

**GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS  
GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING**

*held at Exminster Methodist Church Hall, Saturday 19 January 2013.*

- C013/1 Lester Yeo (President) opened the meeting and warmly welcomed the members of the committee, visitors and friends of the Guild . He felt it had been a good year for the guild in all areas – peals, a full training programme and new towers affiliated. He also thanked Margot Le Vesconte for stepping into the role of secretary and congratulated her on her ability in fulfilling it. There were 33 members and two visitors present at the meeting. He then said an opening prayer.
- C013/2 Apologies for absence were received from Laurie Palmer (East Chair), Charlotte Boyce (NE Chair), John Foster (Report Sec), David Willis (NW rep), Roy Berry (VP), Mary Mack (VP), Roger King (Ayles Chair).
- C013/3 Losses by Death – John Quick (VP) and David Huntingford (Cotleigh).
- C013/4 The Minutes of the January 2012 meeting were approved with the following amendments:  
C012/10(a) Correct spelling of ‘Roxanne’  
C012/10(e) To read facebook ‘group’ not ‘page’. Also ‘sight’ should be spelt as ‘site’.  
p. John Martin s. Lynne Hughes, carried nem con.
- C013/5 Matters arising from the Minutes
- Sue Sawyer commented about the insurance situation. A piece had already appeared in ‘Ringing Round Devon’ but more detail is required along with the procedure with regard to making a claim. This extra detail would be in the handbook but in any case in the first instance if anyone wishes to claim they are to contact Janet Coles.
- John Martin asked about the format of future AGMs. Lester replied that feedback had been received but it was too general to collate into something meaningful and also not representative. Recent meetings seem to have an adequate attendance. It was for the Branch to plan the day but they can involve the guild officers and ask for their advice in any areas. Les Boyce said that it was the North East Branch’s turn to host in 2014 for the 140th anniversary of the Guild and they were looking at a change of format, but the plans were very much at the embryonic stage.
- C013/6 Secretary's Report. A written report had been sent out prior to the meeting. Thanks were offered to Janet Coles for all her hard work over the past five years.
- C013/7 Treasurer's Report. Sue Sawyer presented the provisional accounts. The General Fund shows a surplus of £2,180 compared with £1,250 last year. Income has increased, mainly due to the increase in tower fees. Expenditure has reduced slightly in the year. £1,200 has been transferred to the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund leaving a balance of £6,647 on the fund. The Instruction and Education Fund shows a deficit for the year of £39. £140 was transferred into the fund during the year leaving a balance of £461 on the fund. The Bell Restoration Fund shows that £3,799 has been raised this year, £129 more than last year. Quarter Peal Week raised £368 this year which is slightly less than last year. The balance sheet shows the Guild in a comfortable position with total funds of £7,108 an increase of £942 from last year.

Don Roberts proposed to accept these provisional accounts, seconded by Tim Bayton , carried nem con.

C013/8 Subscriptions. Sue Sawyer proposed that subscriptions stay at £6.00 for 2013 as there was enough surplus. Seconded by Janet Coles, carried nem con.

C013/9 Expenses for Central Council representatives. This had been discussed at the last AGM when it was agreed to cover any reasonable expenses. Therefore no new recommendations were to be made.

C013/10 Guild annual report. John had requested that all Branch reports are sent to him by the end of March 2013 so it can be produced in good time for the June meeting.

C013/11 Reports by other officers.

(a) Peal Secretary. The Guild rang 207 peals in 2012, which was five more than in 2011 and the 2nd highest in the Guild's history. At the end of the year the Guild peal total stood at 5777. It was a quiet year for handbell peals, with a total of four. The leading tower was Thorverton (for the 22nd year) followed by Bishops Ting-Tong, Pinhoe and Withycombe Raleigh. The first peal on the bells was rung at Wobbly Bobs Campanile and the first peal for a number of years both at Clyst Hydon and on the recently restored bells at Stoke Canon. The leading method was 41 Surprise Minor followed by 7 Surprise Minor, Cambridge Surprise Minor and Cambridge Surprise Major. There were eight first peelers in Guild peals – Christopher Bolt, Joseph Peck, Samuel Peck, Richard Partridge, Wendy Rennie, Josh Tratt, Harry Andrews and Sophie Hughes (five from Mid Devon branch and three from SW Branch). Hannah Martin had also rung her first peal but for the ODG. Robert Brown became the eighth person to call 100 peals for the Guild and there were rare appearances in the list of conductors for Martin Mansley (first since 1990) and Ian Campbell (first since 2002). Notable peals included the peal of Stedman Cinques at Liverpool Cathedral on 1st January and there were a number of worthy efforts to mark the Diamond Jubilee, including Plain Bob Minor at St Marychurch with two first peelers and a peal of Plain Bob Triples at Plymouth Emmanuel with another first pealer. Peter Bill rang his 1000th peal in May (435th person to do so). Pauling Champion and Paul Pascoe became the 107th and 108th ringers to ring 2000 peals. Mike Mears rang his 4,000 peal (the fifteenth to do so). It was a good year with both ends of the spectrum represented from Variable Hunt Maximus to Plain Bob Minor and Triples.

(b) Quarter Peal Secretary. The total number of quarter peals recorded in Devon for 2012 was 531, of which 433 were by bands comprising at least 50% residents of the county and resident members of the Guild. Quarters were rung at 163 (42%) of the 389 towers in Devon at which the bells are currently ringable. There were also 165 quarters rung in 14 different counties outside of Devon by bands comprising at least 50% residents of the county and resident members of the Guild! This amounts to a grand total of 696 quarter peals. The number of handbell quarters reduced slightly to 73.

(c) Librarian. Les Boyce circulated his report and confirmed that the largest concern is housing the library. Janet Coles asked how much space is required and was advised that space required was about 12 ft by 12 ft. She may have room available and offered to discuss this further with him.

Norman Mallett offered the Guild a collection of ringing books, some of which were 50 years old. He also had some reel-to-reel tape which he thinks is the last sounding of the bells of St Edmund in Exeter. Ian C may be able to transcribe this information on to disc.

(d) Towers & Belfries Advisors. A report was circulated by Ian Smith and Ian Campbell for the meeting regarding their activities during the past year. They wished to stress that they were happy to carry out inspections on all Devon towers and give recommendations.

(e) Education Officer. Lynne Hughes had circulated papers for the meeting. She had produced a list of ringing simulators in the county and asked for any amendments. Ian Smith asked if there was anyone with the technical experience to repair simulators. Fergus Stracey suggested Owen Borlase.

(f) Clerk to the Devon Ringers' Council. Ian Avery reported that during 2012, no meetings were held but matters were discussed informally.

The 10-Bell Call-Change Competition appears now to have become an established annual event. The 2013 competition is being hosted by St Andrews, Cullompton on Saturday 16th February. An enjoyable and successful Ringers' Carol Service was hosted by Dawlish on Saturday 15th December.

There was some discussion concerning the purchase of a Saxilby Simulator by the Council to be jointly funded by the Guild and Association, which had already agreed to the purchase. The total purchase price is £1,500 so the Guild would be asked to fund £750. This price includes the cost of altering the standard frame to make it portable. Tim King proposed that in principal the Guild should support the purchase of a simulator and this was seconded by Lynne Hughes. Lester asked Ian to come to the AGM with a firm proposal and costings.

There is currently a loan outstanding for Devon ringers' bags. Ian Avery proposed that the Guild should write off the loan. This was seconded by James Clarke. There are still many bags left to be sold and it was suggested that they could be made available at a reduced price.

(g) Publicity Officer. Ian Campbell had produced two copies of 'Ringing Round Devon' and expressed his thanks to John Foster who oversaw its printing. 'Ringing Round Devon' costs less than £1 per copy but if it had to be posted then it would become uneconomical; thus the current method of distribution through the branches is vital.

Ian mentioned the talks about ringing he has given to different groups, such as the WI, Probus groups, and churches with appeals. The talk is not intended to recruit new ringers but to bring bellringing to the forefront of people's minds.

C013/12 DCBRF. Ian Smith had already circulated his report and added that the accounts have not been circulated yet as they have not been completed. It appears that the income is slightly less than in previous years.

C013/13 Frank Mack Bells. Ian Avery said that the garage ring is well used. It has regular appearances at the Devon County Show and elsewhere. He gets some requests for its use on an annual basis and said that anyone is welcome to ask to borrow if for an event. Any donations received for its use go to the Guild.

Ian Campbell has the demonstration bell which is used for talks and is available to be borrowed.

C013/14 The Guild Website. Matthew Hilling (Webmaster) reported that currently the Guild web site is hosted by the University of Exeter. It has existed for ten years and no longer fully meets the needs of either members, or visitors to Devon. It can only be edited by Matthew Hilling or Ian Campbell. Ideally a new website should be able to be updated by any Guild member who is given permission, and HTML knowledge is not needed to update its content. In order for this to be achieved, a .org.uk domain name needs to be purchased at cost of £5 per year, purchased in two year or more blocks. Also need to purchase some hosting web space which can offer the technical resources such as databased and content management at cost of £40 per year.

Matthew Hilling proposed that the Guild pay to get a new web domain name and some hosting, John Martin seconded and this was carried nem con. Following a discussion and a vote, first choice for the domain name was devonringers.org.uk and the second choice (should the first choice not be available) was guildofdevonshireringers.org.uk.

C013/15 Proposal for new Vice President. Mike Hatchett from NE Branch was proposed by Leslie Boyce (s. Sheila Scofield), in recognition of his commitment to ringing in the branch and his establishment of the Troyte Ringing Centre. Carried nem con

C013/16 Arrangements for the 2013 AGM (East Devon Branch). Anne Bailey said that arrangements were still being put in place but Kilmington was to be the main venue for the day and where the meeting would be held. Steve Coleman had been booked as the speaker. The training sessions had to be confirmed but they would be at all levels from basic. There may be an opportunity to ring a a peal at Ottery St Mary in the morning.

C013/17 Ringling for St George's Day. Margot mentioned that a request had been made for as many towers as possible to ring at 6.00 pm on St George's Day (23rd April).

C013/18 Striking Competitions (Aylesbeare Branch). Janet Coles said the competition details were in the planning stage but it would be on Saturday 19th October 2013. The actual venues are to be decided. It was decided that the 8 bell methods are to be Double Grandsire Triples and Grandsire Triples. Compositions for both touches would be required.

C013/19 Fund raising for DCBRF and Guild Quarter Peal Week. The quarter peal week will be from 25th October to 3rd November 2013 inclusive.

C013/20 Date and venue of next meeting: Saturday 15th June 2013 after the AGM.

C013/21 AOB.

Les Boyce gave the dates for the next ITTS training in Devon - Module 1 on 16th March 2013 at Emmanuel, Plymouth; Module 2 on 18th June 2013 at a venue to be arranged. An ITTS module would be offered in the autumn with date and venue still to be determined.

The meeting closed at 4.37 pm