

Minutes of the Michaelmas Term Business Meeting held in St Bene't's Church, Cambridge on Friday 1st November 2019

Members Present

President : R A Smith

Master : E Hopper

Secretary : J H J Ellison

Jonathan Shanklin

Samuel Johnson

Christopher Winkless-Clark

*Elected during the meeting

Melissa Nash

Thomas Haslam

Shirui Lu

John Hutchinson

Dima Szamozvancev

Jonathan Nash*

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Megan Bardsley, Luke Smith, Alan Griffin and Greg Chu.

2. Minutes of the Lent term business meeting 2019

The minutes were proposed as a true account by Jonathan Shanklin and seconded John Hutchinson. They were accepted unopposed.

Jonathan Shanklin question if "Samuel Johnson stated that none of us (residents) are very invested in the library." Or if "Samuel Johnson stated that none of us (residents) are very interested in the library." The meeting could not recall which was correct and so it was assumed the original "invested" was correct.

3. Matters Arising

The guild library and handbell restoration were highlighted by the President as important matters from the Lent 2019 minutes.

The President stated that bookcases had been found and put in place at OLEM. Two are currently in place, the final one needs hosting over the balcony this will likely happen at a later date after an initial move of books. The library now needs to be moved to OLEM. The President suggested we start by moving 15-20 shelf feet and see how that goes. This is likely to be done later this term. A number of the members at the meeting offer their assistance in the move. The President stated that Paul Seaman had kindly offer the use of his car to assist with the move. President to contact Greg (librarian) to arrange the move.

The Master asked about moving the unbound, more recent, ringing worlds into the library. The President stated that this should be possible and highlighted in the past the ringing worlds had been bound but this has not been done for some time

The President asked if, given the online copies are available, if there was any cause for having the more recent copied bound.

Samuel Johnson stated we have coped without them being bound. Christopher Winkless-Clark questioned the need for the binding. The President stated a lever arch file will just about hold one year worth of ringing

worlds and this could work well as an alternative. Samuel Johnson pointed out starting to continually add ringing worlds to the library will steadily consume shelf space. Jonathan Shanklin pointed out that due to the incomplete nature people would prefer to use online versions. The President suggested deferring the question of what to do with the ringing worlds until the next meeting. This was accepted by the meeting.

Jonathan Shanklin thanked the President for his time and effort on the project. The President thanked Paul Seaman and Father Eugene for other the use of the tower.

Samuel Johnson stated that the one set of handbells that had been restored were now used regularly. The question was asked if further sets were to be restored. Christopher Winkless-Clark stated that whilst the one set has been used regularly this term that has been no desire to have a second set. Thus it is likely the one very portable set is all we need at the moment. Samuel Johnson highlighted that the Dinner touch set is also usable. John Hutchinson suggested that we start using the dinner touch set as practice bells so as to keep the restored set in best condition for the guild dinner. Melissa Nash stated that the restored set is being used quite so regularly as they are now very portable in a rucksack, and so would probably be best to keep using them in this way.

President summarises that the situation as “the current setup is very acceptable.”

4. Relevant matters from the AGM

No relevant matters arising from the AGM were found that have not already been covered in the meeting.

5. Relevant matters from the Guild Week Meeting 2019

The President explained what guild week was for the newer members at the meeting. He explained it was an annual ringing holiday, not a full week, with approximately 5 towers a day, and with a cross section of past and present Cambridge members attending. It is usually held in late August.

The President stated that as yet no one has volunteered to organise it. The President stated that if no one volunteered he was happy to organise it. But that he would be equally very happy to have another person organise it.

The President that; if he were to organise guild week he would reach a decision on dates in the next week and would email the global list. He also stated that it would be to Shropshire or Dorset as a fallback. The President advised assuming the 21st to 26th unless an email sent otherwise.

The President points out the existence of the undergrad holiday. Members of the meeting report that a separate holiday is unlikely to be organised this year.

Jonathan Shanklin said that he thought that the 2019 guild week was very successful and that it made a healthy profit. This Money was split between local ringing funds and the guild account. The President thanked Jonathan Shanklin for organising the event. Melissa Nash stated that the student accommodation was nice. A question was raised over if the students would prefer camping in the future. The students in general replied that whilst they liked camping, they did not particularly wish to do it whilst also ringing. Thus the current church hall floor accommodation is ideal.

6. New Members

The following people were elected to membership of the Guild. They were proposed by Samuel Johnson and seconded by Melissa Nash:

Jonathan Nash (Selwyn)

Natalie Manning (Lucy Cavendish)

Alicia Kasto (Newnham)

Isidore Hiscock (Pembroke)

Shuowang He (King's)

Andrew O'Hagan

Yansheng Zhang

Jake Doyle

Oliver Rodgers

Stella Johnson

All were elected unopposed.

7. Cambridge towers

Samuel Johnson stated, as usual, that Bene't's is still here. The President is saddened by this. The 3 and 4 ropes are not stretchy. The 3 is now likely the best bell in the tower. The 4 has its issues, but seems to be much better in wet weather. The President suggested that it may be possible to shim the frame. The annual maintenance inspection resulted in nothing particular to report. Jonathan Shanklin states the rope on the 8 at GSM is more stretchy than any at Benets.

Samuel Johnson stated that there is an issue with keys at GSM currently. He reported that David Richards has stated that new keys cannot just be cut. It may be possible to have a new key made for Samuel Johnson but not for the Guild. The key sharing is becoming rather complicated given the increased traffic. There is currently a lack of understanding amongst the members present of which keys are an issue. Jonathan Shanklin says he will talk to Dave to try and uncover the issue. It was highlighted that it is vitally crucial that the bell chamber is locked at all times. It is pointed out to the meeting that the current issue with keys is not something the Guild can solve and that we need to wait on action by the Cambridge Youths.

Christopher Winkless-Clark reported that the slider on the 3 at StAG has not been fixed (after it was broken before the summer). A new slider was bought, but this does not fit after considerable effort to try to get it in. The curvature of the slider is too great, such that it would need to pass through the bell when ringing.

Christopher Winkless-Clark has emailed new measurements to Taylor's. The President states Taylor's does not answer emails and that you need to phone. New bolts have been fitted to the slider. The tower is otherwise usable. The rope on 8th is fraying below the sally. The President stated it may be able to repair with a splice. Christopher Winkless-Clark is happy to do this but will need assistance. The President stated he is happy to help, and that many others in Cambridge would also likely offer help.

The President reported there was no significant news of the Catholic.

Melissa Nash reported no updates on St Clements since the AGM. Some money has been collected since then. Much more money is needed.

8. Diary Dates

University Sermon – 03/11/19

SUA – 08/11/19-10/11/19

London outing – 23/11/19

Guild New Year – 29/12/19-02/01/20 at Melissa and Johnathan Nash's

Guild Dinner at Magdalene – 14/03/20

Guild Week – 21/08/20-26/08/20? – At organiser's discretion (see minutes)

The SUA is at Oxford this year. The Presidents states that there are some nice rings there and there are some others.

Alistair Benford is organising the London outing, possibly down a tube line. The president highlights that it would be a good idea to send an email around. President has organised a peal, and apologies for the clash.

9. Any other business

Melissa Nash reported that Dave Richards got website back online. Melissa Nash said at the time she was happy to get the website up to date but now wishes to stand down as webmaster.

Thomas Haslam happily volunteers for the position and is thus co-opted to the position. Thomas Haslam is to contact Dave Richards to get access to the website

Melissa Nash wants to organise an ART module 2 course. It may be at the start of next term; otherwise, it will likely be around June. Melissa Nash requests that £20 per student be made available from the guild account, as well as for Samuel Johnson (who offers considerable amounts of time to the Guild teaching efforts), to pay for the training. Melissa estimates about 8 people will go on the course. It is very unlikely to be over £200 and is likely to be hosted at a Cambridge tower.

Jonathan Shanklin asks if the Societies Syndicate would offer any money for it. John Hutchinson points out this is a very different type of training and so it may be possible to get money. Melissa Nash does not know how the application process to the syndicate works. Oliver Bardsley did this for the handbells and could be contacted for the information. Melissa Nash reports we have so far funded the ART training entirely with ART prize money. The President stated that we certainly have funds for this year but that we are not setting a precedent for future years.

A proposal is made that up to £200 be made available for up to 10 students to go on the ART module 2F course (a course training teachers to teach plain bob and plain hunt).

This was approved unanimously if money from the Societies Syndicate cannot be obtained in time.

The President closed the meeting at 21:46.

J H J Ellison