

**Minutes of the Michaelmas Term Business Meeting held in St. Bene't's church,  
Cambridge on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2008**

**Members Present**

President: C Y Barlow  
Secretary: R T Backhouse

J A Agg *	J E Butler
M S Edwards	P J Earis
H A-M Ingram	F R W M Manners *
J D Shanklin	L T W Smith
O T Staves *	C L Taylor *

\* Elected during the meeting,

The president was in the chair and opened the meeting at 21.05.

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from:

J Hetherington	E R Russell
P A B Saddleton	L D G Simpson
D A Winter	

**2. Minutes of the Lent Term Business Meeting**

The minutes of the Lent term business meeting were read out by the Secretary. The meeting accepted the minutes as a true and correct record and they were signed by the President.

**3. Matters Arising**

P J Earis asked whether the ropes at St. Andrew's had yet been cleaned. Since it was ascertained that they had not, L T W Smith suggested that the new Steeplekeeper be made aware of the issue.

P J Earis inquired after the state of the Guild's new set of handbells; the President replied that the bells had in fact been found to be in poor condition. P J Earis recommended a contact who would be willing to restore them at cost price.

L T W Smith remarked that he had taken over as joint Webmaster, but was no longer able to update the website following his graduation. It was posited that a rethink of how the website is run might be in order.

**4. Relevant matters from the AGM**

The President noted that E R Russell was no longer in residence and thanked her for her efforts as Assistant Master in the previous year; the Secretary read out an e-mail from E R Russell tendering her resignation from the position. J A Agg indicated that he would be willing to stand for the post, but that he was not yet a member of the Guild. It was agreed to return to the issue following the election of members later in the meeting.

## **5. Relevant matters from the Guild Week Meeting**

J D Shanklin was invited to speak about arrangements for Guild Week in 2009 and to explain the Guild Week concept to the Freshers present; he announced that the week would run from Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> to Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> of August and would be based at Reaseheath Agricultural College in Nantwich, Cheshire. Accommodation and meals for the week would cost £190 for a standard room or £260 for an en-suite, with tower fees to be added. No camping would be allowed on College grounds, but possible alternative sites nearby were being looked in to. J D Shanklin invited any special requests for towers in the area to be included in the itinerary. The President made it known that financial breaks could be arranged if the cost was prohibitive for students and that it might well be possible to obtain College grants towards the week. Looking further ahead, it was noted that the Guild Week in 2010 would be in Cambridge, organised by N J H Small, and that the 2011 week would be around Oxford, organised by R H Youdale.

## **6. Election of New Members**

The following were elected to membership of the Guild, proposed by J D Shanklin and seconded by P J Earis:

O T Staves (Christ's)  
F R W M Manners (Trinity)  
J A Agg (Emmanuel)  
C L Taylor (Magdalene)

All were elected unopposed.

The Secretary proposed that J A Agg be elected as Assistant Master; P J Earis seconded the motion and J A Agg was elected unopposed.

## **7. Cambridge Towers**

P J Earis outlined the project for a new ring of 12 at Great St. Mary's, the application for which had gained the support of the DAC and was now with the Diocesan Chancellor; it was felt that the project should be able to move fairly quickly once the official approval had been obtained.

The President reported that estimates were being sought from bell founders for St. John's project and that C M P Johnson was continuing to build up support amongst the Fellows; although the circumstances dictated that this task be undertaken slowly and with significant circumspection, there was at least no negative progress as of yet.

## **8. Diary Dates**

The Secretary read out the events listed on the agenda and noted that the date for the London Outing was a week later than that put forward during the Guild Week Meeting. L T W Smith commented that it would be good to see a contingent of Freshers come along on the eponymous Cycle Outing and added that there would be a College bar crawl starting at Emmanuel in the evening organised by T P Melen; a monster breakfast would also be laid on at 12 Victoria Street following Sunday morning ringing at St. Bene't's.

J E Butler outlined details for the London Outing, stating that everything had been organised and encouraging all to attend, further noting that it was far from criminal to miss the occasional Saturday morning lecture.

The President noted that the Guild would be involved in ringing on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2009 that was being organised to celebrate the University's 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary and invited any further details. P J Earis

explained that he had composed touches of 800 changes based on Cambridge Surprise to be rung for the event and noted that a number of ringing activities had been arranged for the occasion; in addition to the intended simultaneous ringing to take place at the towers in Cambridge, there would also be a peal attempt at Christ Church, Oxford and hopefully another in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Following inquiries about the location of the Guild Dinner, the Secretary remarked that the Master was still sounding out venues, with Robinson the most likely destination.

M S Edwards suggested that the Lent Term Business Meeting be held a week earlier than usual, on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2009, in order to encourage members to attend in conjunction with the University's 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations.

### **9. Any Other Business**

The President relayed an offer from M O'Callaghan to replace a peal board at Great St. Mary's from 1964 that he felt to be of generally poor quality and not in line with the style of other peal boards in the tower. J E Butler remarked that this was a generous offer, but that she did not feel there was any real continuity between the rest of the peal boards anyway. P J Earis briefly described the foibles of the board in question, but stated that he felt altering it would be contentious, since it was an historical link to the event; the consensus of the meeting was to agree with this point of view and the President decided that the offer should be politely declined.

M S Edwards asked whether minutes of the previous meeting could be made available in advance so as to avoid the necessity of them being read out at the start; J D Shanklin suggested that they be e-mailed.

With no further business, the President closed the meeting at 21:45.