



GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Held at Newton St Cyres Village Hall on Saturday 17th January 2026

- CO26/1 Tim Bayton (President) opened the meeting at 2.15pm with a prayer and welcomed all committee members. He proposed a vote of thanks to Wendy Campbell, Wendy Gill and Sue Sturdy who had prepared refreshments, including sandwiches, cakes and scones. Tim thanked all the officers who had prepared reports for consideration at the meeting and presented a short summary of activities including a short update on progress with updating the Guild rules. There were 24 members present.
- CO26/2 Apologies for absence were received from Anne Bailey, Peter Bill, Matthew Hilling, Sylvia Johns, Richard Johnson, Kate Marsh, John McKee, Mary Mears, Matt Pym, Judith Reynolds, Patricia Slade, John Steere, Fergus Stracey, Patrick Wills, Lester Yeo.
- CO26/3 Losses by death: David Smith (*Tiverton, St Paul*), Wendy Harvey (*East Devon*), Mike Tann (*Galmpton*), Bryan Tuckett (*Upton*), Libby Ford (*Troyte Ringing Centre*), Rev Michael Hart (*Narberth*), Anthony Appleton (*Woodbury*), Robert T Perry (*Lympstone*), Sherene Jeffries (*St Marychurch*), Ron Trickey (*Culmstock*), Pippa Barter (*Teignmouth*), Trevor Vercoe (*Plymouth Minster*), John Fisher (*Woodbury*), Liz Price (*Plymouth, St Budeaux*), Jill Larbalestier (*Plymouth, Emmanuel*), Janet Osler (*Plymouth, Emmanuel*), Pam Miller (*Heavitree*), Stuart Clark (*Bramford Speke*). A short period of silence was observed to remember them.
- CO26/4 Minutes of the January 2025 meetings The draft minutes previously circulated were unanimously approved and signed as a true record. (p: Kate Wills, s: Rob Neal).
- CO26/5 Matters arising from the minutes: None.
- CO26/6 Trustees' report for the year 2025: Tim Bayton invited comments or questions.
- CO26/7 Presentation of accounts for the year 2025: Draft accounts, a financial report and a forecast including several proposals had been circulated in advance of the meeting.
- Charlotte Boyce (Treasurer) presented a summary of the key items from the draft accounts and noted an increase in the number of members and affiliated towers.
- Sue King and Andrea Young (Education Officers) asked for clarification about the process for offering bursaries to members attending ringing courses and after a short discussion Charlotte Boyce agreed to set up a meeting to discuss further.
- Janet Deem (QP Secretary) urged the Central Council Representatives to claim expenses so those who may wish to take one of these roles on in future do not feel unable to do so for financial reasons.
- Acceptance of the draft accounts was proposed by Don Roberts (Vice President), seconded by Martin Mansley (Vice President); unanimously approved.
- CO26/8 Financial proposals:

- a) Charlotte Boyce noted no transfer would be required to the Education Fund this year.
- b) Charlotte Boyce proposed a transfer of £751.71 to support the Devon Young Ringers team, seconded by Alena Wardle (Central Council Representative); unanimously approved. Charlotte will confirm whether the Association are going to support the Young Ringers with a financial contribution this year.
- c) Charlotte Boyce proposed a transfer of £ 269.49 to top the Library Fund up to £400, seconded by Lynette Costello (NE branch Representative); unanimously approved.
- d) Charlotte Boyce proposed that a donation of £2,250 should be made to support the work of the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund, seconded by John Foster (Report Secretary); unanimously approved.
- e) Charlotte Boyce presented forecasts relating to future expenditure alongside comparisons for both the current subscription level and a £13 annual subscription. Charlotte noted recent inflation rates justified an increase to £13 and that this rate would enable us to continue investing in the future of Devon ringing; seconded by Rodney Horder (Mid Devon Chairman); unanimously approved.

Rodney also suggested increasing the tower affiliation fee and Tim Bayton advised the two rates are kept the same through a specification in the Guild Rules.

This recommendation will be taken forward to the Guild AGM for endorsement.

- f) Charlotte Boyce noted this year's Central Council meeting will take place in Rugby and a budget would be needed to enable our Representatives to attend. She proposed a budget of £900, seconded by Martin Mansley; unanimously approved.
- g) Charlotte Boyce proposed the peal fee should remain at £1 per ringer, seconded by Richard Shere (North East Representative); unanimously approved.

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Reports for 2025

Draft reports had been circulated prior to the meeting, the majority of which were accepted without comment or observation.

- a. Young Ringers' Co-ordinator: Tim Bayton asked for clarification about the donations made by attendees. It was confirmed these donations are for the provision of refreshments at practices.
- b. Safeguarding Officer: Tim Bayton thanked Rowena Mansley (Safeguarding Officer) for serving in this role and recommended thinking about who might take over from her at June's AGM.
- c. Report Secretary: Tim Bayton noted John Foster plans to stand down from this role after producing the 2026 report and suggested we might wish to identify someone to shadow him over the next year or so.
- d. Insurance Officer: Tim Bayton noted no report had been received from the Insurance Officer
- e. DenMisch Management Committee: Ian Campbell (Vice President) drew attention to the news about the closure of Exeter Cathedral school and outlined what options there may be for the DenMisch ring. After a short discussion Martin Mansley proposed they should be sold, seconded by Margot le Vesconte (Aylesbeare Deanery branch Secretary); unanimously approved.

Martin Mansley proposed the DenMisch Management Committee be empowered to act in advance of the AGM if this becomes necessary without reference to the membership; seconded by Nicola Jones (Publicity Officer); unanimously approved.

- f. Central Council Representatives: John Martin mentioned the recent launch of a petition by the Central Council attempting to get bellringing added to the UNESCO register of intangible assets and asked members to support this if possible.

CO26/11 Proposals for new Vice-Presidents: Prior to the meeting proposals had been circulated that John Foster (p: Charlotte Boyce, s:Sheila Scofield), and Neil Deem (p: Roger King, s:Mike Burrow) be nominated as Vice-Presidents; unanimously approved..

CO26/12 Vacant Guild posts: Tim Bayton noted that at this year's AGM we will be looking to elect a new Safeguarding Officer and to find a new Report Secretary in the next year.

CO26/13 Arrangements for 2026 Guild Festival and AGM – 27th June (Aylesbeare Deanery Branch): Preliminary plans had been circulated prior to the meeting for this year's AGM and Margot le Vesconte invited comments. Tim Bayton informed the meeting that Bishop Mark Rylands would be attending and leading the service.

CO26/14 Guild Striking Competitions – 17th October 2026 (Exeter Branch): Preliminary information had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Tim Bayton queried whether the suggested timetable was practicable, particularly the suggested timing of the 8 bell novice competition. Tim also suggested Committee members consider whether the striking competitions are working and whether alternative activities might be more popular.

Little Bob Major and Double Norwich Court Bob Major were proposed as the methods for the inter-Branch 8 bell contest by John Martin, seconded by Mike Mears. Plain Bob Major and Double Norwich Court Bob Major were proposed by Lynette Costello, seconded by Ian Smith. After a short discussion a vote was taken with Little Bob and DNCB receiving 16 votes compared to 8 for Plain Bob and DNCB.

CO26/15 Date of next meetings: Saturday 27th June 2026 and 16th January 2027.

CO26/16 AQB: None had been notified.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 4.32pm.

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Tim Bayton (President)

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Date