

Minutes of the Zoom ADM on Saturday Feb 20, 2021 at 2pm

1 Welcome and thanks

Jill Taylor (Chairman) welcomed the members present to the ADM in its Centenary Year. She welcomed the Archdeacon, Peter Leonard, our new President to his first meeting, and Allan Yalden, the Guild Vice-Master. Jill thanked Judith and Mary for organising the Zoom meeting.

2 Remembering lost members.

Christine Elliot from Brading who was the Treasurer of the Society for the Preservation of Isle of Wight Church Bells, and Derek Ashford originally from Kent but an active member of the Ryde team for many years.

A few moments of silence were kept in their memory.

3 Minutes of the Last meeting

There were no amendments. They were accepted by a show of hands.

4 Matters arising

There were no matters arising

5 Correspondence

A letter of invitation to become our President had been sent to the Archdeacon and a reply in the affirmative had been received.

6 Election of new membership

Alan Burgess, unattached, full, senior; Luke Targett, unattached, full; Rick Shaw, Newchurch, full, senior; Sharon Roberts, Carisbrooke, full.

These were proposed by Mary Tester and seconded by Richard Knight and agreed by a show of hands.

Badges and Certificates are to be sent to Penny Lindsay, Whitwell; and Michelle McHugh, Brading, elected at the last meeting.

7(i) Master's report: Allan Yalden spoke on behalf of Pete Jordan (Master) who was unable to join. Allan said there were regular updates published in the Guild Newsletter with links to webinars from ART (Association of Ringing Teachers). This was mainly thinking of the problems of returning to ringing after such a long gap for many people. Safety of the bells needs to be addressed with recovery inspection being carried out. It was important to encourage ringers to return but there might be problems. Help might be needed to regain confidence. Allan's particular area of interest is Heritage. "Under Heritage we are gathering details that may be lost if not cared for. We have started to collect pictures of peal boards. We are hoping to pursue the collection of recordings of our bells. It is hoped to add and review the Bell Stock survey records. All these records are to be added to the WPBells website."

7(ii) Secretary's report:

For our record only, as there will be no Annual Report published this year.

It has been a very disappointing year for bellringers, as it has been for many other activities which depend on working as a group. And in bellringing the bells themselves bring us into too close proximity with each other. There was an easing of the rules during the year and some towers were able to ring 3 or 4 bells spaced out but since Christmas there has been no ringing at all. The following is an overall picture of what our towers have managed to achieve..

Chale got together their team and rang for Christmas Day to everybody's great pleasure. A bubble of

Downers had also rung a quarter peal at Chale to celebrate the birth of Rodney Downer's grandchild. Brighstone, while the rules were relaxed, were able to ring the back 5 by keeping members of the same household on the close bells. They managed to ring Stedman Doubles on Christmas day for a treat! Newchurch, being a ground floor ring with very good ventilation, and with their PCC's approval, rang 5 bells for 15 minutes before services until the second lockdown in November. They rang again in December and for the Christmas Eve service, but since then the bells have been silent.

Brading has been able to ring four bells – 2,4,6,8 – for 15 minutes before services. Shanklin were able to ring 6 for 30 minutes on Christmas Eve and they rang again to celebrate June Mitchell's 70 years of ringing; what an achievement!

Rookley Isle of Wight The Far Corfe Home Campanile is a new mini ring of 12 bells set up in Martin Hough's garage in Rookley. He and others have managed to ring the back six quite regularly and scored twelve quarter peals, within Covid restrictions. Martin is generously offering eventually to hold an event on his mini ring for Island ringers. Carisbrooke and Newport managed some ringing up until Christmas Day. Using family bubbles and with Martin ringing two bells, they were able to ring six at Carisbrooke (123 6 8 10) and seven at Newport (123 6 8 10 12). Shanklin rang until the lockdown last March and restarted on Sundays in July when churches reopened for public worship. They rang for the 75th anniversary of VJ Day at the request of the Town Council, and they also rang a quarter peal as a farewell to their vicar. Freshwater rang 3 bells for Christmas day, masks on and tower doors open. Shorwell has been chiming for services, usually two bells, when the church has been open. Whitwell has not been ringing, Arreton rang 4 bells for VJ Day and Niton has chimed for the services. Godshill rang 4 bells for Sunday services until July, they rang for a wedding and tolled for a funeral, as well as ringing for Christmas Day. Ryde managed to get the Ellacombe Chime going for a few weeks on Sunday mornings but illness has prevented much activity unfortunately.

2021 has started off worse for ringing than ever in the pandemic. But ringers are very resilient, as you can see from what they have achieved in 2020, and although it will be uphill work to regain the skills and confidence of a year ago, we are lucky on the Island to have some enthusiastic, competent, experienced, generous and inspiring leaders to get us all going again.

7(iii) Executive Committee report

Notes from the Executive committee meeting in November 2020

The administration of the Guild is vested in the Executive Committee which is made up of all the Guild Officers and representatives of the Districts, which in our case is Margaret Downer as elected representative and myself, the Secretary, Mary Tester.

I went to the last meeting via Zoom and here is a brief note on the meeting.

The meeting follows the lines of all meetings – welcome, apologies, deaths, minutes of last meeting, matters arising etc which I won't trouble you with - the full Minutes are available on the Guild Website. Of interest is the appointment of a new General Secretary, Steve Lamb.

Budget bids were proposed and seconded (details can be shown if you would like to know more). Of interest is the report of the Trustees of the Bell Restoration fund which mentioned the on-going grant to St Mary the Virgin, Brading, awarded in 2018.

Also of interest is the loss from the Guild of the Channel Islands District, who have decided to follow their churches' decision to join the Salisbury Diocese.

There will be an Executive committee meeting via Zoom on March 20th, 2021 and the Guild AGM will go ahead in some form on June 12, 2021.

In any other business, the Master said that District ADMs were expected to take place as usual and help with having them via Zoom was available from the Guild.

The Master said that there were discussions about how to get back into ringing when the pandemic allows. Plans to review district training resources for the return to ringing were underway and meetings

with District Ringing Masters were planned.

Viv Nobbs mentioned that 2021 marks the Centenary of the Isle of Wight District.

7(iv) Ringling Masters' Report

Ringling Masters Barry Downer and Kieran Downer reported that there had been little chance for ringling activity due to the pandemic restrictions. When restrictions allow they will focus on supporting the ringers that we currently have, running refresher sessions to see how much people may have forgotten since they last rang. For some people, it will have been well over a year since they last touched a rope. Only time will tell what the situation will be but support and encouragement will be available as soon as it is safe.

7(v) Peal and Quarter Peal Recorder (In the absence of John Stock, Jill Taylor, Chairman, read his report.)

A peal of minor methods was rung at Godshill by fellow Isle of Wight and associated friends, and completed in 2 hours and 35 minutes. The band was 1 Julian Hemper from Devizes, 2 and 3 Chris and Judith Frye from Dunblane, Scotland, 4 Paul Young from Yorkshire and the IOW, 5 Roy LeMarechal, Bishopstoke, and 6 Graham Nobbs, IOW. A fitting tribute to Peter Smith, a past Island District Chairman and President, past Trustee and Chairman of the Society for the Preservation of Isle of Wight Church Bells, and stalwart of ringling for many years on our Island. His input and enthusiasm to our ringling here will be missed for many years to come and remembered with love and fondness by his family, many members and friends.

With March came the Covid-19 pandemic which was to devastate all our plans for the year, seeing only 22 quarter peals being rung because of the ban on gatherings. Despite not being able to ring as usual a number of towers have been able, as family members, to ring some dedications of various limited sizes and one in particular was the tolling of the bell at St James Church in Yarmouth by Oliver Watson to commemorate the 75 th anniversary of VJ Day. Another was hand bells rung by Viv and Graham Nobbs at The Shrine, at Havenstreet, to commemorate Armistice Day in November. Others were also rung recording various events during the lockdown.

Fortunately we now have something else to look forward to in our ringling circle once we are able to begin ringling again. With the welcome return of Martin Hough and Jane Johnston to the Island come the Rookley-based The Far Corfe Home Campanile. The first quarter peal at its new home was rung on Saturday, 15 th August in 37 minutes and without this tower my list would be almost non-existent for 2020! I feel a lot of us itching to have a go and see how we manage on a very light set of bells. As this is now an Island-based ring and having chatted with some of you, it has been decided that the campanile achievements should be included and recorded in our records.

So for 2020 we have one peal achieved and 22 quarter peals to record. Hopefully, in the not-too-distant future, we shall return to our towers and I feel we shall not need any excuses for lots of peals and quarters peals in the coming months – I may shortly be busy for some considerable time!

John Stock

Isle of Wight District Peal Recorder

7 (vi) Treasurer's Report

The total money collected this year was £1022.50. From this, payments to the value of £1180.93 were made, leaving a closing balance of £1396.32, consisting of £1375.02 in the main account and £21.30 in the interest account.

Last year's Guild payments of £487.55 and £226.00 to the Bell Restoration Fund, have been made and receipt was acknowledged on January 26th. Therefore the actual value of the fund for the beginning of this year was £682.77. (See page 2). This means that funds have decreased by £80.33 over the year.

The total of the monies collected from the raffle last year was £90.00 and this was paid to the fund for young ringers as agreed by the meeting last year.

The information on page 3 gives you the breakdown of membership payments last year and the way the monies to the Guild were calculated.

As always, pages 5&6 are just for interest to give some comparison with previous years. These pages do not form part of the accounts that are submitted to the Guild.

The Treasurer took the opportunity to thank Steve Noyes for checking over these accounts this year. Acceptance of the Accounts were proposed by Steve Noyes and seconded by Paul Robinson, and agreed by a show of hands.

8 Election of Officers

Allan Yalden took the Chair for the Elections of Officers.

Steve Noyes wished to bring it to the attention of the Meeting that he was now the de facto Treasurer of the Society for the Preservation of Isle of Wight Church Bells (SPIWCB) (currently being without a Treasurer) and Judith would be the Independent Examiner for him, and that Judith is the Treasurer of the IOW District and he would be the Independent Examiner for her; but that if no one else wanted to stand then he was happy to continue. All the Officers, having agreed to continue in Office, were accepted en bloc, proposed by Allan and seconded by Paul Robinson. The role of Publicity Officer is still vacant but Paul Robinson said he would discuss it with Jill Taylor (Chairman) and Viv Nobbs offered support if he took on the role.

9 How shall we celebrate the Centenary?

Jill said that suggestions so far had included: ringing something in all the towers; search for records of towers or ringers from 1921 to make a display and have a celebratory tea. And hopefully the Ringing Masters would organise a peal. Viv Nobbs said that the Ringing World of 1921 had noted the Centenary of the IOW District and suggested that we should mark the occasion by including many ringers and non ringers in events. As a public relations exercise it would help to promote and raise the profile of bell ringing. She suggested the following: Ringing at Shanklin on March 28th; having a Centenary service at Freshwater on August 1, with ringing, tea, District memorabilia, and handbell ringing at the site of the former Gillings' Restaurant, and inviting dignitaries; using two locations for the next ADM – Shanklin and Newport; celebratory ringing – a tower peal, an Island Ringers handbell peal, 100 quarter peals and a 100 'firsts' event.

10 Dates for the year

Dates for the year included:

12 June, 2021: Guild AGM at Petersfield and inter-District 8-bell striking competition.

July 24, 2021 Half yearly meeting at Newchurch which has a ground floor ring and outside space.

Feb 19, 2022 Annual District Meeting

11 Any other business

11 (i) Questions were asked about the Data base, its use and usefulness. Allan Yalden was not able to answer all the questions but did say that only a small proportion of people on the Island had signed up. Mary said that she had sent information with how to join to all the towers. Steve asked whether it could be accessed by the District Secretary to make contact locally. Allan said Roger Booth would have the answers and the Secretary said she would contact him.

Viv said the Guild's Database project had been agreed some time ago in response to members' feedback that they were not receiving all communications and they felt they were missing opportunities to

enhance their ringing. The Databases would offer support to District Officers including enabling direct contact with members, in addition to being protected in their responsibilities under the GDPR regulations. Rodney said that he received things he wasn't interested in but that it was easy to ignore them. The Secretary said she would send another email to tell people how to sign up to the Data Base.

11(ii) A question was asked about the funds for the young ringers, which had not been needed this year. Jill asked if the funds were being held securely for the next competition. Kieran said that the next RWYC would be on Sept 11 at Worcester. Jill said that when there might be another raffle the profits should go towards the young ringers expenses.

11(iii) Viv Nobbs proposed the following:

- She proposed that a letter be sent to the Channel Island ringers to thank them for their help and support for the RWYC in 2016 and to wish them well as they leave the W&P to join the Salisbury Guild. (Proposed and seconded, Viv/unknown)
- She proposed that a letter be sent to Bishop Christopher to thank him for his support of ringers and ringing on his forthcoming retirement. (proposed Viv, 2nd Mary)
- We recorded a vote of thanks to the Brading band for their home delivery events. (proposed and seconded Viv/Jill)
- We recorded a vote of thanks to Chris and Judith Frye for ringing in the peal in memory of Peter Smith and for joining us at the ADM (2020) afterwards.
- Viv proposed that we contact the A&P District about their forthcoming trip to Ypres on Sept 25, 2021 for a wreath laying ceremony to which members of the Guild would be welcome to join in. (proposed Viv, no seconder).

b) Viv had sent an email in July with reference to helping ringers maintain their fitness by having a single tied bell practice in a tower with a ground floor ring, when Covid regulations let us. She felt this had not been explored sufficiently. The Secretary had passed the message on to the Ringing Masters, but by the autumn the regulations made this impossible as many churches were closed. Allan Yalden remarked that checks will have to be done on the bells before it would be safe to ring.

c) Paul Robinson asked where the Mini ring was and was told it was in Martin Hough's garage in Rookley

d) Sue Day asked about Subs and was told there were none to pay for existing members this year.

e) Mike Marlow and Kieran Downer gave the Secretary corrections about Godshill and Arretton's ringing this year. These are now amended in the Secretary's report.

The meeting ended at 3.24pm

NB In AOB, 11(iii), due to the nature of the meeting (ie on Zoom) seconders and voting seem to have been somewhat inadequate. There were, however, no dissensions at the time and I have had no corrections re seconders. I take it that the meeting agreed all the proposals.

Present via zoom: Allan Yalden (Vice Master); The Ven Peter Leonard (President); Jill Taylor (Chairman); Judith Goodhind (Treasurer); Mary Tester (Secretary); Kieran Downer (Joint ringing Master); Steve Noyes (Independent Examiner); Mike Marlow; Ann Morris; John Smith; Mary Waters; Maureen Kelly; Cal Challoner; Sue Day; Billie Thornton; Viv Nobbs; Richard Knight; Rodney Downer; Paul Robinson; Peter Taylor; Graham Nobbs.

Minutes of the Half Yearly Meeting held at Newchurch on 24.7.21

1 Welcome and Thanks

Jill Taylor (Chairman) welcomed the members to the Centenary meeting and celebration. She thanked Rev Kath Abbot for the use of the bells and for taking the service, the Archdeacon Peter Leonard, our President, for preaching and Ian Hookey for playing the organ. Thanks also to the tea team for all the hard work and the towers for contributing food for a good tea.

She took this opportunity to present a certificate to June Mitchell to celebrate her 70 years of ringing.

She also gave an apology from John Stock who is unwell.

2 The Minutes of the last meeting (ADM 20.2.21 via Zoom) had been previously circulated. Viv Nobbs (Ryde) asked that, in 11. iii. b. the second sentence should be deleted and replaced with: "Viv asked if she could receive an update". Two corrections were noted: in 9 3rd sentence, replace 'Centenary' with 'formation'. In 11 (iii) b 1st line, replace 'July' with 'August'. These were agreed by the meeting and passed with a show of hands. The Minutes were then signed by the Chairman.

3 Matters arising

Becky and Steve were thanked for offering 'catch-up' sessions with tied bells at Brighstone which a number of people had taken advantage of. Kieran said that he was willing to help anyone who asked. Jill said that a Tower Captains meeting will be held to discuss dates for District practices and Centenary ringing.

4 Election of new members

There was one new member, Lesley McMahon-Hathway (Freshwater) proposed by John Smith and seconded by Jill Taylor.

5 Presentation of Certificates and badges: Rick Shaw (Newchurch), Penny Lindsay (Whitwell) and Michelle McHugh (Brading) received their certificates and badges in absentia.

6 Ringing Masters' notes. Before asking for Kieran's report Jill took the opportunity to give our congratulations to Kieran and Lexi on their recent wedding. This was greeted with applause. Re Ringing Master report, Kieran said he had no specific plans yet but that District practices would start soon.

7 Treasurer's Report

Money in in 2021: 2 subscriptions £17.50. 1 donation £30.00

Money out in 2021: The two Guild cheques £226.00, £487.55

Current status: Treasurers Account £708.97, Savings Account £21.30, giving a total of £730.27

Raffle at the Half Yearly meeting: £100.00

8 Plans for reviving ringing in the District

Jill suggested that we could begin to contemplate some celebratory ringing for the Centenary that had been discussed before but had been shelved during the lockdown. Possibilities included a peal, 100 changes rung by each tower, ringing masters to organise the changes. A photo of all the island ringers, tower by tower, was suggested and Marghanita said she could make a composite picture if towers sent her their photos. Viv asked that the unattached members should be included. The

Tower Captains should refer back to the AGM for other Centenary ideas. A photo of the Isle of Wight Winning team of the 2019 Inter District 8-bell trophy should be added to the Record.

9 Dates for the year.

The ADM is on Feb 19, 2022 and will be jointly held at Newport and Shanklin.

10 AOB

i) Kieran was asked if the call change competition was a possibility yet but there are no plans at present. He said that the IOW was not able to enter a team for the Youth Competition this year, because we have lost 3 young ringers over the last year.

ii) Viv, as Publicity Officer of the W&P Guild, with reference to a Press release from the Guild and her communication with the High Sheriff, James Attrill, said that it was important to tell the authorities about our return to ringing. People had missed the sound of the bells. The commissary bishop, Rob Wickham in Portsmouth offered prayers and thanks and was glad to hear the hopeful sound of church bells again.

iii) Jill said we are in need of a Publicity Officer and hoped that some one would come forward.

iv) We were given advance notice that Jill is standing down as Chairman at the next ADM. Steve asked where the old records were, which included a record of the first meeting, Dec 27, 1920. Mary said she would look at the bags she had inherited with the job as Secretary. Viv said could we record our thanks to Allan Yalden, vice master, for coming over for our meeting.

After the meeting Marghanita's email was included, marghanita-allen@live.com, with reference to the composite picture discussed in 8 above.