

**MINUTES of the District Meeting held at Earls Colne on  
Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

Present: Roy Threadgold (RT) Master  
Vicki Elliott (VE) Treasurer  
Linda Ranby (LR) Secretary

Members Present: 17

The Master welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1 Apologies

Apologies were received from Di Carpenter, Kate Champness, Ian Cresshull, Pat Cresshull, John Elliott, Julia Ibbotson, Susan Sherrington, Wendy Turner, Vic Turner and Cherry Threadgold.

2(a) Minutes

The minutes of the Annual District Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2016 were accepted as accurate record and duly signed. Proposed by Julie Wilkinson and seconded by Maurice Downs.

2(b) Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3 Membership

The following Association Officers were elected at the Association AGM in May:

Association General Secretary - Dr Rhona McEhune  
Public Relations Officer - Emily Ashden  
Independent Auditor - Neil Avis  
5<sup>th</sup> Central Council Representative - Vicki Chapman

4 Communication

RT has asked a representative from each tower to a meeting at St Andrew's Hall in Halstead on 29<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm to discuss any problems and ideas across the district.

5 Education

There will be a training day held on 1<sup>st</sup> October for learners progressing to St Clements and Cambridge Minor. We are currently proposing to hold this at Castle Hedingham. There concerns shown that the bells have a long draught, are anti-clockwise and generally not easy bells to ring. Janet Edwards said if the learners are worrying about the bells they will not progress. We would possibly choose another tower.

6 Events

The six bell striking competition went well and was well attended. The standard of both the change ringing and the call changes were good. Those who attended, had a very enjoyable evening too. A joint band from Coggeshall/Kelvedon go through to the final.

The evening practice in July would be held at Black Notley.

There is a District Outing planned for 6<sup>th</sup> August, ringing at Ashen then walking to Stoke-by-Clare for lunch and further ringing.

7 Any Other Business

BBC are holding a Music Day on 3<sup>rd</sup> June where they are asking everyone to ring simultaneously at 7pm across the UK.

There are to be Heritage Open Day's so that ringers can encourage visitors to their towers and share their passion with bell ringing. Towers needed to register by 1<sup>st</sup> August.

Maurice Downs had been arranging 10 bell quarter peals, but expressed the difficulty he was having in getting responses from emails he was sending out. They were going to be suspended over the summer and would start up again in September.

The eight bell striking competition was to be held on 9<sup>th</sup> July. The date had changed to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in July because the National Youth Competition was now to be held on 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday. RT encouraged everyone to learn 'Westminster', the chosen method for the competition, even if they wouldn't be ringing in the striking competition, suggesting that ringing a quarter peal would help it stick into people's minds.

Peter Smith encouraged people to ring for the Queen's Official Birthday on Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> June.

Great Bardfield have had Whitechapel Bell Foundry to look at doing work on their clappers and pulleys. They also wish to re-rope the front 2 bells.

Feering PCC are looking to move the organ pipes, make a kitchen area and toilet under the ringing room and the bells will be totally refurbished, meaning they can come out and back in while the organ is out. Money for a new set of ropes has already been given but they are looking to raise about £100k.

RT thanked Marian Wood for reading prayer, the hosting tower for refreshments and the use of their bells. The meeting closed and evening ringing took place.

LR 29.08.2016

Signed *R. Glanville* .....

Dated *3rd September 2016* .....