

MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD AT THANINGTON

Easter Monday 9th April 2007

(Subject to adoption by the AGM to be held in the Lewisham District in 2008)

The Meeting was hosted by the Canterbury District. The Service was held in St. Nicholas Church, Thanington and attended by over 80 members and friends. Rev. Roger Martin took the Service, Rev. David Cawley preached the sermon and Brother Austin led the prayers. Mr. David Manger, Chairman of the Association and Brother Austin read the lessons. 10 Towers were open on two different routes into and including Thanington and 9 Towers including Canterbury Cathedral were open on two routes out of Thanington after the Meeting.

An excellent lunch was served to over 60 people in Ashford Road Community Association Hall before the Meeting that commenced at 2.40 p.m. The Chairman welcomed 87 members and visitors. The Chairman invited Rev. David Cawley to open the Meeting with a prayer.

1. Apologies for Absence. Apologies were received from *Diana and Timothy Wraight (Rainham), Phillip Barnes (Wrotham), Janice Brown (Life Member), Isabel Pearce, Doris Colgate and Tessa Worthington (Sevenoaks), Brenda Barton (Dartford), Brian and Betty Jeffrey (Edenbridge), Neil Jones (Rochester Cathedral), Rev. Stanley Evans and Marie Evans (St. Laurence in Thanet), Jean Easley and Ian Murton (Dover), Bill Lanyon and Graham Long (Woolwich), Dickon Love (Bromley), Jason Williams, Elizabeth Charles, David Mitchell and Diane Mitchell (Otham), Hayley Barton (Non Resident Life Member), Angela Wilkins (Chelsfield), Mary Andrews (Bexley), Jane Kennett and Rebecca Towner (Canterbury Cathedral).*

2. Minutes of the AGM held at Benenden on Easter Monday, 17th April 2006

The minutes were taken as read having been printed in the Handbook. The Chairman signed them a true record.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes. There were no matters arising.

4. General Secretary's Report.

The General Secretary moved the adoption of her report, which is printed in the Handbook. Motion carried

5. Treasurer's Report. The Treasurer, Cathryn Hills thanked the Districts for getting their reports in on time and Frank Lewis for checking them. She advised that over £21,000.00 had been paid out in grants. Each District had raised over £500 for the BRF and especially thanked Ashford, Canterbury and Tonbridge who had raised over £2000. There is a small error in the account the Interest Loan was made to Keltek Trust and not Deptford. She moved the adoption of her report. The motion was carried by the meeting. The Chairman thanked Mrs. Hills for her hard work.

6. Peal Secretary's Report

Dr. Barnes was unable to attend. His report is in the Handbook. The report was accepted by the Meeting and the Chairman thanked him for this.

7. Officers Reports

Bell Restoration The report is printed in the Handbook. Mr. Butcher said the work is becoming more difficult day by day by increasing paperwork and various matters we have to comply with. He advised a bell for Lynsted had been obtained and possibly three for Offham. He hopes to attend the National Conference at Worcester in September. He proposed the adoption of his report which was carried by the Meeting. The Chairman thanked Mr. Butcher and his whole committee for their work.

Publicity The report is printed in the Handbook. Mr. Dale said he had spent a long time on the Smithsonian Festival project at Washington DC but we were not invited. Many towers rang for the Queen's Birthday. The Association may purchase Wombel. The possible home for the JubiPeal will be at Beltring Hop Farm. He is still looking in to replacing the Display Boards and will report to the next Committee Meeting. The ringers who were on Ready

Steady Cook donated some of their money to the BRF. He proposed the adoption of his report which was carried by the Meeting

Training Mr. Hardy was unable to attend the meeting. The report is in the Handbook.

Webmaster Mr. Lewis advised there had been over 50,000 hits approximately 36 hits per day. He requires any information on events together with photographs. He thanked all those who have contributed over the past year. The Chairman thanked Mr. Lewis.

Membership Secretary Mr. Cottle advised he had made a great effort to collate the information but the information had not been used. He made a formal proposal for the Data base to be destroyed; this was seconded by David Sheekey. Mr Sheekey said that he had had great trouble in keeping the data base up to date when he held this position as he had not had the support from the District Secretaries. After much discussion when various points for and against the motion were made, specifically in relation to saying that the database could be used for membership queries in relation to 50 years membership and even for insurance claims, but the reverse being that if the information could not be updated regularly by the districts then it is of no use, an amended proposal was put forward by Mr. Sims and seconded by Mr. Wilkinson that 'the data base be distributed to the Districts. A Substantive Motion was put before the meeting 'The Database to be distributed and the main one to be destroyed'. The motion was passed. The Chairman thanked Mr. Cottle for all his hard work and asked him to distribute the Database to the Districts.

Handbook Editor The handbook had been issued in time for the Meeting. Mr. Huxley said he needs to streamline the process of receiving information from the Towers. Mr. Wilkins said well done for ensuring the Handbook was out for the Meeting. Mr. Huxley thanked Mr. Lewis for his mentoring.

Librarian Mrs. Basford thanked everyone for the material she had received and especially the Newsletter Editors. She has received Teddy Barnett's bound copies of the Annual Reports. She also advised an archivist was checking on small bells especially at Eastry. The Chairman thanked Mrs. Basford for her report and her hard work.

8. Election of Officers. The following officers were elected, all having agreed to stand:

	Nominee	Proposed	Seconded
Chairman:	David Manger	C F C Pearson	R A Lucas
Secretary:	Margaret Funnell	Eric Roughley	Diana Wraight
Treasurer:	Cathryn M Hills	Stanley Evans	Michael Little
Peal Secretary:	Dr Phillip Barnes	John Keeler	Thos Barlow
Librarian:	Hazel Basford	Janet Godfrey	M Godfrey
Handbook Editor:	Craig Huxley	Philip Elderton	Frank Lewis
Quarter Peal Sec.	Anthony Leeves	Eric Roughley	Michael Bullett
Training Officer:	James Hardy	David Macey	Elizabeth Duffy
Bell Rest Officer:	Brian Butcher	Nigel Spencer	Ivan T J Hart
Publicity Officer:	Peter Dale	Thos Barlow	Pat Phipps
Web Master	Frank Lewis	Anthony Leeves	Carole Scott
Extra 3	Eric Roughley	Anthony Leeves	Karol Leeves
	Philip Elderton	Craig Huxley	Peter Dale
C C Reps 2008/2010	Dr. Phillip Barnes	P W Dickinson	A J Britton
	Peter Dale	Philip Larter	Paul Barton
	Richard Edwards	Pam Manger	K Edwards

Philip Larter	D H Niblett	A L Andrews
Catherine Lewis	Isabel Pearce	Jane Nielson

David Manger and Frank Lewis did not seek re-election. Mr. Dale on behalf of the Association thanked Mr. Manger for his 24 years as a Central Council Representative. Mrs. Larter thanked Mr. Lewis for his term in office.

9. Election of Auditor Mrs. Hills proposed Philip Garrod. David Wilkinson seconded and the appointment was agreed by the Meeting.

10. Certificates for 50 years Membership. There were 5 members who had reached their 50 years' membership in 2006. The Chairman presented Certificates to Alan Berry (Hon. Life Member, formerly Folkestone) and Mike Godfrey (Folkestone). M. John Martin (Newington next Hythe) and Laurence Mitchell (Sittingbourne) were unable to attend the meeting and their certificates will be presented at their respective District Meeting, namely Ashford and Rochester. The fifth member who reached his 50 years membership was Cyril Beeching of Chartham who had since died in January of this year.

11. Forthcoming Events. Notice was given of the following:

- 5th May General Committee Meeting at Harrietsham
- 25th Aug. General Committee Meeting at Leeds
- 8th Sept. Essex Trophy at Bletchingley
- 22nd Sept. 6 Bell Competition Chevening
- 24th Nov. General Committee Meeting at Leeds
- 24th March Annual General Meeting in Lewisham District

12. Any Other Business.

Mrs. Basford advised she had brought the remainder of the 125 memorabilia and would appreciate donations for this.

Canterbury Cathedral bells are available from 4.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. Car parking available in the precincts.

David Cawley said it had been an amazing effort by Dickon Love for obtaining the 12 bells for St. Magnus the Martyr and he felt we should all support events when required.

Mr. Wraight had prepared a letter which was distributed to the members in relation to the Bells at St. Mary's Chatham. He requested that the Association should agree to the Bells at St. Mary's being placed on the Transfer list. subject to the Rochester Diocese approval. He advised these bells were deteriorating rapidly, the church being a redundant benefice was no longer cared for and is falling into disrepair. The bells are a heavy eight. Mr. Butcher said the future for a 25 cwt eight is limited. It was agreed by the meeting that this matter should be referred to the next General Committee Meeting and suggested that Mr. Wraight be invited to attend.

13. Votes of Thanks The Chairman thanked the Rev. Ian Aveyard for the use of Thanington Church and the Bells, Rev Roger Martin for taking the service, Rev. David Cawley for preaching, Brother Austin for leading the prayers and the organist Susan Record. He thanked Jo Horton, David Sheekey and the Canterbury District for the Lunch. He finally thanked all incumbents of the Canterbury District for the use of the bells during the day.

Meeting closed at 4.09 p.m.

The Raffle then took place, raising £180.00 for the BRF.