

# Witney Ringing Society AGM - Winchester Room, St Mary's, Witney

21st March 2023 @ 18.15

**Present:** Rev. Toby Wright, Andrew Goldthorpe, Carol McRobbie, Ruth Leatherdale, Hazel Howarth, Rachel Mackenzie, Amy Thomas, Heather Horner, Hilary Cozens, Dan Neal, Nadine Woods

**1. Apologies:** Dana Josephson, Debra Scrimshaw, Dave Shellard, Richard Law, Evadne Vallance, Ian Meyrick, Jeremy Lasman.

## **2. Approval of Minutes of the last meeting – 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2022**

There were three mistakes to correct.

- The Assistant Ringing Master was Dana, proposed by Ruth.
- The Social Secretary was Ruth proposed by Carol.
- The Manse was to be replaced by The Rectory.

The Minutes were then approved, proposed by Hazel, and seconded by Carol.

## **3. Matters Arising:**

### **a. Tower Clock and Carillon**

- i. Toby and Andrew met with the Town Clerk and had an unsuccessful meeting about the Town Council paying for the repairs and improvements. The Town Clerk suggested that we re-initiate the discussion following the results of the local elections when a new regime may view the proposals more favourably.

### **b. Bell fund Raising and Augmentation**

- i. The total on the JustGiving page was reduced to £50,000 to reflect the quotation for the work on the bells, including re-casting two trebles and the augmentation work. The previous total of £76,000 was considered potentially misleading. Only in the event of a very successful fund raise exceeding our target, and in the event of the Town Council producing no funds, would the fund consider donating potential surplus funds to assist with the Tower Clock and Carillon costs.
- ii. It was agreed to promote wedding ringing and increase the wedding charge to £20 per rope and a £40 donation i.e., £200.
  - 1. Action - Amy to produce poster to put in Wedding Packs**
- iii. It was agreed that at the annual subscription renewal, tower ringers could donate whatever they feel comfortable with to the Bell Fund, in addition to the £8 annual Guild and Branch subscriptions.
  - 1. Action – All ringers**
- iv. Toby suggested a joint Church and Bell fund raising event, perhaps borrowing Tony Crabtree's Mini Ring.
  - 1. Action: Amy to coordinate with Michelle, Toby, and Tony Crabtree.**

### **c. Guild AGM, 8-bell striking competition and Events Day Broadwell – 20<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

- i. Andrew reported that Richard White is arranging for W&W branch towers to be open for the morning, starting at Whites of Appleton at around 10:00 with

a chance to ring the 12-bell Balscote Ring, moving onto Aston, Clanfield, and Bampton ending at Broadwell to time with the end of the 8-bell striking competition, have lunch, try the Stallpits mini ring and attend the AGM. Of course, attendance is not compulsory!

**d. Bell Fund Vertical Poster**

- i. Andrew enquired where it had gone as the arrangement was it would have a permanent visible location inside the church.

- 1. **Action: Amy to speak to Michelle, locate poster, and agree permanent location inside church with Toby.**

**4. Tower Captain's Report**

Taken as read.

**5. Ringing Master's Report**

Taken as read.

**6. Steeple Keeper's Report**

Taken as read.

**7. Treasurer's Report to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023**

Income & Expenditure to 31st January 2023					
DATE	Item	Income	Item	Expenditure	Balance
Jan-22					£1444.30
			Subscriptions	£97.00	
			Repairs & Maint	£483.46	
			Peal Board	£190.00	
			Wedding ringers	£105.00	
	Weddings	£140.00			
	Donations	£166.00			
<b>31st Jan 2023</b>		£306.00		£875.46	£874.84

The major expenditure was £313.50 for additional muffles to enable fully muffled ringing for the Queen's funeral, and £190 for a peal board commemorating the 775<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the re-dedication of St Mary's in 2018.

Subscriptions include £88 paid into the account in the previous month which then needed to be paid to ODG.

It should also be noted that there was a donation of £100 to the new Bell Fund (Crispin Wills) which remains in the account. This effectively means the account stands at £774.84

Putting the above items aside, it should be noted that true expenditure (£787.46) outstrips income (£206.00) and we should be aware of this situation.

**Action: Andrew to arrange transfer of £100 to ODG Bell Fund.**

## **8. Election of Officers**

- i. Tower Captain: Andrew Goldthorpe. Re-elected by Rev. Wright.
- ii. Deputy Tower Captain: Carol McRobbie. Re-elected.
- iii. Minutes Secretary: Carol McRobbie. Re-elected.
- iv. Ringling Master: Andrew Goldthorpe. Re-elected.
- v. Treasurer: Hazel Howarth. Re-elected.
- vi. Steeple Keeper: Andrew Goldthorpe. Re-elected by Rev. Wright.
- vii. Assistant Steeple Keeper: Dana Josephson. Re-elected in his absence.
- viii. Assistant Ringing Masters: Ruth Leatherdale & Dana Josephson. Elected.
- ix. Safeguarding Officer: Carol McRobbie. Re-elected.
- x. Health and Safety Officer: Amy Thomas. Elected.
- xi. Social Secretary: Ruth Leatherdale. Re-elected.
- xii. Publicity Officer and Fund-Raising Co-ordinator: Amy Thomas. Elected.

## **9. Diary**

- a. Easter - No Holy Week ringing, followed by normal Easter Sunday ringing.
- b. Tower Clean – In future co-ordinate with church Easter clean as coffee and donuts are available!
- c. St George's Day 23<sup>rd</sup> April – normal Sunday Service ring.
- d. Witney Beer Festival 29<sup>th</sup> April 2023 – ring from 12:00 to 12:30.
- e. King's Coronation Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2023 – 10:00 for up to 45 minutes.
- f. "Bells Sunday" 14<sup>th</sup> May – maybe a stall in the church/open tower?
- g. Food and Drink Festival Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May – 09:00 to 09:30 – maybe a stall in the church/open tower?
- h. NHS Birthday 5<sup>th</sup> July – 18:00 to 18:30
- i. The Guild Festival is held in Oxford City Branch on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July

## **10. AOB**

- i. Refugees
  - a. Toby suggested Andrew meet refugees and see if a list of belfry jobs can be organised, as well as potential learner ringers.
  - b. Action: Andrew**
- ii. Ringing World Subscription

- a. All Witney & South Leigh Ringers present voted to contribute to the annual digital subscription.
  - b. **Action: Andrew**
- iii. Witney Ringing School
- a. Due to commence on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2023
  - b. Part of the Oxfordshire ART Ringing Hub which includes Kirtlington, Abingdon, and Dorchester Abbey.
  - c. All teachers must be DBS checked.
  - d. Attendees will be charged £20 for 4 lessons to cover costs such as broken stays.
- iv. Safeguarding
- a. It was agreed that we would arrange an inspection by the Fire Brigade.
    - i. **Action – Amy agreed to speak to someone in the Fire Service**

## **11. Date of Next Meeting**

19<sup>th</sup> March 2024 in the Winchester Room from 18:15 to 19:15

Toby closed the meeting at 7:15pm.