

**Minutes of the Guild Week Meeting held in University of Leicester,
John Foster Hall, Oadby, on Tuesday 20th August 2013**

There were present:

President: Claire Barlow

Marj Batchelor	Trevor Kirkman	Martin Press
Martin Bright	Naomi Laredo	Eric Roberts
Alan Griffin	Karen Lebon	Chris Rogers
John Harrison	Rod Lebon	Jonathan Shanklin
Delia Heppenstall	Barbara Le Gallez	Nicholas Small
Robin Heppenstall	Henry Lewis	R L Underwood
Andrew Johnson	David Lynch	Ian Vincent
Chris Johnson	Brian Meads	Alan Winter
Anita Kirkman	Hugh Pettifer	Dale Winter

The President was in the chair and opened the meeting at 20.10

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies had been received from:

Patrick Brooke, Philip Chalk, Robert Flockton, Robin Guy, Hilary Muirhead, Luke Smith, Brian Threlfall, Susan Threlfall and Clarke Walters.

The meeting was very sad to learn of the death of Robin Guy's wife.

2. Minutes of 2012 Guild Week meeting

The minutes have been available on the Guild website. The meeting agreed unanimously that they should be accepted.

3. Matters arising

The centenary peal at East Teignmouth in September 2012 was successful, and occasioned great pleasure.

4. Matters relevant to the Guild Week Meeting raised during the academic year 2012-13

The President briefly commented on events over the last year.

The resident Guild is in good heart, though numbers remain somewhat on the low side. Keeping up the pressure on recruitment remains important.

New Central Council reps were elected at the AGM: David Richards (2013-2016); Robert Flockton, a current undergraduate (2014-2017).

Barry Johnson is developing plans to create a ringing centre at Michaelhouse, around a light ring of six. Progress is slow.

There is no progress at St John's.

5. New members

David L. Smith, proposed Alan Griffin, seconded by David Lynch.

David read maths at Trinity (undergraduate 1966-69; postgraduate 1969-71). Alan taught David to ring 40 years ago when he was master at Bloxham. He now lives in Australia (Secretary of ANZAB) and has just rung his first peal of Surprise. David was elected to the Guild unanimously.

6. 2013 (current) Guild Week

Trevor Kirkman made some administrative announcements.

Chris Johnson proposed a vote of thanks to Trevor and Anita for their superb arrangements for Guild Week. He commented particularly on the urbane way in which Trevor had coped with a lock-out. The meeting joined him in a warm round of applause.

7. Future Guild weeks

The President initiated a discussion on Guild Week futures. The expected outcome is that we need to consult more widely – particularly involving the resident Guild.

A major survey had been conducted in 2006; the salient points were reiterated. There have been some changes (in particular, we now endeavour to be more family-friendly), but other things have changed less. Guild Weeks in their current format continue to be enjoyed by those who participate.

Numbers are viable but on the low side for the current Guild Week; the biggest concern is that sadly we have no current students with us.

On the numbers, the President suggested that two factors may have contributed. We were close to this area last year (and would have been elsewhere had it not been for Trevor's very kind last-minute offer to organise Guild Week). It is also an area which is often not regarded as offering the most exciting countryside. Next year we will be in the Durham/Newcastle area which is more of a traditional holiday destination – but travel distances are further for most, so it may be less easy for people to drop in for short periods.

More serious is the lack of students/younger generation.

Financial constraints are likely to be a major contributory factor: the total cost of Guild Week includes not only accommodation but also travel and food and drink. Students may be eligible to apply for some College funds, and this will be explored. But there was agreement also that some of the more senior Guild members would be prepared to help subsidise attendance for students. Other points of consideration are that most students have paid employment during long vacations (although this is not new); there is no on-site camping (this is now very difficult to achieve). The timing is worth considering, recognising that no time suits everyone.

However, the most important factor is that Guild Week is not central to the rhythm of the undergraduate Guild: the current generation do not see it as something which everyone attends as a matter of course. It was agreed that student participation will be crucial to the long-term survival of Guild Week, so there was much discussion of how interest in Guild Weeks might be encouraged amongst current students.

One of the factors which some of those present felt had changed is that the older (non-resident) Guild members no longer interact regularly with the current students. At times in the past, it was common for non-resident Guild to appear frequently enough that current students knew them – and so were perhaps more likely to accept an invitation to a Guild Week organised by them. It was suggested that non-residents organising Guild peals might specifically invite certain current students to join them. It was noted that the annual London Outing at the end of the Michaelmas Term is organised by students and well-attended by them; perhaps non-residents could be encouraged to join the day.

Inspiration on models for running Guild Week might be gained from looking at ringing tours arranged by other organisations: any information would be welcome.

It was agreed that our urgent priority is getting a strong contingent of current students on Guild week. Input from current students will be sought on the nature, structure and timing of Guild Week, and on how they might wish to be involved. The President will consult, and report on outcomes.

8. 2014 Guild Week

Rod and Karen Lebon are planning the 2014 Guild week to be held in the Durham/Newcastle area. Luke Smith is providing some local expertise. Finding appropriate group accommodation is, as always, problematic, but some leads are being followed. They are also seeking provision for camping (or equivalent low-cost accommodation). Following the discussions, they will seek to involve current students in decisions about organisation of the Week.

9. Diary dates

The dinner will be held on 15th March 2014.

10. Any other business

In the absence of other business the meeting closed at 21:10.

C Y Barlow 23/8/13

Recent Guild Week locations:

2013 Leicester
2012 Nottingham
2011 Cambridge
2010 Oxford
2009 Chester
2008 Cornwall
2007 Hull
2006 Boreham, Essex