

**ARMY GUILD OF BELLRINGERS**  
**MINUTES OF THE AGM ON SATURDAY 2nd APRIL 2016**

**Members Present:**

John Verity (Secretary & Treasurer)

David Fox (Ringing Master)

Anne Bray, Paul Bray, Mary Coe, David Culham, Peter Leigh, Rod Pagdin, Thomas Sharpe, Maggy Vince.

**Apologies received from:**

Peter Cates, Sally Cates, Nick Claypool, Michael Cornwall, Ian Culham, Claire Culham, John & Liz Davey, Andrew Frost, Mark Heritage, Liz Keatinge, Derek Knowles, Paul Southward, Mike Suttill, Ian Wiltshire.

The meeting opened at 16.45 hrs:

1. The Chairman (Ian Culham) was unable to be present due to ringing in a peal elsewhere. In his absence the Secretary & Treasurer (John Verity) welcomed the members, and thanked them for their attendance. The Ringing Master (David Fox) was thanked for arranging the AGM towers, and thanks were extended to David's daughter for providing and serving tea and cakes.
2. Loss of members:  
  
Peter Wenham, who died late 2015.
3. The minutes of the 2015 AGM were passed as a true copy and signed by the Chairman.
4. Matters from last year's AGM: Nil
5. **Chairman's report:** In his absence, the Chairman had sent a written report, as follows:

*Firstly, I would like to say that I am extremely sorry for not being present at this meeting; it was not my intention but I had a diary malfunction (completely my fault).*

*This, my first year of office, has been a busy one; and we have had some highs and a low. The first thing I wanted to do as Chairman was to make it my aim to try to increase membership and knowledge of the Guild in the wider ringing community. This has by no means been achieved but we are on the right road. We now have a Guild facebook page where members can chat and advertise Guild events. We have also made quite a few changes to the web site, bringing it up to date with a new membership form being added. Since last year's AGM the web site has had over 975 hits!*

*Having over half a dozen members join this year was great for the Guild, and I'm hoping that we can continue this trend for years to come.*

*The 18th of June saw the Guild ring a quarter peal of Norwich Surprise Minor at Mistley in Essex to commemorate the 200th anniversary, to the day, of Wellington's victory at the Battle of Waterloo.*

*The 20th of June saw the Guild ring a very good peal of Yorkshire Surprise Major at Loughton Essex to again commemorate the 200th anniversary of Wellington's victory at the Battle of Waterloo.*

*The one disappointing event this year was our September outing to Leicestershire; when there was a very poor showing, with not enough members present to make it worthwhile! Although, with a few locals, we made a good day of it, and my thanks go to Paul for organising this.*

*I would like to say a big thank you to Maggie for all her hard work over the past five years as Chairman, and I hope I can carry on her good work.*

*Lastly it just leaves me to say a big thank you to all of you for your help and support to the Guild, as without all of you none of this would be possible.*

Thanks

Ian J Culham

## **6. Secretary's report:**

This year has been a quiet one for the Secretary, but there are always addresses to be changed and e-mails to be kept up to date.

If any member changes their abode or e-mail address, the Secretary earnestly requests notification. Members should ideally pay their annual membership fee of £3 by standing order, and this is due on April 1st every year.

A big "thank you" to Andrew Frost, who maintains our web site, sends out correspondence and coordinates our annual fee to the company that controls the armybellringers.org.uk domain name.

## **7. Treasurer's report:**

It was agreed informally at the last AGM, that the funds of the Guild should not ideally go above £500.

However, as you can see from the Summary of Accounts for 2015/6, ending 29th February 2016, our income excess over expenditure was £59.20. Therefore it seemed reasonable not to charge members for any tower or hall fees today; and I hope that this meets with general approval.

***Paid up members: 34. The balance stands at £781.55.***

David Fox proposed that the Treasurer's report be accepted, and this was seconded by Maggie Vince.

## **8. New Members:**

|                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| Andrew Brown   | Louise Pink      |
| Gail Farrow    | Thomas Sharpe    |
| Julie Harrison | Jonathan Stevens |
| Mark Heritage  |                  |

David Culham proposed that the above new members be accepted, and this was seconded by Rod Pagdin.

## **9. Retirement of Members:**

None reported.

## **10. Election of Guild Officers:**

- Chairman: Ian Culham was voted in, at the 2015 AGM, for 2 years.
- Secretary: John Verity agreed to stand for 2 years, having served 1 year.
- Treasurer: John Verity was voted in, at the 2015 AGM, for 2 years.
- Ringmaster: David Fox stated that he wished to stand down, having served in this post for many years. However there were no candidates for this position, and the meeting asked David to continue for a further year, till a successor could be found. This he reluctantly agreed to do, but stated that he would definitely stand down at the 2017 AGM. He was thanked by everyone at the meeting for all his efforts.

## **11. Diary:**

### **2016**

- Army Autumn Meeting: **29th October.** The Chairman has agreed to organise a day in the Essex area.
- RAF BOB Meeting: 15th - 17th Sept.
- RN Trafalgar Meeting: 21st - 23rd October.

### **2017**

- Army Spring Meeting: **1st April.** The Brays have kindly offered to organise an outing to the ? Kings Lynn area.

## **12. AOB:**

No matters were raised.

## **13. Date of next AGM: 1st April 2017.**

Ian Culham  
Chairman