdon

- | | |
|--------|---------------------|
| Treble | Cheryl A Watson |
| 2. | Peter R Hunt |
| 3. | Daniel J Watson (C) |

- | | |
|-------|------------------------|
| 4. | Jonathan D Chamberlain |
| 5. | Julian T Watson |
| Tenor | Doreen M Leslie |

Guild 6 Bell Raising and Lowering 2023

1st St Peter, Hook Norton

- | | |
|--------|-----------------|
| Treble | Jonathan Muller |
| 2. | Sally Austin |
| 3. | Selina Harris |
| 4. | Keith Abbott |
| 5. | Dan Austin |
| Tenor | Mick Austin |

2nd ODG Youth Band

- | | |
|--------|---------------|
| Treble | Colin Lee |
| 2. | Daniel Watson |
| 3. | Marc Jones |
| 4. | Cheryl Watson |
| 5. | Isaac Davies |
| Tenor | Simon Lee |

3rd St Nicolas, Newbury

- | | |
|--------|--------------------|
| Treble | Martin Rice |
| 2. | Deborah Bebbington |

- | | |
|-------|------------------|
| 3. | Andy Osborne |
| 4. | David Bebbington |
| 5. | Graham Green |
| Tenor | Mark Robins |

Guild 10 Bell 2023

1st Reading Branch

- | | | | |
|--------|-------------------|-------|------------------------|
| Treble | June A Saint | 6. | Robert A Partridge |
| 2. | June D Wells | 7. | D Giles Winter |
| 3. | Joanne P Druce | 8. | Douglas J Beaumont |
| 4. | E John Wells | 9. | Peter R Ellis |
| 5. | Elizabeth A Evans | Tenor | Stephen A Rossiter (C) |

2nd East Berks and South Bucks Branch

- | | | | |
|--------|-------------------|-------|-----------------------|
| Treble | Vikki E M Bulbeck | 6. | Matthew R Johnson (C) |
| 2. | Ann Davies | 7. | Tom Davies |
| 3. | Angela M Darvill | 8. | Charles M S Botting |
| 4. | Patricia M Newton | 9. | Euan R M Thomas |
| 5. | Martin T Whitaker | Tenor | Robert H Newton |

3rd Old North Berks Branch

- | | | | |
|--------|--------------|----|--------------|
| Treble | Susan Read | 6. | Richard Loyd |
| 2. | Gillian Loyd | 7. | Tim Pett (C) |

3.	Charles Morrish	8.	Chris Tuckett
4.	Sarah Macdonell	9.	David Ockwell
5.	Josie Irving	Tenor	Stuart Gibson

The Sponsored Ringing Trophy was presented to EBSB.

17. Any Other Business –

- Steeple Aston Course – there have been some changes in the people organising the course, most of the arrangements are now confirmed and the course will go ahead. A request was made by Deputy Master for volunteers to assist.
- Guild Rules – the Deputy Master gave a short review of how the Guild Rules should be reviewed to make them more relevant to the current ringing environment.
- Young Ringers – Colin Lee presented the ideas that he is putting in place to broaden the scope of opportunities for young ringers' throughout the Guild as well as continuing to focus on competition bands where appropriate. Flyers will be sent by the Guild Secretary to branches as the plans come to fruition.
- Courses to train new striking competition judges – this suggestion came from Chipping Norton committee members and was met with approval.

Action: the Learning and Development Work Group will take forward the Chipping Norton suggestion to train new striking competition judges.

Chris Mundy thanked East Berks & South Bucks Branch (EBSB), and Pat Newton especially, for their organisation and hospitality.

The meeting closed at 15.40 and was followed by a church service and return of a bell for display in St. Giles Church, Stoke Poges.