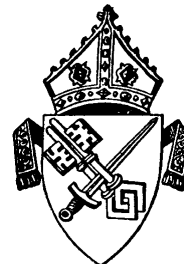


# WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

## PORTSMOUTH DISTRICT



## Minutes of the Quarterly District Meeting Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2009 at Upham

1. **Chairman's welcome.** Acting Chairman, Andrew Case, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Brian and Cynthia Marchant for all their help with the BBQ. The service was conducted by Rev. James Hunt.
2. **Apologies for absence.** Officers present: Secretary Diana Bishop, Treasurer Andrew Case, Ringing Masters Rachel Byford and Tom Bishop. Chairman Richard Harrison sent his apologies, and Andrew Case stood in for him.
3. **Loss of members through death.** Angela Beaumont died Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July. She had been a loyal member of the Havant band for over 20 years, and before that rang at Droxford. Her funeral is scheduled for Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July at Purbrook. A short silence was observed in her memory.
4. **Collection.** The collection raised £18.04 for the Guild Bell restoration fund.
5. **Minutes of the QDM at Hambledon, 18<sup>th</sup> April 2009.** These were circulated and approved as correct, p. Andrew Case, s. Andrew Byford.
6. **Matters arising.** Under item 10, Striking Competitions (SCs) Rachel Byford noted that it had been a struggle getting a band for the Guild SCs, and that the District SCs hadn't happened, due to pressure of other commitments. RB asked for a volunteer to run the Striking League, with bands from Netley, Cathedral, Purbrook and Catherington still keen to participate.  
Tom Bishop reviewed the Outing and thanked Malcolm Powell organising the towers, noting that there had been a good turn-out, despite lack of advance commitment.
7. **Election of new members.** Cheryl Ward elected 14<sup>th</sup> Feb after a peal at the Cathedral, p. Richard Harrison, s. Ian Carey. Martin Press elected prior to a peal at Cathedral on 20<sup>th</sup> June, p Richard Harrison, s. Helen Baverstock. Rebecca Harrison elected as probationary member at the Cathedral. All were confirmed by the meeting.
8. **Future Events.** Andrew Case drew attention to the latest events poster, about to be published. Events included the 12-bell DP at Winchester, the Cathedral flower

festival, and the handbell concert in October. Rachel Byford said she would be getting a band together for the Inter-district 10-bell on 5<sup>th</sup> September, which Portsmouth are hosting. Rachel urged people to reply to emails promptly. There will also be a District Dinner on 18<sup>th</sup> September at Horndean, Social sec Allan Yalden will be sending out posters.

9. **Progress on bells in District.** Andrew Byford outlined the current state of the bells at Portsea, namely that they are ringable, but needing some work, but the scaffolding is now down. Estimates are being gathered. Barbara Salmons has restarted Tuesday practices and is happy for there to be a District Practice there on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> July. Dist sec will send out a reminder about this. Tom Bishop outlined the progress on the Cathedral augmentation: a good proportion of the money (£35,000) has now been raised, but still some needed. The bells will be cast on 17<sup>th</sup> September, and there will be an outing for those wishing to see this exciting moment. Andrew Case said that the Guild AGM had approved a grant from the BRF of £4,500. Norman Chatfield said that the Bishops Waltham work will start on 3<sup>rd</sup> September, and he thanked the district again for its grant.
10. **Recruitment review.** DB said there would be another 'Raw recruits' session on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October at Purbrook, as the last one was deemed so beneficial.
11. **Feedback on District Events.** Betty Daysh remarked that a District Practice on a Saturday morning really suited some people (there had been one recently at Botley), but Tom Bishop regretted that peals are usually rung on Sat ams, so peal ringers would be unable to attend. DB said the committee had decided to run all 8-bell tower DPs on Saturday evenings next year, with 6-bell DPs as and when on tower practice nights. Marie Boniface said how enjoyable the Barn Dance was; other suggestions for events were treasure hunts, a theatre trip, and quizzes.
12. **A.O.B.**
  - a) Ian Carey had sent a letter formally requesting a donation from the District funds to the Portsmouth Cathedral augmentation appeal. Andrew Case proposed that this should be deferred until the QDM in October, as the District's year-end financial position should be clearer by then and members could be forwarned. This was agreed.
  - b) Malcolm Powell had written to the sec. re the appointment of the new bishop of Portsmouth and his role in supporting district ringing in his capacity as a president of the guild. He proposed that the secretary write to the Vacancy in See Committee with our concerns. Norman Chatfield pointed out that there were already channels for comment in the Deanery Synod representatives in the parish churches, and Andrew Case thought that the present bishop has already clarified his position on ringing. The proposal was not accepted.

Andrew Case closed the meeting after 35 minutes.

**Date of next Quarterly Meeting:  
Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October at Wickham**

*Towers not represented at Upham QDM:*

Alverstoke	Southwick
Curdrige	Wickham
Fareham	Havant
Netley	Portsea
Swanmore	Titchfield