

# **North West District Annual District Meeting – Buxhall Saturday 14 October 2017**

**19 people in attendance. Chairman: David Steed. Ringing Master: Rowan Wilson. Minutes: Lesley Steed (in the Secretary's absence)**

## **1. Chairman's opening remarks and votes of thanks**

David Steed thanked all for coming to support the Guild – he encouraged people to continue to support the regular second Saturday practices. David also supported the local organisers at Buxhall, the Revd Chris Childs and the organist, Hilde Cobbold, and the readers in the service.

## **2. Obituaries**

- Connie Wright (Rougham)
- Canon Geoffrey Smith (Newmarket)
- Derek Peck (Wetherden)

Maurice Rose spoke about Connie Wright and Canon Geoffrey Smith, and David Steed about Derek Peck. We stood for a minute's silence.

## **3. Apologies for absence**

Received from Ruth Young, Gordon Slack, Janet Sheldrake, Kay Lucas, Nigel Gale, Astrid Gale, Paul Stannard, Max Drinkwater, Briony Davies.

## **4. Minutes of the previous meeting**

Mary Dunbavin proposed that these be signed as a true record of the last meeting, Sally Veal seconded the proposal, all were in favour and they were duly signed.

## **5. Matters arising**

There were none.

## **6. New members**

The elections of three new members were ratified: Jimmy Yeoman (Exning), Michael Bunting (Wetherden) and James Langloss (Tostock). All were welcomed to the Guild by the Chairman.

## **7. Officers' reports**

The Chairman thanked all the officers for their organisation over the year, especially Rowan Wilson and Ruth Young.

Ringling Master: report attached. In addition, Rowan said that the ringing of a quarter peal before practices to help the local ringers seemed to be working and would be continued. She encouraged people to attend district practices, especially when they were in their own towers, as they would be able to take the opportunity to ring things that they perhaps don't get the chance to normally. Neal Dodge suggested that emails could be sent out to district members just before practices to remind people where and when the ringing is.

Secretary/Treasurer: No report as Ruth Young had sent apologies. Jed proposed that next year, the post of Secretary/Treasurer should be split again to help Ruth.

Recruitment and Training Committee Rep: The Chairman thanked Neal Dodge for his service on the R&T Committee, as he had given notice that he would not be standing for re-election.

## 8. Programme of events 2017 – 18

See attached.

## 9. Election of Officers

Post	Name	Proposed	Seconded
Chairman	David Steed	Neal Dodge	Maureen Gardiner
Sec/Treasurer	Ruth Young	Jed Flatters	Maurice Rose
Ringing Master	Rowan Wilson	Maurice Rose	Lesley Steed
R&T reps	Rowan Wilson	Ex-officio	
	Lesley Steed	Jed Flatters	Mary Dunbavin
Deanery Reps			
Hartismere	Chris Davies	Proposed en-bloc by David Steed	
Ixworth	Ruth Young		
Mildenhall	Vacant*		
Stowmarket	Lesley Steed		
Thingoe	Joan Garrett		
GMC District Reps	Jed Flatters	Proposed en-bloc by Chris Davies	Seconded by Maurice Rose
	Neal Dodge		
	Gordon Slack		
	Maureen Gardiner		
	David Steed		
	Alan Stanley	Ex-officio	

\*Mary Dunbavin offered to continue to distribute the Guild magazine to Mildenhall deanery ringers but not to be elected rep.

## 10. Collection – Belfry Repair Fund

The collection raised £24.84.

## 11. Any Other Business

- Mary Dunbavin reported that an appeal for the re-hanging of Fornham St Martin bells was about to be launched.
- Maureen Gardiner said that the appeal for the augmentation and re-hanging of Stowmarket bells would begin on 25 November 2017.

- Neal Dodge (Guild PR Officer) announced that 2018 was the centenary of the Armistice of World War I. As well as a national campaign to get all bells ringing, he would also be organising a local campaign.
- At the Bardwell practice, Laura Davies had run a coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. Maurice Rose reported that she has just cycled from London to Paris for the same cause and raised over £2000.
- David Steed welcomed Tom Scase (Guild Ringing Master) to the meeting.
- The 2018 Guild AGM will be in the NW District and Rowan Wilson suggested that it should be held at the Cathedral. There may be ringing on routes into Bury St Edmunds too, at Whepstead and Horringer; Stowmarket and Rougham and Ixworth and Great Barton. She asked that people start to think about this now: stewards would be needed, ringing would be available for about an hour at each tower. Additional events, such as tower visits or Town Trails, could be available but would need to be pre-booked.
- Neal Dodge had received a request for the Mancroft Appeal to come to the AGM to speak about their plans so this could be a pre-event, but it may be difficult to find a venue for this as the Cathedral rooms will all be booked.
- Lesley Steed was thanked by the Chairman for standing in as Secretary.
- David Brand said that he was concerned that the Suffolk Guild was not promoting itself widely enough. Neal Dodge suggested that they talk after the meeting.

## **12. Date of next meeting**

The next district practice is on 11 November 2017, at Thornham Magna starting with a quarter peal at 10.00am and then open ringing from 11.00am – 12.00pm.