

# Minutes of the Suffolk Guild Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 26th April 2014 at Stowmarket

## **Welcome, Thanks and Apologies**

The Chairman, Alan Stanley, welcomed 87 members to the meeting and extended his thanks to the following:

Winston Girling for organising the day; Rev. Raymond Gilbert for presiding over the church service with John Ramsbotham (organist) and Pat Wells who operated the public address system; Jonathan Stevens for organising the fringe meeting and Neil Thomas and Rosalind Martin the guest speakers; the team led by Philip Gorrod for the demonstration of handbell ringing; the team led by Josephine Beever who provided the excellent tea.

Apologies from 53 members were recorded separately.

## **Obituaries**

The meeting stood in silence in remembrance of the following members who had passed away during the year:- John Bonney, Alan Smith, Anne Lewis, Michael Daniels, Dennis Frost, Peter Mayle, Martin Turner and Roger Peters.

## **Election of New Members**

The following were elected as new members of the Guild:

Alex Brett-Holt (Woolpit) Proposed by Christopher Moore Seconded by Jed Flatters

Mandy Proctor (Tattingstone) Proposed by Richard Hobson Seconded by David Salter.

Alan Stanley presented the certificates of membership for those recently elected to the Guild.

## **Minutes of 2013 AGM**

The minutes of the AGM held at Stradbroke on 6th April 2013 were proposed for adoption by Neal Dodge and John Girt seconded this.

There were no matters arising.

## **Officers' Reports.**

All the officers' reports that appeared in the Annual Report were proposed for adoption by Veronica Downing and seconded by Leslie Steed.

## **Report Editor**

George Reynolds thanked Ruth Suggett and Gordon Slack for their help and support during his first year as Report Editor. He reported that communications with the Diocese were well received and resulted in the Report including, for the first time, a message from the Bishop. George also highlighted that the report made a record income from advertising.

## **Magazine Editor**

The Magazine Editor Sue Freeman reported that the magazine continued to be well received and she encouraged members to submit photographs with copy for future editions. She thanked Richard Gates for his contribution to the editorial team and also all those involved in the distribution. More advertising is needed to help offset the cost of printing.

## **Vestey Ring/Handbell Trustee Report**

Brian Whiting advised that 3 of the 4 sets of handbells have been used by the Districts and all remain in good order.

The Vestey Ring had appeared at 12 venues during the year and 6 of these were out of the County. It was already booked for 10 venues for the coming year.

Alan Stanley thanked Brian for looking after the handbells and the mini ring.

## **Trustees' report.**

Gordon Slack added to the report to explain that George Pipe had recently added funds to the Pipe Family Fund

The adoption of this report and the Guild accounts was proposed by Jed Flatters seconded by Robert Scase.

## **Central Council Report**

David Salter reported that this had been generated and published on the Guild website.

Alan McBurnie mentioned that the Ringing Foundation is sponsoring the ITTS and it had been suggested at Central Council that more funds should be added to the scheme's finances.

Veronica Downing on behalf of the Ringing Trends Committee suggested that regional meetings should be convened to suggest ways of helping to retain ringers outside the church model e.g. after school clubs or youth organisations.

## **Subscription and Peal Fees for 2015**

The GMC recommended to the meeting that no change be made to the level of subscriptions and peal fees for 2014. Rates therefore will be:-

Ringling Member £15.00 Associate Member £7.00

Ringling Member 65-74 £10.00 NRLM £7.00

Members 75 and over Free

Ringling member in full time education £7.00

Peal fee £1.00

David Steed proposed and Maurice Rose seconded that these rates should be adopted.

#### **Election of Officers 2014-2015**

The following officers were elected unanimously:

##### **Office Officer Proposer Seconder**

Chairman Alan Stanley George Pipe Jed Flatters

Ringling Master Jed Flatters Joan Garrett David Stanford

Secretary Mandy Shedden Mary Garner Alan Stanley

Treasurer Gordon Slack David Steed Lesley Steed

Technical Adviser Winston Girling Jonathan Stevens Chris MacArthur

BAC Chairman Winston Girling Jonathan Stevens Chris MacArthur

Public Relations Officer Richard Munnings Ruth Munnings Kate Eagle

Magazine Editor Sue Freeman Richard Gates Rolie Whiting

Handbell Trustee Brian Whiting Ruth Suggett Ruth Young

Mini Ring trustee Brian Whiting Ruth Suggett Ruth Young

Webmaster Chris Garner Richard Munnings Gill Waterson

Peal Secretary Christine Knight Brian Whiting Maurice Rose

Librarian Abby Antrobus Mandy Shedden Alan Stanley

Report Editor George Reynolds Jed Flatters Alan Stanley

Maurice Rose stood to offer thanks for all the work the officers had put in over the year

and the Chairman added that all the officers deserved thanks for the contribution that

they make and thanks were due to all those who serve on various committees. The Guild

Executives put in a lot of time on matters that mostly go unseen but nevertheless are

important for the smooth running of the Guild. In particular he added that Jonathan

Stevens had stepped down from office but was unable to be present at the meeting but

Alan wanted to acknowledge the fantastic contribution that the BAC has made to so many

projects under Jonathan's very capable chairmanship. The personal commitment Jonathan

has made in reforming the way things are organised and the introduction of a revised

grants process together with the many hundreds of tower visits and his prompt attention

to problems should not go unnoticed.

#### **Election of Trustees.**

The re-election of A F Stanley, G E Slack and A J Shedden as Trustees was proposed by

Brian Redgers and seconded by Trevor Hughes.

#### **Appointment of Independent Examiner**

Gordon Slack proposed and Mandy Shedden seconded the re-appointment of Larking

Gowen as Independent Examiners of the Guild Accounts. George Pipe proposed that a

representative of Larking Gowen should be invited to the next Guild Dinner. Alan Stanley

seconded this.

#### **Guild Social Event**

This will take the form of a general social afternoon on Saturday August 2nd at Hadleigh.

#### **Ringling World National Youth Contest**

Neal Dodge reported that a team will be travelling to Worcester to take part in the method

competition. 28 young ringers will be going and it is felt that this will help with retention of

the younger ringers. He asked for the members to give as much support as possible to the

competition band members.

#### **St Edmund's Clapper Competition**

The results of this competition that aims to raise funds for the Bell Restoration Fund were as

follows:-

Milbeck Ring £50

Sproughton £225

Offton £475

#### **Date and Venue for 2015 AGM**

Ralph Earey confirmed that the South East District will host the Meeting on Saturday 11th

April 2015.

### **Any Other Business**

In the week commencing 4th August the Ringing Master and his wife will be cycling around the perimeter of Suffolk. Jed invited people to join them to help celebrate the centenary of the Diocese.

Peter Harper raised the possibility of issuing certificates for members who had achieved 50 years membership of the Guild. He asked members to let him know of names of eligible members for presentation during 2015.

Chris Garner asked people to let him know if they found any errors on the website, in particular in relation to tower correspondents.

John Girt reported that the St Nicholas Centre in Ipswich needed repair work to the bells which were rung for many events in the Diocese. There are processes which exist within the Guild to help with this and Winston Girling has agreed to start investigating. David Salter proposed and John Girt seconded that the Guild should approach the Diocese to sort the bells out.

Bruce Waterson asked if anybody could be available to ring at St Lawrence Ipswich on a Wednesday lunchtime as they were short of ringers on some occasions.

The members were reminded of the Veterans Day at Debenham on 9th July 2pm-6pm.