

Minutes of the Guild Week meeting, held in The Pheasant, Worcester, on Sunday 23rd August 2015

Members Present

President: R A Smith
Master: R L Anderson
Secretary: I R Diver

Oliver Bardsley	Naomi Laredo	Nicholas Small
James Dann	Barbara Le Gallez	Luke Smith
Simon Farrar	David Richards	Richard Underwood
Robert Flockton	Chris Rogers	Ian Vincent
John Harrison	David Rothera	Clarke Walters
Christine Hill	Philip Saddleton	Alan Winter
Peter Hill	Jonathan Shanklin	Marj Winter
Chris Johnson	Robin Shipp	

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from: Claire Barlow, Anita Kirkman, Trevor Kirkman, Max Drinkwater, Brian Meads, Dickon Love, Stephen Burr, Rod Lebon, Karen Lebon and Rachel Leitch-Devlin.

2. Minutes of the 2014 Guild Week Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting have been available on the website for some time. They were proposed for acceptance as a true account by Rachel Anderson and seconded by Christine Hill. They were accepted unopposed.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. New Members

There were no new members to be elected.

5. Future Guild Weeks

The President began by discussing the current Guild Week. When organising this Guild Week the President considered both church hall and college-based accommodation, but the former was considered more important. When there was no convenient college-based accommodation available, the President reverted to the hotel option.

It was also noted that fewer peals were rung than usual, but the President explained this was more a case of happenstance than deliberate attempt. At the time, the President hoped there would be an attempt. However, it was also noted that Guild Week is primarily a tour rather than a peal week, and the President believes it is important to keep the two separate.

The President highlighted the success in the number of people, especially persons younger than himself, in attendance. However, he believes there is still room for improvement, and asked the meeting for opinions and suggestions for future weeks.

Jonathan Shanklin stated that Guild Week had been successful so far, and thanked the President for his efforts. He thought that the improvements would be up to the future organiser as the week reflects the organiser. He suggested a possible start date of a Thursday or a Friday morning rather than a Friday evening, in order to avoid Friday afternoon/evening traffic. He also stated that the shorter Guild Week is a positive and seems to have produced more people who are kept together for longer.

Chris Rogers raised the issue of peals, touched on by the President. He felt in the past there has been a nice combination of towers and peals, and also quarter peals. However, he noted this depends on there being enough people who are both capable and keen. Despite this, he believes we should not dismiss the idea of peals, especially quarter peals, on Guild Week. Simon Farrar supported this, explaining he has in the past been involved in peals which were unworkable. The President suggested this was because Simon Farrar was in the peal.

Simon Farrar pointed out that the numbers for a peal were in attendance, but it must be ensured that any peals can be scored with good quality.

Richard Underwood added that there is scope for a peal weekend. Jonathan Shanklin suggested this could start with a weekend in Cambridge, but it was pointed out that all the Guild have already been to Cambridge.

Peter Hill stated that one of the nicest things about ringing peals is the ability to mix people up, allowing undergraduates to ring with older members of the Guild. The post-peal pub was noted as a particular highlight. It was also noted that this allows younger members of the Guild to experience the dangerous driving of the older members. Rachel Anderson stated that this dangerous driving also extended to the undergraduates, which Imogen Diver supported.

David Rothera reminded the meeting that in emails prior to Guild Week the President had asked whether anyone would be interested in ringing peals. The President reported that around one third of respondents were interested, one third were not, and the remaining third ignored the question. The President again stated that the lack of peals was not completely intended, rather it was a result of incompetence and bad timing.

The location of further Guild Weeks was discussed, with Jonathan Shanklin suggesting that places in which he had not rung were likely corresponding to the locations where Guild Week had not been held. Barbara Le Gallez therefore suggested Australia, and the President offered to buy Jonathan Shanklin a one-way ticket.

Bath, South Devon and West Somerset were suggested as possible locations, and Robin Shipp explained he could help with a Guild Week organised in Bath.

Richard Smith asked the meeting whether holding Guild Week in South Devon would deter people from coming due to the distance, but no members raised their hands. It was noted, however, that a past Guild Week in Cornwall had attracted fewer members than average.

David Rothera also raised the issue that popular holiday locations may be a difficult place to hold a Guild Week during August.

The President asked the under-25s at the meeting whether the church hall encouraged them to attend, and all responded in the affirmative. The President stated it therefore seemed necessary.

The President then asked the meeting whether anyone objected to the shorter five day tour. Three people answered in the affirmative. Ian Vincent felt that a longer Guild Week gave more people a chance to come if they were not available for the whole week. Simon Farrar suggested that Guild Week could stretch longer on an informal basis with a volunteer willing to organise. However, the President felt this was a bad idea from a logistic point of view, as the person organising the extension would not want to infringe on the person organising the main Guild Week. However, somewhere further afield would be acceptable. Jonathan Shanklin suggested this could be at a

location on return to where the majority of Guild Week attendees were based. Rachel Anderson suggested this could be linked with the above-suggested peal weekend.

Robin Shipp stated that he would have preferred more advanced confirmation of the itinerary for Guild Week, and the President stated “frankly, so would I.” It was suggested it could be put on the website, and Oliver Bardsley pointed out that the website offers a Guild calendar. Dave Richards, as Webmaster, reserved the right to remain silent, but added that the calendar was updated as soon as the President provided the information.

Oliver Bardsley reported that anyone wishing to follow Guild Week could do so on the Guild Twitter account, which Imogen Diver had been updating.

6. Diary Dates

The London outing will be held on Saturday 28th November 2015, organised by Stephen Burr. The Guild Dinner will be held on Saturday 12th March 2016 at Selwyn College.

7. Any Other Business

Chris Rogers questioned whether Guild members who died in the Great War could be remembered in connection with any peals. Oliver Bardsley reported that a quarter peal was rung by current students on VE day for three Guild members. There is another Guild member to be remembered in September 2015, and Oliver Bardsley has told Alan Regin this can be added as a note to any Guild peals.

A happy birthday was wished by all to Nicholas Small.

Clarke Walters noted that in previous Guild Weeks communion has been held where Guild members who have died in the past year. This past year Paul Williamson and Philip Chalk should be remembered. The President reported that at the dinner this year a silence in memory of late Guild members was introduced, and both Paul Williamson and Philip Chalk were remembered here.

The meeting was closed at 8:50pm.

I R Diver