

**Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers  
Winchester District**

**Minutes of the Quarterly District Meeting held on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2011 in the  
nave of All Saints' Parish Church, Barton Stacey**

The meeting started at 4.00 p.m., with 31 members of the District present.

The Chairman, John Palk, opened the meeting with a welcome to those present and with thanks to Nicola Plummer and the Barton Stacey band for hosting the event and to Graham Wright for providing his Mini-Ring in the churchyard.

- 1. Apologies for absence.** Apologies for absence were received from John Croft.
- 2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.** Minutes of the Quarterly District Meeting, held on 14 May at Brown Candover, were accepted as a true record
- 3. Matters Arising.** No matters were raised from the minutes of the previous meeting.
- 4. Members elected, certificates presented.**

Election of New Members:

*Bishopstoke:* John Hallett, before a peal at Bishopstoke, 15 July, proposed by Roy LeMarechal, seconded by Graham Wright.

*Compton:* Mike Eltham, at this meeting, proposed by Maggie Eltham, seconded by Rosemary Oakeshott

*Crawley:* Imogen Breen, probationary member, 2 August, proposed by Edmund Wratten, seconded Amanda Bayford.

*Romsey:* Nigel Herriott, before a peal at Awbridge, 4 August, proposed by Roy LeMarechal, seconded by John Dodd; Jennifer Herriott, at this meeting, proposed by Rosemary Oakeshott, seconded by Joyce Croft.

All were elected unanimously.

Membership certificates were presented to Nicola Plummer, David Rowley, Mark Wadey, Wendy Harris, Elayne Norman, all of Barton Stacey, to Joe and Michael Arthur, both of Hursley and were taken for Mark Bailey, Alan Gower and Sarah Hazard, all of Barton Stacey

**5. Future Events.**

*District Outing to West Sussex, 10 September:* John Palk advised that all the towers on the itinerary had now been arranged. A wide-ranging discussion ensued on the relative merits of travel by car, train and coach, with Peter Hill remarking that coach travel added to the atmosphere of an outing, and John Palk quoting the cost of coach hire at £655. Graham Wright advised that the only way for a coach to be viable was to ensure it was filled to keep the cost per head within limits, and to gather in the fares in advance. Roy LeMarechal, speaking from many years' experience of organising the District Outing, advised that the take-up was divided

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equally between the organiser's home tower, members from the district and guests, and was the product of much hard work.

## **6. Bell Restoration Projects.**

*Hursley All Saints:* Bruce Purvis had circulated Ian McCallion's letter of appeal to the meeting, which made the point that the tower's sound control project, not involving restoration, was not eligible for a grant from the Guild BRF.

*New Alresford St John the Baptist:* Elizabeth Johnson advised that the restoration of the bells would cost £10,000 and that the preferred contractor, awaiting PCC approval, was Whites of Appleton.

*West Tytherley St Peter:* Bruce Purvis read out the letter he had received from the vicar, the Revd James Pitkin, outlining the scheme for the restoration of the ring of three, including (arguably) the oldest bell in the world hung for full-circle ringing. John Palk added that the PCC had agreed to underwrite any shortfall temporarily, that a BRF grant had been applied for, and that the project enjoyed the support of the congregation and within the village.

John Palk advised the meeting that the District had £1200 which could be spared and released without further ado, and a further £1500 on loan to the Guild Bell Restoration Fund, which would have to be called in to become available to the District.

Following a lively discussion, with proposals for donations to each project of £250 (not carried) and for the calling-in of the deposit to the Guild BRF (carried), a motion that the District donate £500 to each of the above projects was proposed by Andrew Craddock and seconded by Peter Hill, and carried with 17 in favour, three against and the remainder abstaining.

## **7. Any Other Business.**

Peter Hill advised the meeting that there was to be a "Ride and Stride" event, at Hursley, including a sponsored cycle ride, taking place on 10 September, with the funds raised being divided equally between the Historic Churches Trust and Hursley Parish Church.

Edmund Wratten advised that there would be no 'Beyond Bob Doubles' practice in August, the programme would resume in September.

Joyce Croft advised that Prisca Tremeer, a Life Member and former stalwart of the District, latterly a licensed Lay Reader, was now seriously ill in hospital in Bournemouth, and asked that the meeting send her a card to convey its best wishes. This was agreed from the Chair, a card from the Church's sales desk was found and circulated for signatures and messages of support.

The collection for the Bell Restoration Fund raised £13.00

The meeting closed at 4.50 p.m.