

# **Minutes of the Guild Week Meeting held in St John's College, Nottingham on Tuesday 21 August 2012**

## **There were present:**

President: Claire Barlow  
Secretary: Robert Flockton

Max Drinkwater

Alan Griffin

Robin Guy

John Harrison

Robin Heppenstall

Peter Hill

Chris Johnson

Trevor Kirkman

\* Elected during the meeting.

Naomi Laredo

Karen Lebon\*

Rod Lebon

Barbara Le Gallez

Henry Lewis

Brian Meads

Naomi Laredo

Sarah Pike

Jonathan Shanklin

Robin Shipp

Nicholas Small

Richard Underwood

Ian Vincent

Alan Winter

Marjorie Winter

The President was in the chair and opened the meeting at 20.05.

## **1. Apologies for absence.**

Apologies had been received from:

Christine Hill, Chris Rogers, Susan Threlfall, Andrew Johnson, Lizzie Frye, Oliver Bardsley, James Dann, Martin Press.

## **2. Minutes of the 2011 Guild Week Meeting.**

The minutes of the previous meeting had been available on the Guild website and had been made available in hard copy in advance of the meeting.

The meeting agreed that the minutes should be signed by the President.

## **3. Matters arising**

All matters arising are covered in the agenda.

## **4. Matters relevant to the Guild Week Meeting raised during the academic year 2011 – 2012**

The President commented upon a number of events and points of interest from the previous academic year:

### **Michaelmas Term 2011:**

(i) The recent Guild photograph album was mislaid some time ago, and it was decided to create a replica. Max Drinkwater showed the meeting a very fine album in which he has made a good start on this. Some photographs have been donated; some have been purchased from the photographer, and some have been scanned from photographs belonging to Guild members. Max has added names.

The project aims to gather photographs from 1957 up to the present, with the intention that they will be on the web. Assistance from the Guild is sought: good quality scanned images or hard copy are needed. Max will send round a list of the photographs which are still needed, and an updated list will be put on the web. Bill Ridgman's collection has been offered and should fill some gaps.

The President expressed thanks to Max Drinkwater for his efforts, and was very grateful to learn that he would be willing to continue to steer the project.

(ii) Eight new members were elected at that meeting, four of whom have put in a presence on Guild Week.

**Lent Term 2012:**

No items of business to note, but a further 10 members were elected. This is very pleasing augmentation of numbers of resident members.

**AGM 2012:**

(i) No election of a webmaster took place at the meeting, but Nick Butler was proposed by the Committee shortly afterward. His election will be ratified at the Michaelmas meeting. Nick is being assisted by David Richards, and we are in the process of regaining control of the website and looking at what needs to be updated. We expect to be operational in time for the Michaelmas term.

(ii) Leigh Simpson wishes to resign as CC Representative after this year. There is agreement that we should have a student or an active young resident. The other representative is Robin Shipp, who is very happy to offer guidance and advice.

(iii) The new Guild Rules were accepted. Rod Lebon offered thanks to the President for bringing this to such a satisfactory conclusion.

(iv) The Guild has been asked to attempt a peal at East Teignmouth, commemorating the first peal on the bells, which was rung by CUGCR on 4 Sept 2012. There will be a peal attempt on Sunday 2 Sept organised by Chris Rogers. The method will be Superlative, as in the first peal.

**5. Election of new members.**

**Full Member:**

Ian McCallion (Corpus) was proposed by Martin Press and seconded by Peter Hill, who explained that Ian was a mathematician who did not ring with the Guild when he was an undergraduate. He now rings in Hursley, Hants. He set up the first ringers bulletin board, and worked on the sound interpretation of striking for the 12-bell contest.

Ian McCallion was elected unanimously.

**Associate Members:**

Under the new Rules: *Associate Membership is open to any ringer who is not eligible for Full membership but who wishes to support the activities of the Guild and shall be for life.* Two Associate members were proposed, both of whom have been regular attenders on Guild Weeks.

Karen Lebon was proposed by the President and seconded by Ian Vincent.

Delia Heppenstall was proposed by Rod Lebon and seconded by the President.

Both were elected unanimously.

The meeting welcomed their election with a round of applause.

**6. 2012 (current) Guild Week.**

Ian Vincent made some announcements about programme notes, and practice nights, A vote of thanks was proposed by Peter Hill, and the Guild joined him in expressing their appreciation.

## **7. Guild Week 2013**

An organiser has not been forthcoming and so no arrangements had been put in place for next year's Guild Week, although there is continuing support for holding such an event.

Identifying and booking suitable accommodation has been the organisational element requiring the longest lead-time. In the absence of accommodation such as what we have on this week at St John's College, which is ideally suited to our needs, an alternative model for the Week, which has met with approval, is that commercial accommodation could be used (e.g. small hotel or Travelodge). The venue would need to be chosen carefully, ensuring that either it held a license or a pub was to hand, and also finding suitable camping provision within easy reach. Outline enquiries have been made in the Worcestershire/Herefordshire region.

It was noted that there is scope for some organisation of Guild Week to be spread amongst a small group of people, so long as there is one person in overall charge. There is precedent for devolving responsibility for tower arrangements: people have been asked to arrange days in designated areas.

Trevor Kirkman offered to investigate the possibility of putting on a conventional-style Guild Week in South Leicestershire. His offer was accepted with alacrity. He will attempt to move swiftly, and will keep in touch with the President. Should he be unable to book suitable custom accommodation, it was agreed that the alternative model might be investigated.

There was discussion about the duration and timing of Guild Weeks; a range of views was expressed. It was noted that numbers tend to drop off drastically at the end of Weeks, perhaps because people have engagements over the Bank Holiday weekend. Future organisers might consider finishing the Week on the Friday.

## **8. Future Guild Week venues**

Rod Lebon has offered to organise a Guild Week in Durham/Northumberland. He is a little concerned that this is a long way from the Home Counties and will seek some assurance that there will be sufficient attendance.

The proposal was accepted with gratitude.

## **9. Cambridge towers**

### **St John's**

A small group met just before the Lent Business Meeting (the President, Chris Johnson, Tom Ridgman, Patrick Brooke, Dickon Love, Richard Smith, Max Drinkwater) to discuss how to proceed with the project. Tom Ridgman is prepared to take on management of the project. Fundraising would need to be driven by the Guild.

Chris Johnson reported that the project is very political so far as the college is concerned: there is a small group passionately opposed, mainly on the grounds of fear of noise. The next stage could involve employing an acoustics expert to produce a report. Barry Johnson's excellent feasibility study of the project provides the basis for severe sound control measures.

In discussion, it was pointed out that although the noise of the bells themselves is the main issue, account should also be taken of structure-borne noise (e.g. from clappers), and there should be awareness of problems which might arise from ringers moving around and conversing during services.

Chris Johnson reported that two people have volunteered to fund bells.

## **10. Diary Dates.**

Michaelmas term meeting: 12 October 2012

There will be a London Outing towards the end of the Michaelmas Term; details are yet to be

finalised.

Lent Term meeting: 25 January 2013

Guild Dinner: 16 March 2013

**11. Any Other Business.**

John Harrison suggested that it would be appropriate to ring Five Rings triples this week; lines will be provided.

With no other business, the President closed the meeting at 21.00.

CYB