

Sonning Deanery – Reports for 2011 AGM

Branch Representatives Report

Meetings were held at Shipton-under-Wychwood in March and Beaconsfield in November. Silence was kept near the start of the first meeting as a mark of respect and posthumous thanks to former PR officer Peter Davies who had died in office.

Reuse of the redundant St Cross bells had been put on hold owing to costs and permission problems; the Listed Buildings Council later ruled that the bells would not be moved.

The Master expressed his approval with regard to the extent of ringing for the centenary of Revd FE Robinson, and also John Harrison's newspaper article and Bill Butler's book on the first 100 years of the Guild. Ringing for St George's Day was encouraged in 2010, but would not be in 2011 as the day falls in Holy Week.

Possible names were requested for the vacant posts of PR Officer and Website Manager; 3 new stewards were also needed, and co-options onto the Towers and Belfries Committee.

Padbury and Hillesden were transferred from Central Bucks to North Bucks branch.

The possibility of offering the Guild Report as a pdf file was raised at both meetings; members' opinions were divided about the relative utilities of electronic and hard copies.

The second meeting noted that the Guild is a patron of the Ringing World Centenary celebration on 26 March 2011. This will include a young (under 19) ringers' striking competition in Pimlico. The Young Ringers Award is being offered again in 2011, and a survey on recruitment and retention of young ringers is continuing, with the aim of obtaining usable information from towers that have been successful in these areas.

The organization and financing of the 2011 Guild Festival, to be held in and around Christ Church Cathedral in Oxford on 9 July, were discussed at length.

Guild Rules were again discussed, particularly those concerning honorary membership and whether the Guild should still be liable to claims in cases of personal negligence.

The method for the Guild 8-bell striking competition in 2011 will be Triples; heats are to be held at Longcot and Shrivenham, with the final at Childrey.

Andrew Elliston, February 2011