

# Minutes of the Guild Week Business Meeting, held in St Peter's Church Hall, Bocking, Braintree, on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2023

## Members Present

President: J A Agg  
Master: K J Hawkins  
Secretary: L I van Dongen

Brian Meads  
Catriona Agg  
Chris Rogers  
Chris Winkless-Clark  
Christine Hill  
Clarke Walters  
Greg Chu

Ian Vincent\*  
John Harrison  
John Sturdy  
Jonathan Shanklin  
Karen Lebon  
Luke Smith  
Melissa Nash

Nick Smith\*  
Peter Hill  
Richard Smith\*  
Richard Underwood  
Rod Lebon  
Stella Johnson  
Thomas Cox

\*Arrived late

The President opened the meeting at 20:12

## 1 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from:

Alan Griffin  
Alan Winter  
Barbara Le Gallez  
Claire Barlow  
Dale Barton  
David Bishop  
Jadd Virji

Marrienne Hayward  
Max Drinkwater  
Nicholas Small  
Richard Pargeter  
Robin Heppenstall  
Tom Hooley  
Vivian Nutton

## 2 Minutes of the Guild Week Business Meeting 2022

There were no comments on the accuracy of the minutes. The minutes were proposed as a true account by Catriona Agg, seconded by Richard Underwood, and were accepted unanimously.

## 3 Matters Arising from the Guild Week Business Meeting 2022

There were no matters arising.

## 4 Matters Arising from the 2023 AGM

Stella Johnson said that the handbells which needed repairing have been given to Bernard Stone, one of which has now been returned but the other is still being worked on. Both handbells only had minor issues.

The President mentioned that we still need to find suitable bookcases for the library at OLEM, and we are working with the church on this. He encouraged anyone wanting to help with this to talk to Richard Smith.

The Master drew attention to the centenary peal at the Isle of White mentioned at the AGM. Nothing has yet happened with organising this, but there would be scope to if anyone wishes to. Anyone interested should talk to Kirsten Hawkins about this. The peal would take place at Chale, where a Guild Peal took place 100 years ago. It is believed to be the first overseas Guild Peal. Rod Lebon asked if the peal of Little Bob at Braiding may have been earlier, but this was not known.

## 5 Election of New Members

Thomas Cox was proposed for membership by Catriona Agg and seconded by Stella Johnson. Toby Hibbert was proposed for membership by Chris Winkless-Clark and seconded by Stella Johnson. Both were accepted unanimously.

Nick Smith, Richard Smith and Ian Vincent entered.

## 6 Current Guild Week

Brian Meads summarised the week as going well, with no one yet causing a fuss other than the car tyre at the very start of the week. He requested that those present send him money for the costs of the week. Tower donations are £1 per tower, and those making use of the church hall should send a further £10 per night.

Greg Chu proposed a thanks to Brian Meads for the great arrangements of the week, as everything has been running smoothly. There was general applause.

The President noted that there will be a writeup in the Ringing World on Guild Week, and urged anyone keen to write this to let him know. Chris added that there is a shared Google Drive for everyone to add photos of the week to.

## 7 Future Guild Weeks

The President thanked Peter and Christine Hill for offering to host the next Guild Week in 2024. This will run from Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> August, in Dorchester, Dorset. The week will have ringing in areas such as Waymouth and the Isle of Burbeck.

There are not yet any firm plans for Guild Week in 2025, and the President encouraged everyone to start forming ideas about this. There is a map available of where the Guild has been before, which could be useful in deciding future locations. Peter Hill suggested putting this map online so it is easily accessible by anyone.

The President raised the topic of how we can encourage more students to come to future Guild Weeks. The Master spoke on this, saying that student attendance has been high this year when compared to last year. This has in part been helped by the option of having more budget accommodation, with the windmill last year and the church hall this year. For many students cost may be a considerable barrier. She also mentioned that the timing of internships may be a barrier, but that this is something that we

cannot work around. She concluded by saying that attendance should hopefully be kept high if similar arrangements are kept in place.

Brian Meads commented that for future Guild Weeks arrangements about transport should be thought about. He thanked Nicholas Small for having organised transport for many years, but added that no one has yet taken up the mantle. This has led to Brian Meads making the arrangements this year, but this adds an extra thing for the organiser to think about, so we should find a different solution for future Guild Weeks. Melissa Nash added that commitment to organising transport for one year is not a commitment for any future years. Brian Meads proposed a thanks to Nicholas Small, which was met with applause.

## 8 Obituaries

The President invited attendees to share memories of several Guild members who have sadly passed: Peter Hodson, Roger Kendrick, Richard Hayes and Theodore (Bill) Getty. Many fond memories were shared, and a moment of silence was held.

## 9 Diary Dates

*Annual Guild Dinner, Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2024* - A venue for the dinner has not yet been decided, but there will be by the Michaelmas Business Meeting.

*London Outing, Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2023* - Greg Chu is organising the London Outing this year, and encouraged people to come.

*Freshers' Fair, Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023* - The usual arrangements for the Freshers' Fair have been made.

*Guild Week 2024, Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> - Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2024* - As already discussed, this will take place in Dorchester, Dorset.

## 10 Any Other Business

Nicholas Small brought the minute books containing Guild Week Business Meeting minutes from 2000 to 2013. These will be digitised and given to the UL for safekeeping.

The President mentioned that similarly, the photo book will have gaps filled in, and it will then be digitised and given to the UL. John Harrison asked if this has photos for every year, and this was confirmed to be the case. Greg Chu added that a photo should be taken for this year's Guild Week the following day. Greg Chu was nominated to be in charge of this by everyone present.

With no further business, the President closed the meeting at 20:33.

L I van Dongen