

Minutes of Horfield Bell Ringers, AGM
Monday 19th January 2009 at 7:45 pm.

Present:

Jeanne (Chair), Joan, Philip, Anthony, Alice, David, Roger, Carey and Katy.

Apologies:

Bernie and Mark

Minutes taken by Katy Murdoch-Davis

1. Minutes of the last meeting (21st January 2008)

It was agreed that the minutes were a true and accurate record of the meeting.

2. Matters Arising

No matters arising

3. Bell maintenance

Bell 3, seems to be running much better after some adjustments.

Bell 5, the rope was recently found to be badly frayed and worn. The ropes were replaced 2 years ago, with a six month guarantee. It was felt that the rope in its current condition was unsafe to use and the old one was put back in its place. It is unclear whether the rope itself was faulty or catching on something. After discussion it was felt we had three options;

Option 1 Return the rope to the company in London for repair. However this would cost £100 plus VAT and would take many months.

Option 2 To contact 'Phil', an experienced ringer at Henbury who may be able to 'diagnose' the problem and then possibly help with its repair.

Option 3 For us to attempt the repair.

It was agreed that we would consider option 2 in the first instance.

Action Anthony: To contact Phil and make suitable arrangements.

Weddings

We rang for 10 weddings in 2008; this number was slightly down from previous years; this seems to be a constant trend. To date, 8 weddings have been arranged for 2009. Joan agreed to continue her role as our wedding co-ordinator.

Review weddings

There seems to be a recurring problem with changes of wedding details which are not passed on to the ringers. It was suggested that Jeanne and Joan should review weddings arrangements with the church secretary (Lynne Alba). Philip suggested that the wedding form which is completed when booking the church should be photocopied for both us and the couple; this would be an accurate account and act as a binding agreement. Therefore, the availability of the ringers may not be guaranteed if changes are made. Hopefully this could lead to improve communications between the ringers, the wedding couple and the church.

It was suggested that at this meeting with Lynne Alba, they could also discuss the possibility of a small paragraph to 'promote ringing' which could be included in the parish newsletter.

Action Jeannie and Joan

Training Opportunities

There will be another training day in Tewkesbury, on Saturday 21st March 2009. It was felt that this would be an ideal opportunity for our learners. Katy will promote the event and make the necessary arrangements.

David also reminder us that the local branch practice is also a good learning opportunity. Dates for future branch practices could be found on our notice board and on the website.

Action Katy

Visitors

It was nice to have visitors last year to support our team. Ella brought along two new friends.

New members/trainees

Carey, Claire, Laura and Chloe.

They are all trying very hard and making steady progress with their ringing. Jeanne and Anthony were acknowledged for all their hard work and commitment with our young ringers.

Don's Tribute

Don sadly died last March; he is sorely missed by us all. At his funeral we rang muffled bells at the beginning and most of the ringers attended the service and the wake afterwards. It is planned to have a small ceremony in the tower with his wife Betty. We intend to mount a photograph of him on the wall; interestingly the photograph frame has been made from broken stays from our tower. Date to be announced. David suggested that we should attempt another quarter peal in his honour, possibly in March, Philip agreed to arrange this.

Action Jeanne and Philip

Outreach open evening

Generally it was felt that the response last year was disappointing, but Roger felt that we should carry-on and have another event this year, as it is good PR for the tower. It was agreed that a further event would take place possibly in the summer. Once a date has been set support would be required.

Katy wondered whether a general information sheet 'promoting ringing' could be produced and copies left at the back of the church.

Action Jeanne and Anthony (information sheet)

Further visitors

Philip announced that he had some friends who would be interested to come to the tower and try some ringing.

Action Jeanne and Philip

Christmas outing

We had a very successful Christmas outing and rang at Winterbourne and Frenchay towers. Everyone enjoyed the day; it was a very interesting experience due to the extreme weight differences of the bells between the two towers. We thanked Anthony for making the contacts for us and for organising the day.

Coming events for the year, 2009

- Tower cleaning team; lead by Alice, Date to be announced.
Roger said he would try and source some new carpet.
- Outreach open evening, to promote new ringers.
- Summer BBQ, Anthony suggested possibly ringing at two or three towers one afternoon followed by a BBQ in his garden.
- Xmas stall, to be held near the parade of shops at the top of Gloucester road.
Jeanne suggested we took part. It was suggested that we could achieve three things: promote ringing at our tower, recruit new learners and raise money for charity. Everyone thought it was a good idea.

Website

Roger was highly praised for all his work on continually updating our website. He said that he is always willing to include any items or photographs.

Finance

Our bank account was slightly up from last year and now contains £174.27.

Jeanne also encouraged everyone to pay their membership to our local Ringing Guild.

Appointed officers

| Officers | Bell ringer | Proposed | Seconded |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Tower captain | Philip | Jeanne | Katy |
| Deputy tower captain | David | Jeanne | Joan |
| Secretary/ Treasurer/ Trainer | Jeanne (CRB checked) | Katy | David |
| Social events/ Assistant Trainer | Anthony | Jeanne | Katy |
| Wedding Co-ordinator | Joan | - | - |
| Steeple keeper | Philip | - | - |
| Web master | Roger | - | - |

Any other business:

Changes to practice night

Philip proposed that we structured our ringing night, so that everyone had a fair amount of ringing. The ringing slots he suggested were as follows:

| | |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| 6:30-7:30 pm | Bell handling for learners |
| 7:30-8:00 pm | Rounds and call changes |
| 8:00-8:30 pm | Plain Hunt and first method ringing |
| 8:30-9:00 pm | More advanced method ringing |

This was agreed

Snapshot 2008

Katy said that she would be willing to produce a summary of our ringing activities last year, for the church. She would also place a copy on the notice board.

Action Katy

Meeting closed at 9:10 pm