



GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held at Kingskerswell on Saturday 21st June 2025

- A25/1 Tim Bayton (President) opened the meeting with a prayer. Tim welcomed the 66 members present and it was confirmed the meeting was quorate. Tim thanked the team who provided lunch and refreshments during the day, the Mid Devon branch for acting as hosts, the Revd Mike Wilkie for taking the service and Charlotte Boyce and John Martin for their consistent work behind the scenes. Tim also commented that work on updating the Guild rules had begun but we would benefit from assistance by those who have experience of drafting charity constitutions; if you have such experience please contact Tim or John Martin. Tim thanked those who had helped make the 150th anniversary year and Central Council meeting such a success and reported he had met with the Rt Revd Dr Mike Harrison, Bishop of Exeter, who is keen to engage with the Guild.
- A25/2 Apologies for absence were received from: Roger Algate, Shan Allen, Roger Avery, Donna Baker, Sian Barns, Paul Barrett, Vicky Brady, Susan Bray, Jon Brett, Julia Brett, Maddy Brett, Verity Brett, Jo Brown, Peter Brown, Claire Brussel, John Buckley, Michael Burrows, Michael Cannon, Anne Chadwick, Tony Collins, Robert Corney, Andrew Digby, Jane Dunn, Phil Dunn, Celia Dunsford, Margaret Fitzgerald, Becky Fowlds, Robert Franklin, Kate Fulcher, Janet Gabb, Barbara Hemsley, David Hird, Trevor Hitchcock, Richard Hogben, Jinny Jeffrey, Esther Jones, Jenny Jones, Roger King, Tony Lane, Sarah Leaney, Margot Le Vesconte, Hugh Lodder, George Mansfield, Wena Mansley, Dorothy Murphy, Lesley Oats, Judith Reynolds, Dawn Rich, Jon Rose, Malcolm Scott, Patricia Slade, Elaine Smerdon, Sue Sparling, Daniel Styles, Jayne Tolliday, Angela Trimblett, Guy Thompson, Trevor Vercoe, Lester Yeo.
- A25/3 Losses by death since the last AGM: Don Lawson, David Robertson, Steve Taylor, Gerard Duddridge, John Body, John Foulson, Brian Stone, David Smith, Wendy Harvey, Mike Tann, Bryan Tuckett, Libby Ford. A short period of silence was observed to remember them.
- A25/4 Minutes of the 2024 meeting were unanimously agreed as a correct record (p: Alena Wardle, s: Nigel Birt).
- A25/5 Matters arising from the minutes:
Publicity banners (A23/12). Nicola Jones (Publicity Officer) reported the completion of an overhaul of Guild publicity materials which would be taken forward into the banner design during the coming year.
Quarter peal report (A24/14m). James Kirkcaldy (Quarter Peal Secretary) reported the format of the quarter peal report for 2024 had been updated.
Independent examiner of accounts (A24/15a). Charlotte Boyce (Treasurer) reported that Paul Willis has been appointed and had carried out a thorough and helpful review of the 2024 accounts.
- A25/6 Election of new members: None on this occasion.
- A25/7 Guild certificates: Three certificates were available but the recipients were not in attendance for the presentation.
- A25/8 Officers' reports: These were received as printed in the annual report; no comments or questions had been received.
- A25/9 Adoption of accounts: The accounts were as published in the annual report and had been examined by Paul Willis. Charlotte Boyce (Treasurer) presented the highlights and advised that a meeting had been held with Branch Chairmen, Secretaries and Treasurers to discuss financial matters including branch finances and banking arrangements. She also highlighted that the Guild Education Fund could be used to support the cost of ART training and subscriptions as well as attendance at other ringing courses. She then invited questions. Adoption of the accounts was proposed by James Kirkcaldy, seconded by Don Roberts and carried unanimously.

Charlotte Boyce (Treasurer) explained that several financial proposals would be considered, which had all been shaped by discussions at the Guild General Committee meeting in January.

Charlotte Boyce proposed a transfer of £40.01 to the Education Fund; seconded by Ian Rees and carried unanimously.

Charlotte Boyce proposed a transfer of £279.09 to the Library Fund; seconded by Richard Shere and carried unanimously.

Charlotte Boyce proposed the surplus from sales of the Guild anniversary history should be transferred to the Library Fund; seconded by Rodney Horder and carried unanimously.

Charlotte Boyce proposed a transfer of £500 to the Devon Young Ringers; seconded by Janet Deem and carried unanimously.

Charlotte Boyce proposed a transfer of £2,000 to the Bell Fund; seconded by Martin Mansley and carried with one vote against.

Charlotte Boyce proposed a budget of £400 for printing and binding a record of anniversary performances to be held in the Guild Library; seconded by Sheila Scofield and carried unanimously.

Charlotte Boyce proposed an expenses budget of £900 in total for attendance at the 2025 Central Council meeting in Sheffield; seconded by Richard Johnston and carried unanimously.

- A25/10 Subscription review: Charlotte Boyce reported that the Guild Committee had reviewed a range of financial forecasts for the coming years and recommended the subscription rate for 2026 should increase to £12.50 and seconded by Janet Deem. After a brief discussion the proposal was defeated with 24 votes in favour and 27 against.

Charlotte Boyce also announced that the Guild General Committee had decided the peal fee would remain as £1 per ringer.

- A25/11 DCBRF fundraising: Janet Deem reported a communication to all PCCs from the DCBRF Trustees via the Diocese had resulted in a useful level of donations being received.

Tim Bayton suggested future similar communications could be linked with Bell Sunday activities and that members might also find Bell Sunday represents an opportunity to raise funds for the DCBRF.

- A25/12 Printed record of anniversary performances: Tim Bayton reported that Robert Brown had offered to assist with the transcription of BellBoard performances into a format suitable for printing and binding but would appreciate offers of help with the design of a suitable cover and the border for each page.

After some discussion about the format and type of binding Charlotte Boyce proposed the General Committee be empowered to make a final decision; seconded by Susan Illing and carried unanimously.

- A25/13 Election of officers: Tim Bayton invited nominations for Guild Master.

- a) Master 2025/26: Wendy Gill (p: Peter Bill, s: Neil Deem, carried unanimously). Peter Bill then presented Wendy Gill with the Master's insignia and gave his thanks for being able to serve as Master in the Guild's 150th anniversary year. Wendy took the chair, thanked Tim for his work and asked for nominations for President.
- b) President: Tim Bayton (p: James Kirkcaldy, s: Peter Bill), carried unanimously.
- c) Master Elect: The Revd Jonathan Rose (p: Russell Chamberlain, s: Richard Shere), carried unanimously.
- d) Secretary: John Martin (p: David Hird, s: Patricia Slade), carried unanimously.
- e) Treasurer: Charlotte Boyce (p: Janet Deem, s: Russell Chamberlain), carried unanimously.

- f) Membership Secretary: Patricia Slade (p: Ian Rees, s: Charlotte Boyce), carried unanimously.
- g) Education Officer: Sue King (p: Russell Chamberlain, s: Nicola Jones) **and** Andrea Young (p: Patricia Slade, s: Wendy Campbell), carried unanimously.
- h) Young Ringers' Coordinator: Elena Brake (p: Harry Andrews, s: Martin Mansley), carried unanimously
- i) Safeguarding Officer: Wena Mansley (p: John Buckley, s: Lesley Tucker), carried unanimously.
- j) Publicity Officer: Nicola Jones (p: Catherine Crawley, s: Neil Deem), carried unanimously.
- k) Peal Secretary: Michael Mears (p: James Kirkcaldy, s: Russell Chamberlain), carried unanimously.
- l) Quarter Peal Secretary: Janet Deem (p: Russell Chamberlain, s: Richard Shere), carried unanimously.
James Kirkcaldy was thanked for his service as Quarter Peal Secretary.
- m) Librarian: Leslie Boyce (p: Richard Shere, s: Russell Chamberlain), carried unanimously.
- n) Report Secretary: John Foster (p: Wendy Campbell, s: Catherine Crawley), carried unanimously.
- o) Ringing Round Devon Editor: Ian Campbell (p: Peter Bill, s: Martin Mansley), carried unanimously.
- p) Advisors on Bells and Belfries: Nominations had been received as follows:
Ian Campbell (p: Ian Rees, s: Patricia Slade), carried unanimously.
Ian Smith (p: Ian Rees, s: Patricia Slade), carried unanimously.
Alena Wardle (p: Ian Rees, s: Patricia Slade), carried unanimously.
- q) DenMisch Management Committee (7): Nominations were received as follows:
Oliver Coldrick (p: Sheila Scofield, s: Leslie Boyce)
Ian Campbell (p: Peter Crawley, s: Matthew Weighell)
David Hird (p: Rodney Horder, s: James Kirkcaldy)
There being no others, these nominees were duly elected.
- r) DCBRF Trustees (3): Nominations had been received as follows:
Janet Deem (p: Janine Orchard, s: Russell Chamberlain)
Ian Smith (p: James Kirkcaldy, s: Mike Wigney)
Alena Wardle (p: Sheila Scofield, s: Leslie Boyce)
The proposals were carried unanimously.
- s) Central Council Representative (1): James Kirkcaldy had resigned as a Representative, owing to a change in his availability. The following nomination had been received:
John Martin (p: Russell Chamberlain, s: Richard Shere), carried unanimously.

A25/15 Appointments:

- a) Independent examiner of accounts Paul Willis (p: Tim Bayton)
- b) Insurance officer Will Carew (p: Tim Bayton)
- c) Webmaster Matthew Hilling (p: Tim Bayton)

A25/16 Guild 6 and 8-bell striking competitions: Richard Shere spoke about arrangements for this year's striking competitions, scheduled to take place in the North East branch on Saturday 18th October. Preliminary information is available on the Guild website and Tim Bayton invited expressions of interest from anyone who would like to devise the touches for the inter-Branch 8-bell contest.

A25/17 Date of next meeting: The next meeting will be hosted by the Aylesbeare Deanery branch and Saturday 27th June 2026 was proposed by Janet Deem, seconded by James Kirkcaldy; carried unanimously. Tim Bayton advised that he would invite the Guild's patron or to attend or to send a representative.

A25/18 Any other business: None notified.

Tim Bayton declared the meeting closed at 4.20pm.

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Tim Bayton (President)

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(Date)

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING
Held at Kingskerswell on Saturday 21st June 2025

Tim Bayton (President) opened the meeting that followed the Annual General Meeting of the Guild. It was agreed all business should be deferred to the next meeting of the General Committee on Saturday 17th January 2026. (p: Matthew Hilling, s: John Foster). The meeting closed at 4.25pm.

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Tim Bayton (President)

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(Date)