

**Minutes of the Guild Week Meeting held in the Lawns, University of Hull,  
on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2007**

**Members Present**

President: C Y Barlow  
Master: L T W Smith  
Secretary: T K Beadman

R T Backhouse	R Lebon	N J H Small
G Galley	D J Lynch	J Taylor
A J Griffin	B G Meads	J Taylor
D Heppenstall	C Northeast	B D Threlfall
R Heppenstall	H Pettifer	M S Threlfall
C M P Johnson	C H Rogers	I G Vincent
B I Le Gallez	J D Shanklin	J Wrenbury
K Lebon	L D G Simpson	R H Youdale

The president was in the chair and the meeting opened at 8.20.

**1. Apologies for Absence**

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Apologies were received from:

D Barton	A Johnson	P Saddleton
J E Bulter	T Kirkman	R Shipp
P Chalk	RS Lebon	A L Smith
M D Dawson	J Limbach	D Threlfall
P J Earis	H Muirhead	T Watt
P Hearn	H Neill	P Williamson
C Hobson	V Nutton	D A Winter
T Hooley	E Roberts	

**2. Minutes of the 2006 Guild Week Meeting**

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The minutes of the previous meeting had been made available to members prior to the meeting and were not read out by the Secretary. The President summarised the main points, highlighting matters of relevance to the current meeting. The main item had been a discussion of Guild Weeks: a questionnaire had been circulated and contributions sought in advance of the meeting. A number of useful points had been raised which would, over the next few months, be incorporated into an updated version of BD Threlfall's notes on "How to organise a Guild Week".

The meeting accepted the minutes as a true and correct record and they were signed by the President.

**3. Matters Arising**

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There were no matters arising other than those on the agenda.

#### **4. Matters relevant to the Guild Week Meeting raised during the academic year 2006 – 2007**

The President summarised items which had arisen during the year as follows:

Michaelmas:

- There was discussion of the Guild Library. Part of this is housed in the Pendlebury Library, and they no longer wish to hold the 5m of books there. The remainder (including 60 years of bound Ringing Worlds) has been in CMP Johnson's room in St John's College, and should be moved. It was agreed that a valuation should be obtained for all the books, and that they should be divided into categories. A fairly small 'working library', should be identified, which would ideally be located in the Guild's home tower. The rest of the collection includes some books of significant monetary value, which should be held in the University Library, or (if the UL does not want them), be sold. Guild members would be offered first refusal on such books. The remainder of the books, and the Ringing Worlds, could be housed in the President's room in Newnham.
- Four new Life Members were elected.

Lent:

- No matters of relevance.

AGM:

- There has over the last year or so been an extensive search for a photograph album which seems to have disappeared. It is thought to contain pictures from 1998 onwards. It was agreed that we should try to replicate it. Members are asked to loan photographs for scanning. There are no copyright issues.
- The peal board commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the first tower bell peal rung on 12 by the Guild is now finished and has been put up in the ringing chamber at Great St. Mary's.
- Undergraduate numbers are currently low, and attendance at practices is thin. This is a matter of concern to the Officers, who will be working hard on recruitment and retention in the next academic year.
- LDG Simpson and RO Hall were elected Central Council reps from May 2008.
- CMP Johnson's rooms in St John's were to be refurbished and the Guild Library needs to be moved during the summer. It was agreed that this would create the necessary catalyst for the long-agreed move of the library to the President's room in Newnham, where it can be sorted and parts of it moved elsewhere as appropriate. This move has now taken place. The Librarian will work on cataloguing and categorising this collection, together with ensuring that we have full information also on the Guild books in the UL and the Pendlebury.  
The books have been valued by the College Youths librarian, and some have been revealed as of considerable value.
- Two new Life Members were elected.

#### **5. Election of New Members**

None

## **6. 2007 (current) Guild Week**

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C H Rogers had found it very difficult organising a week in an area in which he did not live and with which he was not very familiar. He had had to rely heavily on advice and assistance from other, and the workload was even higher than for a 'local' week. He suggested that we do not attempt this again.

A vote of thanks was moved by Brian Meads. From his experiences in organising last year's Guild Week he was well aware of the amount of time and effort involved, and commended Chris Rogers on a splendid Week. The meeting joined him in thanking Chris most warmly.

## **7 Future Guild Weeks**

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2008 –

C Northeast said that she is now organising the 2008 Guild Week in West and Central Cornwall. A peal attempted is already booked at Truro and we will be staying in university accommodation. The price will be in the high £30s and may exceed £40 including organisational costs. The dates proposed were the 14<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> August, starting on a Thursday which is 2 days earlier than this year. The reason for this was to avoid the weekend traffic into and out of Cornwall. Camping will again not be an option.

It was suggested that investigation needed to be made into offering cheaper rates for undergraduates.

2009 –

J D Shanklin explained that although he initially intended to organise Guild Week for 2008, the accommodation had fallen through so he is now organising the 2009 week instead. It will be held in Cheshire, based at Nantwich and he intended to stick to the traditional dates, which would be 15<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> August. A provisional quote he had received worked out at £190 per head and £260 per head for en suite. Camping would be an option.

2010 –

We currently have no offers for this year. There was discussion about whether the time would be ripe for another Week based in or near Cambridge: the feeling was that it would not. Heavy traffic in the Cambridge area, and high cost of city-centre accommodation, mean that if such a week were to take place, the base might be at an outlying College, or even a little way from Cambridge. It was noted that the London Colney week (near St Albans) was in lieu of a Cambridge-based week. However, there are a number of towers close to Cambridge which have been augmented recently and there was enthusiasm for sampling these. A possible solution could be for outings to be arranged on Dinner weekends.

Richard Youdale, who moved to Oxford a couple of years ago, volunteered to look into an Oxford week. The suggestion was well-received.

An alternative suggestion was that Bernard Taylor (based in Ledbury, on the Gloucestershire/Herefordshire/Worcestershire border) might be willing to organise something in the area.

2011 –

Ian Vincent is eager to organise a Guild Week based in the Nottingham area.

## **8. Cambridge City Centre Towers**

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### **8.1. Michaelhouse**

Michaelhouse has been proposed as the location for a new ring of eight, which would form the Guild's headquarters. The church authorities are strongly in favour; the DAC is aware and have been fully involved at all stages. Graham Pledger is the Ely DAC Bells Advisor. The major difficulty is that the medieval four-bell frame cannot be altered or moved, so a new frame must be above or below it. There is not enough room below unless a new ringing gallery were constructed above the entrance to the church: this possibility has been rejected by the Michaelhouse authorities. The President reported that Whites had done careful measurements at Michaelhouse, and now find that there is just room to install a 7cwt ring above the frame, working around the very fine timbers which form the framework for the spire.

The proposal will be taken to the Property Committee at the start of September, and a Faculty must be sought, but the omens are all good and there is every chance that the scheme will go ahead.

The Guild must raise the funds for the bells. The figure quoted by Whites is just short of £80k, plus VAT if applicable (it would thought that we would probably be exempt). The President would be seeking contributions from individual Guild members. C H Rogers suggested approaching Jackie Roberts (Central Council) for advice on sources of funding.

The notion of having such a central ring of eight was well received by the meeting. Questions were raised about whether there would be enough room in the rather small tower for people to sit out of touches, and to house a working library. Ingenuity may need to be exercised.

### **8.2. OLEM – “The Catholic”**

Luke Smith reported that the bells have been rehung on ball bearings by Haywood Mills, and rope guides will be installed in the next couple of weeks. The frame has been painted, and considerable quantities of muck removed from the bell chamber. Opinions differ about whether the sound of the bells has been improved in consequence, but they are certainly louder in the ringing room. However, the bells certainly go easier, and they should be much less daunting to ring.

### **8.3. GSM**

Jonathan Shanklin reported that the Cambridge Youths have taken the decision to try to replace the bells with a lighter ring. It is generally agreed that the go of the bells has deteriorated over the last decade, and although the reasons for this are not understood it is certainly the case that a lighter ring should reduce tower sway (undoubtedly an element in the problem) and so improve handling. The current bells are not in tune, and this is regarded by some as being offensive (though for others the grandeur of the very distinctive old-fashioned sound has great merit). A small committee has been taking evidence and considering options. The decision was taken at an EGM, at which 29 members were present; there were 17 votes in favour, 10 against and two abstentions. There remains significant disquiet about the wisdom and appropriateness of the decision amongst some of the ringers.

There was discussion about whether the DAC had been consulted: it had not. There was a very strong recommendation from a number of those present that the DAC should be involved at the earliest possible stage. It was agreed that getting to the bottom of the reasons for the deterioration was of prime importance; it would be prudent to attempt remedial action to improve the go of the current bells before taking the drastic step of recasting. It was noted that there were a number of people present in the meeting with considerable expertise in these matters.

The President asked members to e-mail her with comments and opinions, which will be passed on

to the Vicar for record and for consideration by the committee.

#### **8.4. St Bene't's**

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JD Shanklin reported that the tenor gudgeon had broken at St Bene't's, and had been replaced. He noted that the DAC had been alerted to the need for emergency remedial work, and had been very helpful and supportive.

#### **9. Diary Dates**

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The key dates for the year were provided on the agenda.  
The Dinner will be held at Queens' College.

#### **11. Any Other Business**

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Luke Smith mentioned that in 2009, Cambridge University would be celebrating their 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Luke proposed to mark the occasion by organising some Guild peals.

With no other business, the President closed the meeting at 21:37.