

## **Minutes of the District Meeting held at Boydells Dairy Farm, Shalford**

**Sunday 13th September 2020**

21 people were present, including 3 District Officers, 14 District Members, and 4 Guests.

Present : Simon Ward (District Master), Bradley Hill (Deputy District Master), Vicki Elliott (District Treasurer), Janine Alderton (Guest), Louie Alderton (Guest), Mark Alderton (Guest), Rebecca Alderton (Guest), Kath Downs, Maurice Downs, Janet Edwards, John Elliott, Ellie Gray, Jim Green, Debbie Hill, Brian Meads, Peter Smith, Andrew Taylor, Carol Taylor, Roy Threadgold, Vic Turner, Wendy Turner

The meeting started at 3:30pm with 1-minute silence for David French (Shalford ringer) who passed away from the Covid-19 virus in late March 2020, and also friends and relatives of District members who had also lost their lives to the recent pandemic.

### **1 Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence from Ian and Pat Cresshull, Cherry Threadgold, Peter and Marion Wood, Emily and Isabel Thompson.

### **2 Election of new Members**

Audrey Miller (Great Easton) proposed : Jim Brown, seconded : Chris Watson

Tom Beeken (Stebbing) proposed : Stuart Gilbert, seconded : Neil Bromley

### **3 COVID 19 ringing plans**

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, many of the calendar events planned for 2020 had been cancelled. This was as-per-advice from the Government, World Health Organisation, and Public Health Officer guidelines in restricting social events and limiting church functions. A review of future calendar events will be undertaken later in the year.

### **4 EACR AGM**

A summary of the 141st EACR meeting held on the 12th of September 2020 was read out. The main topics were briefly discussed including Robert Wood from Kelvedon becoming a life member (50 years) and EACR's new YouTube channel, set up by the Public Relations committee.

### **5 Tower work updates**

The tower updates and maintenance reports were summarized by John Elliott (Kelvedon) and Bradley Hill (Braintree).

Braintree tower had the 10 bells removed in October 2019, the bells are now due to be returned to the tower in October 2020. 95% of the funds has now been agreed. A further £5000 is still needed by the tower for additional works.

Kelvedon 4th Bell is being recast (due 17th September 2020), the maintenance program appears to be on track.

## **6 Northern District Centenary Year**

Due to the Covid-19 restrictions, plans to celebrate the District centenary had not been possible. A discussion lead to a consensus that the plans would be postponed rather than cancelled. There was a suggestion that the celebrations be moved to 2021 if restrictions have been lifted by then.

## **7 Any Other Business**

1. All Northern District members were reminded that annual subscriptions are supposed to be paid by the end of April.
2. Brian Meads asked the members how many were still ringing on Sunday mornings possibly with restricted numbers? Many of the towers confirmed that whilst Covid-19 had restricted their ringing, they were able to ring 4 or 5 bells to rounds and call changes for Sunday morning services. Andrew Taylor pointed out that ringing guidelines have been set out by the Central Council of Bell Ringers and were available via their website.
3. Brian Meads remarked that we were, he believed, the only District to be holding a meeting at this time and he commended the District officers' efforts.

A special thank you was given to Roy & Cherry Threadgold who hosted the meeting and picnic at their family farm.

The meeting closed at 3:45 pm, followed by a picnic and handbell ringing. Many members (and visitors) rang Plain Bob Major, Oxford Treble Bob Minor, Plain Bob Minor, and Stedman Doubles.

Signed . . . Simon Ward . . . . .

Dated . . . .9<sup>th</sup> January 2021 . . . . .