

MINUTES of the District Meeting held at Stisted on Saturday 1st September 2018

Present: Gareth Bennett (GB) Deputy Master
Vicki Elliott (VE) Treasurer
Linda Ranby (LR) Secretary

Members Present: 12

The Deputy District Master opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and thanking Rev. Chris Davey for taking the service, Brian Meads (BM) for playing the organ and the ringers at Stisted for hosting the event and supplying a wonderful buffet tea.

1) Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Maurice and Kath Downs, John Elliott, David Learmonth, Vicky Le Fevre, Lin and Richard Ould, Andrew Taylor, John Taylor, Emily Thompson and Simon Ward.

2) Minutes of the District Meeting held on Saturday 5th May 2018

- a) The minutes of the May meeting were accepted by the members as an accurate record, and signed by the Deputy District Master.
- b) There were no matters arising.

3) Membership

a) New members

Four ringing members: Carol Birch;, Brenda Easter; Ben Whiteman and Tony Stock, all from Stisted were proposed and seconded by Wendy and Terry Earle. They were unanimously elected by all members present.

b) Achievements

Four Braintree members scored firsts in a quarter peal, with Gareth Davies, Ellie Gray and Ellis Whitehouse all ringing their first quarter of Triples and Bradley Hill conducting his first Triples.

Felsted saw Pat Cresshull ringing her 1700th Quarter and Ian Cresshull ringing his 500th Quarter as Conductor.

BM added that it depended how thorough the search was as to how many achievements would be announced. Any achievements should be sent to the Secretary for mention in the newsletter or at meetings. Roy Threadgold (RT) said he would send the link for Bellboard to Simon Ward to find the information.

4) Training - Ringing Remembers

Help is required for the training sessions that Roy Threadgold is running to get learners to be able to ring rounds and call changes for the Remembrance Service on 11th November. They are at various towers and helpers were not expected to attend all sessions. BM said that learners may be nervous to try ringing in other towers so they would need encouragement from other ringers in their own towers. Helpers were encouraged to let Roy know if they can assist please.

Kelvedon already have three ringers registered on the website and there are a further three at Great Bardfield. Vicki Chapman is talking with some of the learners to find out what their learning experience is like. Vicki Elliott volunteered to be the co-ordinator for Remembrance Ringing so everyone can let her know what is happening in their towers.

The District had organised two training sessions this year but had not been supported by students. Why was this? The consensus was that when RT ran them he specified which methods would be taught and these were popular! The non-supported sessions, although were giving the student a chance to specify what they wanted to learn, appeared not to be the best way forward.

5) Striking Competition Finals

Two bands went through from the 6-bell competition at Pebmarsh, to the Association finals, Coggeshall who came 5th place and joint band Kelvedon/Felsted who came 4th place. In the 8-bell competition the Northern District came last but BM said he was pleased that we completed the piece (Lincolnshire) as this is not a method rang regularly in our District.

6) District Calendar

a) Young Ringers Outing 29th September 2018

VE said there are lots of Young Ringers in our District, but it seems that only Emily Thompson is joining in with the events arranged for them.

b) EACR Annual Dinner 13th October 2018

The venue is Little Channels, Chelmsford, which was very popular last year. There are still limited tickets available for this year.

c) Carol Service 8th December 2018

The carol service this year is being hosted by Shalford. RT to confirm that everything is booked.

7) Quarter Peal Month – November 2018

GB offered to co-ordinate the event again this year. He needs to know whether anyone needs help to organise any ringing. Whether it be additional ringers needed to make up a band, or whether a band needs a tower to ring at. He got very little response from the emails he sent out last year. BM questioned where the email list came from, and why would this be different from the Secretary's mailing list.

Peter Smith offered that there are a number of ringing pensioners that could arrange to ring in the morning have a lunch and another tower in the afternoon, with the view of getting every tower in the District ringing.

8) Nominations for District Officers 2019

The four main District Officer posts are not set in stone and are up for election / re-election in January at the ADM. The District also requires a Maintenance Officer.

If you are interested in holding a post yourself the job descriptions are on the EACR website, or speak to the district officer, who will be happy to talk about the role.

Nominations should be with The District Secretary by 1st December 2018.

GB said that unfortunately he can't commit the time he would like to the post of Deputy Master, although is trying to get around the whole district, the Master will cover towers he cannot reach.

9) Any other Business

Were the members interested in the District holding a Quiz Night on 24th November? It appealed to everyone, so we should go ahead and secure a venue.

Every 2nd Wednesday Coggeshall practise will be 10-bell and is open to everyone in the Northern district. GB asked the members to support this. VE asked if Coggeshall was planning to return their practice night to Thursday. BM confirmed there was no plans to do this.

Terry Earle said as soon as they have raised the funds at Stisted there were plans to refurbish their 6 bells, and to add a further two trebles to make a ring of 8. They are looking to raise £50,000.

GB asked what other bell restoration projects there were.

- Earls Colne are difficult to ring and want to fund raise to get some work done;
- Feering PCC have cut VE out of the loop and are going ahead with organ/toilet etc. and think Kelvedon should be a priority. BM added that we should understand that lots of churches are in fact in financial difficulty and fund raising should not impede on money coming into the church through private funding not public appeals;

- Bocking are looking to raise £120,000 but are not getting very far. The Dean is very supportive and currently urgent work is being completed with existing funds;
- Braintree are currently getting quotes in for work to be done.

The calendar for 2019 was to be planned the following week.

10) Close of Meeting

The Deputy Master thanked everyone for coming, the meeting closed at 7.45pm and evening ringing commenced.

The next meeting will be the Annual District Meeting on 5th January 2019.

LR 29.09.18

Signed *S. P. [Signature] (DEPUTY MASTER)*

Dated *5 - JAN - 2019*