

Minutes of the Annual District meeting of the Isle of Wight District of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocese.

Meeting held on Feb 18th, 2017 at St Saviour's on the Cliff, Shanklin, Isle of Wight at 6pm

1 **Jill Taylor, Chairman, welcomed** everyone and thanked the PCC for the use of the bells, the Rev Barry Downer for taking the service, Ian Hookey for playing the organ and Jan Hookey and her team for making such a splendid tea. This was greeted by a round of applause.

The Chairman then asked us to stand to remember members who had died: John Smith from Ryde and Shanklin, Phil Davies from Shanklin and Godshill and Nigel Miller from Ryde and Niton. We held a minute's silence in their memory.

2 **Minutes of the last meeting.** These were agreed as a true record, proposed by John Stock and seconded by Maureen Kelly and accepted by a show of hands.

3 **Matters arising:** The Chairman thanked Catherine Miller for putting on a good Christmas party and thanked everyone who had contributed to the ringing and teas for IOW day on 24 Sept.

4 **Election of new members:** The following were elected to membership, proposed by Jenny Brudenell, seconded by Lexi Skeldon and accepted by a show of hands: Jennifer Hancock (full), Christopher Jenkins (full) and David Hacker (Senior) all from the Salisbury Guild elected to W&P before a peal; Christopher Pickett (full) Arreton; Margaret Bright (full) Arreton; Rebecca Hardie (probationer) Arreton; Cheril Mayer (full) Freshwater; Sarah Smith (full) Freshwater; Denise Scott (probationer) Freshwater Tina Raymond (probationer) Freshwater; Charlotte West (probationer) Whitwell; Wilma Jackson (full) Whitwell; Angela Brown (compounding) Brighstone; Leigh Ruszczyk (probationer) Brighstone; Marilyn Gage (senior, full) Brading; Liz Manning (senior full) Brading; Jane Reed (full) Brading; Mitchell Reeves (junior full) Brading; Derek Pittard (probationer) Shanklin; Keira Joy (junior full) Swanmore; Edward Burns (probationer) Swanmore; Lily Burns (probationer) Swanmore; Tyler Ball (probationer) Swanmore; Dominic Gregory (probation) Swanmore; Scarlett Hicks (probationer) Swanmore; Maddison Hicks (probationer) Swanmore; Evie Simmons (probationer) Swanmore.

5 **Certificates and badges.** Certificates were given to Kay Wells and Jan Taylor (Whitwell) and certificates and badges were given to the following: Michael Wells (Whitwell), Rob Claxton Ingham (Whitwell), Jane Johnson (Brading), Joe Lashmar (Godshill), Helen Dear (Ryde), Anne Deegan (Ryde), Emily Mills (Brighstone), Fleur-Marie Haynes (Brighstone), Mark Mills (Brighstone), Nancy Rimmer (Brighstone), Julia Squibb (Carisbrooke), Kevin Downer (Carisbrooke), Keira Downer (Carisbrooke) Max Downer (Carisbrooke) Bob Bright (Newchurch), Geoffrey Wilkins (Brading).

John Stock then presented first peal certificates to Lexi Skeldon, Darren Westmore, Charlotte Dollery and Tristan Allan.

6 Reports

i) The secretary presented her report for the year which will be printed in the W&P Annual handbook.

Secretary's report 2016 for inclusion in the Guild Handbook

At the ADM in February 2017 we re-elected all the Officers for another year.

Our ADM last year was at St Michael's Swanmore, near Ryde, and this is a new ringing tower brought to life by Kieran Downer and friends, having a ring of 3 bells. He is very active teaching a new young band. Good news also that the bells at Shanklin have been ringing again since the summer. A team of ringers is now in place for services and practices and Kieran Downer has been elected Tower Captain.

We have had our usual striking competitions: the 8-bell competition was held at Newport in April. The judge was Andrew

Craddock and four teams entered. A combined team of Ryde and Godshill came first and were presented with the glass trophy. In June we held the Lester Bailey call change competition at Shorwell and nine teams entered. This was judged by Rodney Downer and the winner was Brading. In October we held the Fred Green change ringing competition at Arreton, which was judged by Daniel Graham. This was won by Shanklin.

The W&P Guild's WW1 Centenary project is being researched by Rachael Anderson, an Island ringer. To date she has found 350 performances recorded in memory of the fallen of WW1. They are still being recorded as centenaries of deaths come round. Any further notifications should go to ww1bells@aol.com.

In March there was a well attended quiz, organised by John Stock, at the Eight Bells in Carisbrooke. This was in aid of raising funds for the young ringers and was thoroughly enjoyed.

On September 24 we on the Island celebrated 'Isle of Wight Day'. We received a special request from the Lord Lieutenant of the Island and the Archdeacon 'that the bells of the Island should ring out on this day!' We celebrated with district ringing and an Isle of Wight tea at Freshwater and Shorwell.

In the summer The Birmingham Ringing school came to the Island for a week of ringing. They were based at Northcourt in Shorwell and used Brighstone's bells and its simulator as a teaching base with help from Steve Noyes. A number of quarters were scored. It was also an opportunity for a presentation evening of A.R.T awards as there were three winners present, notably St Mary's Brighstone (Youth Group). The presentation was made by Stephanie Warboys, a Past Master of The Ancient Society of College Youths, representing the Association of Ringing Teachers.

We celebrated the Queen's 90th birthday on April 21st with all towers ringing 90 changes as a birthday compliment.

Six peals were rung on the Island during the year: at Shorwell as a farewell to the Rev Helen O'Sullivan who was leaving to become Chaplain at St Paul's Cathedral; one at Shanklin; two at Ryde, one of which was half-muffled in memory of David Dark a parishioner at Binstead and Stepfather to one of the ringers; one at Godshill as a 95th birthday compliment to Irene Ball and a birthday compliment to Paul Robinson; and one at Carisbrooke, half-muffled for Remembrance and in memory of Petty Officer Patrick Dunn killed on HMS Hood in 1941. We should record here our congratulations for a first peal from last year, Lexi Skeldon.

Our Christmas party was at Niton and was a friendly and happy evening. The bring-and-share food was excellent, we had some nice singing by Lily and there were a lot of silly games masterminded by Catherine. Judging the mince pie competition (12 entries) was a highlight of the evening for me and Peter Blake!

ii) **Peal and Quarter peal recorder's report**

Island towers scored a total of 64 quarter peals in 2016, compared with 63 in 2015, with 6 peals being achieved by Island ringers, the same number as 2015.

The six peals rung during the year have been detailed already in Mary's report so I do not intend to repeat them here.

A breakdown analysis by tower is here for you to have a look at but again Brading with 15 quarter peals managed the top slot for the number rung.

Again congratulations to all who achieved their first quarter peal during the last year. There were no first peelers during that period. Many youngsters are among those achieving goals, with good ringing at all towers being achieved. Swanmore needs special mention as the steel bells there are now being rung regularly, so a big thank you to Kieran, Lexi and the group for their hard work. If you haven't rung there yet, take the opportunity and go and have a ring before they become augmented to 10!

After talking with our chairman and other members of the Guild about the Guild initiative in 2015 to award First Peal ringers with a commemorative certificate we felt it would be a nice idea to carry on with it in this District.

Owing to a grave oversight I have found that 3 peal ringers in 2015 were not awarded certificates by the Guild so I now propose we rectify that.

With that in mind and with sincere apologies to those 3 ringers we now have a certificate that will be awarded to ringers who have achieved their first peal. In 2015 Charlotte, Dollery, who has now left for University, Lexi Skeldon and Darren Westmore and in January this year Tristan Allen achieved first peals on Island bells and so it is my pleasure to award them their very long awaited and well deserved certificates in recognition of that. I hope this initiative will inspire others of you to try and attain the goal of your first peal also.

Once again, this year I would publicly like to thank the Conductors and organisers of peals and quarter peal events for giving us the chance to continue our enjoyment of ringing and achieve our own personal 'firsts'. I would particularly also like to congratulate the Brighstone team for all their hard work and their well-deserved achievements and eagerly await writing up their first quarter peal or peal on 8 bells.

I now have great pleasure in relating that after two year's work and having thumbed literally thousands of old records, the mammoth collection of two volumes of peals and five volumes relating to ringing by Island ringers of quarter peals dating from the 1700s is, as far as I can manage, now complete.

Containing over 500 peal records and just over 2000 records for quarter peals I think the Island can be proud of its ringing history and it is now here for you and future generations of ringers to view. I would invite you all to please take time to have a look, if you have not already, so the work will not have been in vain.

The greatest delight I have managed is to uncover the records of William Rayner which are now available to view at the Public Records Office in Newport, if you are interested in viewing these ancient records you will need to ring ahead so they are available for you on your visit. They are well worth looking at from a historical point of view and I feel sure William Rayner would be delighted that his hard work in bringing ringing to the Island has been fulfilled so spectacularly.

I was able to organise an exhibition at Ryde last year when the Record Office allowed us to borrow the books and I shall attempt to organise exhibitions in the future when these will hopefully be on view again, so keep an eye out for information.

So, it is now with great pleasure that I would like to hand over all this work to the District for safe keeping and know that future holders of the post of Peal Recorder will have a lot easier job in keeping things up together.

Thank you to those of you who alert me to records I need to record and please keep them coming – no doubt you will be keeping the Peal Recorder busy again during 2017.

iii) Treasurer's report : I'd like to start my report with apologies because there are a couple of corrections to be made on page 1.

The Payments to the Guild for last year have only just been made - £584.50 to the Guild and £258.00 to the Bell Restoration Fund and therefore should not be included in last year's account. This means the total payments were £1432.41.

Although the figure quoted at the top is £1770.11 the actual amount at the beginning of the year was £856.24 as explained in note 1 on page 2.

This means funds plus receipts minus payments = £856.24 plus £1640.06 minus £1432.41 = £1063.89 as shown at the bottom of page 1

As requested at the last ADM £500.00 was transferred from the Interest Account leaving £21.30 in the account.

The Guild sent a cheque for £440.00. £400.00 of this went to the Young Ringers, together with the £500.00 from the District and the £97.00 collected from the raffles last year giving £997.00 to the Young Ringers account managed by Viv Nobbs. The remaining £40.00 from the Guild is still in the account until a decision for its use is made.

Could I please emphasise that it would be really helpful to receive prompt payment of subs. The Guild rules paragraph 8 states that a member who fails to pay his subscription for the current year by 30th June shall be deemed to have withdrawn from the Guild. Technically this means anyone paying after this date should be re-elected.

Over the years I've been doing the job of Treasurer there have been a few members who seem to stop and then re-start without seemingly being re-elected.

Prompt payment after the September meeting in particular would be really helpful so that I can get the Guild payments off in plenty of time for the cheques to clear before the end of the year.

A big thank you to Steve Noyes our Independent Examiner for his help checking the accounts.

Judith Goodhind

The accounts were proposed by Steve Noyes, seconded by John Stock and accepted by a show of hands.

7 Election of Officers: The Master, Mike Winterbourne, took the Chair. Jill Taylor, being willing to stand again as Chairman, was proposed by Mary Tester, seconded by Paul Robinson and accepted by a show of hands. She then resumed the Chair. Jenny Brudenell, being willing to stand again as Ringing Master, was proposed by Jo Davies, seconded by Peter Taylor and accepted by a show of hands.

Margaret Downer, being willing to stand again as Deputy Ringing Master, was proposed by John Stock, seconded by Maureen Kelly and accepted by a show of hands. Mary Tester, being willing to stand again as Secretary, was proposed by Joan Parry, seconded by Jenny Brudenell and accepted by a show of hands. Margaret Downer, being willing to stand again as Executive committee representative, was proposed by Mary Tester, seconded by Jan Hookey and accepted by a show of hands. Jane Johnson as Publicity Officer, not being present, was proposed by Kieran Downer, seconded by Lexi Skeldon and accepted by a show of hands. John Stock, being willing to stand again as Peal and Quarter peal recorder, was proposed by Jill Taylor, seconded by Joan Parry and accepted by a show of hands. Steve Noyes, being willing to stand again as Independent examiner, was proposed by John Stock, seconded by Margaret Downer and elected by a show of hands.

8 **Youth activities.** Kieran Downer, who has organised the teams going to competition in the last few years, said that there would be no team this year as they couldn't get a team together. He hoped that it would be possible next year.

9 **Ringing Activities.** Jenny Brudenell (Ringing Master) said that she had got most of the towers for the outing on Saturday March 11. The plan was to go in separate cars, catching the 9 o'clock Red Funnel Cowes Southampton, ringing at St Mary's Southampton, Eling, Lyndhurst, Minstead and St Barnabas in Southampton, catching the 6pm ferry back. She was hoping that some people would have a £36 Red Funnel voucher which would keep the costs down.

10 **Notes from the (Guild) Master.**

Mike Winterbourne had come from the mainland to our meeting. He wanted to remind us of the 200 club which was being run in aid of providing funds for youth work in ringing. You sign up for £1 a month if you are a Guild member and the money prizes are quite generous. He also wanted to mention the ww1 project, also noted in the Secretary's report, that Rachel Anderson is researching, and to encourage the District to let Rachel or the website know if your tower has done any ringing, grand or simple, to commemorate centenary deaths. He also mentioned the District Forum meetings which we are invited to send two representatives to, and hoped that they were a useful resource. Mike agreed with the sentiments expressed by Barry Downer in his address that, little or great as our ringing was, it was valuable to the Church and the people and he thanked the ringers for all their efforts.

11 **A home for the Archive.** John Stock said that he had a number of files full of information and he would like it to be available for any one who is interested. It was suggested that he get it into the system of online W&P creating an archive on the Internet. John also said he would look into the possibility to have some space in the Minster Church in Newport to store the paper records. It was proposed that John approach the Minster church by Jenny Brudenell, seconded by Mary Tester and accepted by a show of hands.

12 **Dates for the year.** March 11, District outing

April 22: Don Exell 8-bell competition at Carisbrooke

June 3 : Lester Bailey Call changes at Chale

June 17: AGM Christchurch and Southampton and 8-bell inter-District competition

July 8: Half yearly meeting at Newchurch

August 5/6: Chale striking Show

Sept 7-10: Heritage Open Days

Sept 23: IOW day and quarter peal day

Oct 7: Fred Green Striking competition at Freshwater

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13 **Any other business:** Steve Noyes from Brighstone said that they were well on the way to achieving their aim of augmenting to 8 bells, making it, as a light ring of 8, an excellent addition to variety of bells on the Island. He said that he hoped many people would be able to take advantage of the bells when they were up and running, hopefully before the end of the year.

14 **The raffle** made £49.

Minutes of the Half Yearly Meeting held at Newchurch village Hall on July 8, 2017

1 Welcome and thanks

The Chairman, Jill Taylor, welcomed the members who were present and thanked the Vicar, the Rev Janice O'Shaunessy, for the use of the bells and the church, the Lay Worship Leader Rosemary Hardwicke for taking the service and John Newsome for playing the organ. She also thanked Val Beaton for organising the drinks for tea and preparing the hall, and all the members who brought food for sharing.

2 The Minutes, having been previously available in the towers, were presented. There were two corrections: In (4) Election of new members: Angela Brown, 'compounding' to be changed to 'associate'; and in (7) Election of Officers, the following should be included, 'Judith Goodhind, being willing to stand again as Treasurer, was proposed by Mary Tester, seconded by John Stock and elected by a show of hands'.

The Minutes were then accepted and signed by the Chairman as a true record of proceedings.

3 Matters arising

Steve Noyes said that the augmentation of the bells at Brighstone had been successfully completed and that the Dedication service would be on Sunday 16th July at 3pm. The Bishop would be there to make the dedication and all were very welcome to come and ring on the new 8. Teas and cakes would be provided.

4 Election of new members

The following were elected as probationers, proposed by Marghanita Downer and seconded by Maureen Kelly: Jake Saddington (Swanmore) and Sarah Saddington (Swanmore) and agreed by a show of hands. It was also to be noted that Lily Johnson becomes a compounding member as she is moving to York.

5 Badges and Certificates were presented to Margaret Bright (Arreton) in person. The following would be delivered to their towers: Christopher Pickett (Arreton), Cheril Mayer (Freshwater), Sarah Smith (Freshwater), Wilma Jackson (Whitwell), Marilyn Gage (Brading), Liz Manning (Brading), Jane Reed (Brading), Mitchell Reeves (Brading), Kiera Joy (Swanmore).

6 Ringing Master's Notes

Jenny Brudenell reported that the outing in March had been very successful. Two competitions had been held so far with good participation. Getting a judge had proved a problem so Jenny herself had taken this role and found she enjoyed it. She hoped that Quarter Peal day would be an opportunity for each tower to ring a quarter. This would be on Sept 23 which is Isle of Wight Day. Jenny would be contacting towers to see what support was available in each.

7 Treasurer's Notes

So far I have collected in subscriptions to the value of £988.50. There are still 2 towers left to pay for this year, plus a few individuals that I just need to check are no longer ringing. The raffle made £30.00.

8 Executive Committee member's notes.

Margaret Downer said she had attended the last meeting but that it had been well before the Guild AGM so news from that would have superseded the EC meeting. Mary Tester reported from the AGM the following which might be of interest on the IOW: The Inter-District striking competition was won

by Winchester ringing Grandsire Triples; The Annual Report would only be sent on request by towers as the waste for one copy to each member was unnecessary; A Guild ringing school committee will be set up; and these dates were given: Sept 30, District Officers Forum, Oct 7, Inter-district 10 bell competition, Oct 14 Course Plain hunt and trebling to doubles, Nov 4 Course Stedman Triples, Nov 18 Executive committee, March 10 Executive committee, May 19 Inter-tower striking competition, Jun 16 Guild AGM at Basingstoke.

A vote of thanks was also given to Rachel Anderson (of the Isle of Wight, now returned to Australia) for her work on the WWI Commemoration project.

9 Wedding fees

A lively debate took place on the subject of wedding fees, to see if it might be possible to have a standard in place. It was felt that the time given to ringing before and after a wedding and remaining in place even when the bride was late deserved a greater reward than was at present usual on the Island. It was also mentioned that towers on the mainland which had increased their charge considerably were in fact more in demand than before. However it was agreed that we could not impose an overall charge rate as a District but that individual towers might gradually increase the amount they expected.

10 Dates for the year

July 16 at 3pm	Brighstone new bells dedication by the Bishop
July 30	Peal Board dedication and ringing afternoon and tea
August 5/6	Chale Show (contact Margaret Downer)
Sept 7-10	Heritage Open day
Sept 23	Isle of Wight Day (Quarter peal day_
Oct 7	Fred Green Change ringing competition at Freshwater
Dec 9	Christmas Party, Swanmore in charge
Feb 17	ADM 2018

11 Any other business.