

Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers

Reading Branch Annual General Meeting

Chantry House, Henley on Thames

Saturday 9th February 2019 10.00 – 11.00

7d : Branch Representatives' Report

A committee meeting was held in March at Little Milton

Website Tim Hayward & Elva Ainsworth gave an update on the progress, it was progressing well, and the old website has been transferred to the new one.

Those present were split into 8 groups to discuss the following 3 questions:

What should tomorrow's ODG be like to be successful?

What is the best use of the General Committee?

What should the top priority be for the Guild?

The Answers as below will be taken forward to the Finance & General purpose Committee

What should tomorrow's ODG be like to be successful?

- Accessible to all; website helpful to disseminate information
- Recruitment – are numbers an indicator of success? All bells in Diocese should be rung on a Sunday
- Widen appeal to all/PR to general public, church, locals. Communication between towers
- Work towards objects of the Guild
- More involvement in Guild activities/promotion of Guild/promote insurance benefits
- Guild model of 1881 – relevant now? Hierarchical, does it need to be the shape it is? PR committee not just one officer
- Increased activity, attract and keep ringers. Fun for everybody, social side. Hubs
- Still a requirement for Guild? Recruit youthful people of all ages

What is the best use of the General Committee?

- Discussion is useful; use as preparation for AGM. Do we need it?
- Good social function. Input from branches good.
- Verbal report from it to branch
- Questioning its purpose/value. Give executive power to F+GP – but how to police? GC does engage people. Stewards effective
- Reduce role and importance, reduce its membership. F+GP executive role
- Structures to be revised – internal restructuring needed?

What should the top priority be for the Guild?

- Improving ringing generally/training/hubs
- Communication direct with members/elucidate membership benefits
- Recruitment and education
- Sell the Guild to people. Do what ringers want? Recruit young people
- Recruitment and retention. Education
- Communication with individual members. Good website
- Keep bells ringing. Educate current and potential about what the Guild does. Gets website buzzing.

The Guild AGM was held in May at Bodicote

Katie Lane was elected as Guild Master in place of Hilarie Rogers who wished to stand down

Tony Crabtree is now the Deputy Master

Reading Branch Member Joyce Vernon was elected as a distinguished member for her service to the Guild and the Branch

Patricia Newton proposed that Hilarie Rogers should be made a Vice President; this was agreed by all those present

The November Committee meeting was held at Newbury

Following the Group Discussion at the March Meeting.

F & GP reported back as follows

Future of the General Committee

At the last committee meeting members had split into groups to discuss the future of the committee. Ideas, changes, updating. The F&GP also looked at this. Tony Crabtree analysed the results and found many similarities. Functions of the Guild did well/not so good. Training-Retention.

Guild not good on recruitment, do not facilitate local branches. Web site is getting better all the time. Excellent Annual Report. Top end training very good. A Limited PR not much in resources. Tony added that the Guild have an excellent Model Bell. Members do not realise what is available. Excellent publications on the bookstall. A lot needs to be done.

Tony Crabtree is working on a map of the Guild colouring where towers ring for services, training new ringers etc.

Stuart Gibson reported that membership is growing, greater than last year.

June Wells asked how the number of teachers in a branch can be assessed. Tony responded that he has a lot of ideas, areas need to be followed a big task.

New Website Tim Hayward reported the the New Website did not meet expectations .It is now proposed that they will work on it themselves instead of using a commercial company

Safe guarding June Wells reported that the C2 Training course had been wee attended and another one will be run in 2019

Guild Subscriptions are to remain at £8

The 2019 Guild AGM is May 18th at Great Missendon book this date now you are all eligible to attend

Keith Vernon Branch Representative

James Champion Branch Representative