

Members Present

President: J A Agg

Minute taker: S C Johnson

Sam Spencer	Thomas Cox	Jonathan Nash
Kirsten Hawkins	Catriona Agg	James Tan
Lucy Hennessy	Richard Smith	Graham Darke
Naomi Laredo	John Sturdy	Carys Hayward
Christine Hill	Brian Meads	Ellen Hayward
Peter Hill	Melissa Nash	Marianne Hayward
Chris Winkless-Clark	Toby Clifton	Luke Smith
Lena van Dongen	Rod Lebon	Karen Hindley
John Harrison	Karen Lebon	Richard Underwood
Clarke Walters	Ian Vincent	Nicholas Smith
Chris Rogers	Nicholas Small	Jonathan Shanklin

Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from:

Greg Chu	Tom Hooley	Kit Kilgour
Richard Youdale	John Hutchinson	

Matters Arising from the Guild Week Business Meeting 2024

There were no matters arising from the 2024 Guild Week Business Meeting minutes.

Election of new members

Madhu Davies (Pembroke 2010) is learning to ring at Great Wilbraham and Landbeach.

Nicholas Small proposed, while Barbara le Gallez seconded by email. They were elected unanimously.

Current Guild Week

Cars for tomorrow and details of Wednesday's quarter peal will be sent out tonight. There will be a Eucharist tomorrow evening which Marianne will lead. Chris Winkless-Clark will send round payment details afterwards, these will be subject to trying to get a discount following the printing mistakes on the t-shirts. The potential extra tower on Wednesday (Yardley) is still to be confirmed, as we are not sure if enough people are interested.

Future Guild Weeks

John Hutchinson has offered to organise next year's Guild Week in Northallerton. This will take place on the usual dates (the weekend before the bank holiday), these being August 22nd to 26th.

There are currently no other offers for future years. Chris Rogers suggested that Guild Week has only been to Lancashire once (1992), so that may be an area which would be worthwhile revisiting. Clarke and Brian have information on a complete list of Guild Weeks. It would be good to make this accessible to others.

Obituaries

A moment of silence was held to remember several Guild members who have sadly passed in the last year: Peter Perry, Desmond Painter and Delia Heppenstall. It was noted that Delia was one of the first two Associate Members of the Guild.

Diary dates

London Outing: Sam Spencer is organising. This is very likely to take place on 29th November.

Guild Dinner: This is expected to be the usual time (Saturday after term finishes - 21st March), Amy will confirm.

Any Other Business

Richard Smith provided an update on Central Council proposals:

At last year's Central Council meeting, a motion passed to increase affiliation fees from 20p per member to 40p per member from 2025, as did a further proposal to increase them to £1 per member from 2026.

We declare we have around 200 members. Guild Accounts show relatively small profit due to lack of annual membership fee.

After two rounds of consultation with university societies, it has been suggested that the Central Council introduce a third class of societies. Current categories are Regular and Small (approx. <50 members). The suggestion is for a new class of societies which don't have an annual membership fee, for whom affiliation fees would stay around 20p per member. We would lose one representative (currently we have two: Dave Richards and Richard Smith). We don't need to make a decision now, it is suggested that we wait to hear more information before deciding. This will likely mean waiting until the AGM to discuss the matter further.

Jonathan Shanklin suggested raising the suggestion of free membership for university societies. Richard Smith would be happy to propose this, but thinks it unlikely to pass. John Harrison agreed he thought it unlikely to pass. It was clarified that the number of declared members is the approximate number of members who participate in e.g. the Guild Dinner, Guild Week, peals, outings, etc. Richard Smith will keep us updated.

Richard Youdale raised that in four years time, the society will be 150 years old, and asked at what stage do we need to start thinking about this. Activities to mark this should include, among others, peals, a dinner, and writing an extension to Guild history. For the Guild centenary we had a dinner at Trinity, and were sung to by the Cambridge University Guild of Strange Singers.

Clare College is celebrating its 700 year anniversary next year. Richard Smith is considering organising a peal, but maybe other performances as well if there are members who don't want to ring a peal.

With no further business, the meeting was closed.