



Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers

Minutes of the Witney and Woodstock Branch AGM

SS Peter & Paul, Church Hanborough - 10th February 2024, 13:00

1. Opening Prayer

The opening prayer was led by Catherine Lane.

2. Attendance Register

Catherine Lane (ODG Master), Hazel Howarth (Chair), Andrew Goldthorpe (Secretary), Richard White (Ringing Master), Anthony Willamson (Assistant Ringing Master), Heather Horner, Dana Josephson, Alison Merryweather-Clarke, Richard Ford, Rachel Mackenzie, Ruth Leatherdale, Debra Scrimshaw, Dave Shellard, Michael Probert, Anne Taylor, Neil Crossley, Steve Vickars, Angela Quantrill, Susan Shelley, Louise Brown, Lorna Curtis, Adele Hambidge, Robert Walton, Julie Minch, Meg Roberts.

3. Apologies

Richard Law (Treasurer), Sue Rhodes, Amy Thomas, Alison Felton, Peter Felton, Ian Wilson, Susannah Ross, Maragaret Barnes, Nadine Woods, Dan Neal.

4. Requests for urgent items of Any Other Business

There were no requests for AOB as they were covered by the agenda.

5. Chair's welcome and minutes from 2023 AGM

Hazel Howarth welcomed everyone, thanked The Revd. Nick Wood for the service, the Church Hanborough band for the refreshments, and thanked members for their attendance.

There was a minute's silence in memory of Nigel Eagle.

Throughout the year there have been no meetings of the full W&W committee.

The minutes were approved and signed.

Proposed Alison Merryweather-Clarke, Seconded Heather Horner, carried nem. con.

6. Ringing Master Report – Richard White

The branch has continued holding monthly practices every second Saturday 10.30 - 12.00. These have been generally well supported. I have advertised these in the diary on Bellboard

and Facebook. Andrew has sent out email reminders to all members, so they have been well publicised. It is always heartening when locals attend, and I have met new Branch members. I encourage all members to attend practices. They are the best way to progress, and all abilities are catered for. They're also a good social occasion.

The Branch striking contest was held at Bladon in June. My thanks to Steve Vickars from Kirtlington and Hugh Deam from Marston for judging. Well done to all teams that took part.

The Branch outing in October took us to Rutland and Stamford. We enjoyed the superb Gillett and Johnston eight at Oakham and two towers in the lovely town of Stamford. The staff at The Tobie Norris in Stamford looked after us very well and we managed to take further refreshment in Uppingham. I thought the ringing throughout the day was pretty good and I'm very grateful to those who supported the day. I plan to arrange another outing in April as well as the traditional one in October.

There seems to be a lot of activity in the branch with various towers arranging additional practices and quarters.

Anthony Williamson has done inspections of the bells at Minster Lovell and Shilton. There seems interest at both towers to get the rings of three restored and augmented.

I have approached Brize Norton to see if we could inspect their bells but was unsuccessful.

Quarters and peals were rung in the branch to mark the coronation.

Peals were also rung at Ducklington in memory of Roger Barnes and Bampton to celebrate Dave Rose's 50 years as Tower Captain and his 80th birthday. The first ever peal in the tower was rung at Broadwell back in March.

I think it's been a good year. Many thanks for all your support.

7. Treasurer Report – Richard Law

I regret that, due to circumstances beyond my control, I am unable to present a final set of accounts of the branch for 2023. This is because I have not received the deposit account statement for the final quarter of the year.

The ODG treasurer informed me a few weeks ago that, without letting him or me know, the management company that looks after our deposit (and other church-related funds) changed banks at some point in the last quarter of 2023. I have been told that the new bankers pay interest on different dates, with the result that the first interest payment from them will be in 2024 (i.e. after our year-end).

While it has been suggested that I should use the balance shown in the 30 September 2023 statement as the end of year balance, that does not seem to be appropriate without further details. It may well be appropriate if the change of banks happened on 1 October, but the date on which the actual change occurred is not yet clear. A change on any other date would be expected to result in "interest to closing" being added to the balance transferred to the new account, with the consequence that the end of year balance would not be the same as that at 30 September.

While I cannot yet provide final accounts, I have prepared a draft report and draft accounts on the assumption that the 30 September balance is the balance at the year end. These are merely for information and not for approval. I will prepare final accounts as soon as the end of year deposit statement is available.

Richard Law

6 February 2024

=====

The draft branch accounts for 2023 show a current balance of £3,347.06 (2022: £3,129.69) and a surplus of income over expenditure of £503.70 (2022: £217.37).

Income from subscriptions was £570 from 190 members, including three second branch members (2022: £513 from 171 members, with three second branch members). There were four honorary members (2022: 4). There were donations of £5 (2022: £5) and interest income of £79.62 (2022: £10.17).

The retiring collection at the AGM raised £30.85 (2022: £0) and there was no further income in the year. Expenditure consisted of Ringing Master's expenses of £13.25 (2022: £10.80) and £168.52 on the summer social (2022: £0). There was no contribution to the Bell Fund (2022: £300).

My thanks to Heather Horner for acting as the Independent Examiner of the 2023 draft accounts.

Richard Law

Treasurer

06 February 2024

=====

<i>Balance Sheet</i>	2023		2022
Opening Balances:			
Current Account	2,541.77		2,339.57
Deposit Account	784.17		774.00
Cash float	21.12		21.12
Less: Owed to ODG	0.00		(5.00)
Surplus (deficit) of income over expenditure	503.70		217.37
Total Accumulated Fund	£3,850.76		£3,347.06

Closing Balances:			
Current Account	363.23		2,541.77
Deposit Account	3,474.41		784.17
Cash Float	13.12		21.12
Less: Owed to ODG	0.00		0.00
Total Accumulated Fund	£3,850.76		£3,347.06

It was noted that the draft accounts were for information and not for approval and the proposal was to accept that draft accounts in their current format. The Treasurer will prepare final accounts as soon as the end of year deposit statement is available.

Proposed: Dana Josephson, Seconded: Rob Walton. Carried nem. con.

Action: Richard Law

8. Secretary Report – Andrew Goldthorpe

I have reproduced my most recent “editor’s” contribution to Odd Bob as the majority of my 2023 Annual Report. My role as Branch Secretary involves getting round the Branch as much as I can and getting involved where I can. It shows some of the many activities I have been involved in or enjoyed hearing about during 2023 and I am grateful for the assistance, friendships, and contributions from ringers across the Branch.

As the ODG Website Manager, I am also an officer of the Guild, and a member of the F&GP committee so I can represent the views of branch members at ODG committee level should any branch members wish to raise any issues.

I would also like to thank the students and teachers who have volunteered so much of their spare time to the newly established Oxon. Ringing School, a joint activity of the Bicester, Witney & Woodstock, Old North Berks, and South Oxon Branches, who have come together and formed a Teaching Hub with the Association of Ringing Teachers (ART). I have become involved as the Lead of the Witney Ringing Centre as an ART accredited teacher of bell handling. Students can attend hour-long, one-on-one teaching sessions at Witney, Kirtlington, Abingdon, and Dorchester. The intention is to continue and improve the delivery of good, consistent teaching of bell handling, foundation, and more advanced ringing skills across the Witney & Woodstock branch and the other Ringing Centres. We are greatly encouraged to see the first of our graduates applying for and attending the ODG supported courses for method ringing such as the Steeple Aston and Radley Courses.



Neil and Clare Crossley (Standlake), receiving their graduation certificates at Witney Ringing Centre from Susan Read (Lead – Abingdon Ringing Centre), and Andy Hayden (Stanton Harcourt, Witney Ringing Centre teacher).

Nigel Eagle

A Quarter Peal was rung to celebrate the life of Nigel Eagle on the day of his funeral in Stanton Harcourt, where he rang for over 50 years, and was Tower Captain for nearly 40 years, and very much more to so many people.

<https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1624160>

Branch 6-Bell Striking Competition

The 2023 competition was hosted by Bladon on a warm and thundery afternoon.

5 branch towers entered the Call Change competition, and 3 towers entered the Method Competition.

Steve Vickars of Woodstock & Kirtlington, and Hugh Deam of Marston kindly gave their time and expertise to judge the competition whilst sheltering from the elements as best they could outside the tower.

After the judges had rung a touch of Bob Minor and lowered the bells, a few of us went over the road to The White House for a drink and a meal, whilst others left for the end of the Witney Music Festival (and got very wet!).

Call Changes

1st	Church Hanborough	28 faults	
2nd	Combe	64 1/2	
3rd	Freeland	70	
4th	Witney		80
5th	North Leigh	86	



Method

1st	Church Hanborough	21 1/2	
2nd	Witney		30 1/2
3rd	Freeland	75	



The 2023 6-Bell Striking Competition Winners: A clean sweep for Church Hanborough in Call Changes and Method.

South Leigh and Witney 'Ring for the King'

Witney and South Leigh bands came together for the Coronation of King Charles and Queen Camilla to ensure that both towers had sufficient ringers for the big day.



The combined South Leigh and Witney band at South Leigh (l – r): Heather Horner, Carol McRobbie, Evadne Vallance, Ruth Leatherdale, Dan Neal, Anne Peake, Amy Thomas.

Combe tower ‘Ring for the King’

Combe celebrated the coronation of King Charles III by ringing 30 minutes of call changes, followed by Ding for the King. We were thrilled with the response with over 50 people who queued to chime the bells (under supervision). All the names of ringers and dingers were recorded for the church archives. Especially pleasing was the positive feedback from our dingers, and the 3 people who said they would like to learn to ring as a result.



The Combe band (l-r): Sian, Jacque, Robert, Flo, Elaine, Anthony, Lyndsey, Janet, Joanna. Not in the picture but who also rang are Zeb and Rob.

ODG combined AGM, 8-Bell Striking Competition, and Activity Day

It was Witney & Woodstock branch's turn to host the ODG AGM on 20th May, and to experiment with a new format for the day. For the first time, the 8-bell Striking Competition, Guild Activity Day, and AGM were all hosted on the same day at the same venue, Broadwell. Whites of Appleton also opened their doors for guided tours and a chance to ring the workshop campanile.

Broadwell is one of the most recent additions to ringable towers in the Guild, having recently been augmented from an un-ringable 5 to a ground floor 8, so it proved a good attraction.



First Peal at Broadwell

A band comprising of ODG members and some of the volunteers who installed the augmented ring of 8, rang the first ever peal at Broadwell in March. Special thanks go to Tony Crabtree, Andrew Goldthorpe, and Steve Vickars for their help in making the Broadwell dream a reality.



The Broadwell Peal band (l-r): Lindsey Thornton, Lorna Curtis, Sue Rhodes, Katie Lane, Tony Crabtree, Richard White, Andrew Goldthorpe, Steve Vickars.

Bell Sunday

Witney Tower put on a display in the church for Bell Sunday which attracted a lot of interest. Thanks to all involved.



L – r: Hilary Cozens, Nadine Woods, Rachel Mackenzie.

Combe Gift Day

Dragon enjoying the teddy zip wire at St Laurence Combe on gift day. Thanks to Amanda and Jonathan our Steeple keepers for setting this up and keeping it running all day.



Photo: Janet Robinson-Wood

Handbells in North Leigh

The delicate tinkle of the North Leigh handbells can still be heard on Thursday afternoons, on the Green in good weather, or otherwise in the impressively fan vaulted Wilcote Chapel in St Mary's Church which provides excellent acoustics. Eight of us continue to progress at various levels, be it kaleidoscope, plain hunt, plain bob, or quarters. Following Bell Sunday, we were invited to ring at Café Church on Environment Day in June, when members of the community were able to enjoy lapping with us. In July, Lorna Curtis achieved her first QP as conductor in hand in the churchyard at Stanton Harcourt, celebrating the life of Tower Captain Nigel Eagle who rang there for over 50 years. It has been a pleasure to welcome Alison and Peter Felton who have moved into the area and enabled us to ring six QPs in North Leigh since August, including possibly the first ten bell QP in the Witney and Woodstock branch ever.

Oxford Diocesan Guild

Stanton Harcourt

St Michael (Churchyard)
Sunday, 2 July 2023 in 36m

1260 Plain Bob Minor

1–2 Toby Goss

3–4 Alison T Merryweather-Clarke

5–6 Lorna Curtis (C)

Rung to celebrate the life of Nigel Eagle, who rang in Stanton Harcourt for over 50 years, nearly 40 of them as Tower Captain.

First as Conductor in hand.



Oxford Diocesan Guild

North Leigh, Oxfordshire

St Mary (Wilcote Chapel)

Monday, 25 September 2023 in 46m (9 in B)

1260 Plain Bob Royal

Composed by Traditional

1–2 Alison Felton

3–4 Peter Felton (C)

5–6 Craig M Robertson

7–8 Alison T Merryweather-Clarke

9–10 Lorna Curtis

1st on 10 in hand: 9-10

1st 10 bell QP in the Witney and Woodstock branch of the ODG in living memory - possibly ever?

Alison Merryweather-Clarke

Witney & Woodstock Branch Outing

The branch was treated to a most interesting outing to the Stamford and Rutland area on 21st October 2023. On learning of the itinerary, it seemed like a long way to travel but it was well worth the early start for those that hadn't chosen to stay over and make a weekend of it.



Once again, the outing was superbly arranged by our Ringing Master, Richard White. We took in an array of 6 and 8 bell towers as we visited Oakham (with its massive tenor), Easton on the Hill, and Uppingham plus two towers in Stamford. Incredibly, 3 of the 5 churches were dedicated to All Saints but we managed to not let this confuse us! The experience level was mixed which led to plenty of opportunities for us all to ring, including call changes, Plain Hunt, and touches of Stedman, Grandsire, Plain Bob, and Cambridge. There was lots of support and encouragement along the way – it’s always so nice to hear bells whether ringing or listening, especially when it is a newly discovered tower with different sounding bells –time just whizzed by!



For lunch we enjoyed a delicious meal at The Tobie Norris in Stamford, a historic pub named aptly after a former bell founder in the town.



Summer outing lunch at The Tobie Norris in Stamford

Over 20 people joined in the day from various Towers within the branch which allowed for a good chance to catch up with friends or introduce ourselves to new ringers. We managed to avoid too many people banging their heads in stairwells and although we sadly missed seeing any Peregrines at Stamford All Saints we did get showered with various types of bird-related debris, no injuries but quite some amusement! Towards the end of the day, we had time for a stop at the lovely Brasserie in Uppingham for a much-appreciated cuppa and slice of cake before our last ring of the day.

Many thanks to Richard White for organising such a lovely day out and to all the volunteer drivers and the hospitable folk who opened their Towers to let us enjoy. I would definitely recommend future outings especially to new ringers and I'm looking forward to next year's trip already!

Rachel Mackenzie (Witney)

I recognise that a lot more than has been contained in my report takes place around the branch, and it is only a small sample. Like Richard White, I encourage all branch ringers to attend the monthly branch practices and events organised throughout the year by your committee, if not just for the social opportunity they present but also the opportunity to retire to the pub or café afterwards for a catch up!

9. Election of New Members

<i>Tower</i>	<i>Member</i>	<i>Proposed</i>	<i>Seconded</i>
NEW MEMBERS			
Ducklington	Ciara Ni Chleirigh	Madeleine Bone	Meg Roberts
Church Hanborough	Reg Pankhurst	Richard	Heather Horner
Combe	Zeb Wild	Anthony Williamson	Julie Minch
Combe	Ciara Stimpfig	Anthony Williamson	Julie Minch
Ducklington	Ciara Ni Chleirigh	Madeleine Bone	Meg Roberts
Ducklington	Bob Edy	Madeleine Bone	Meg Roberts
Eynsham	Fleur Taylor	Peter Butler	Hazel Howarth
Eynsham	Julia Routledge	Peter Butler	Hazel Howarth
Standlake	Brian Parnham	Alan Mordue	Neil Crossley
Standlake	Nigel Hill	Alan Mordue	Neil Crossley
Standlake	Clare Priestly-Smith	Alan Mordue	Neil Crossley
Stanton Harcourt	Adam Lawrence	Jane Eagle	Jan Tomlinson
Stonesfield	Michael Sofroniou	Lindsey Thornton	Alison Merryweather-Clarke
Stonesfield	Rachel Sofroniou	Lindsey Thornton	Alison Merryweather-Clarke
Tackley	Christine Redford	Judy Hewson	Barbara Summers
Tackley	Charlie Macke	Judy Hewson	Barbara Summers
Tackley	Tim Knight	Judy Hewson	Barbara Summers
Woodstock	Judd Flogdell	Malcolm Fairbairn	Steve Vickars
Woodstock	Daniel Smith	Malcolm Fairbairn	Steve Vickars
Woodstock	Roland Ward	Malcolm Fairbairn	Steve Vickars
RE-ELECTED MEMBERS			
North Leigh	Guy Nelson	Alison Merryweather-Clarke	Lorna Curtis

The election of new members was agreed by those present at the meeting.

10. Election of Officers

All officers were willing to continue.

Members of the committee are:

Position	Name	Proposed	Seconded
Chair	Hazel Howarth	Lorna Curtis	Richard Ford
Treasurer	Richard Law	Lorna Curtis	Richard Ford
Secretary	Andrew Goldthorpe	Lorna Curtis	Richard Ford
Ringing Master	Richard White	Lorna Curtis	Richard Ford

Deputy Ringing Master	Anthony Williamson	Lorna Curtis	Richard Ford
Branch Rep.	Richard Law	Lorna Curtis	Richard Ford
Branch Rep.	Vacant		
Assistant Secretary	Vacant		
Webmaster	Andrew Goldthorpe	Lorna Curtis	Richard Ford

Proposed: Lorna Curtis. Seconded: Richard Ford. Carried nem. con.

11. Items for discussion

I. Membermojo (Katie Lane)

- a. The ODG wants to make the way it keeps membership records, and the way it communicates with all its members, more efficient. Currently there are several sets of data about membership – there's the information created when a member is elected; there's the information collected each year when subscriptions are paid; and there's the information published in the Annual Report. We want to try and streamline these systems and get one process to cover all these aspects. The system we have chosen to do this is commercial, professional software called Membermojo. It's UK based software and is already used by several other Guilds. The most basic record for each member is simply the member's name and email address. All other information is optional but will include obvious stuff like tower, Branch, official position (if any), etc. The crucial point is that we have not collected email addresses in the past, but now we need them to implement a modern membership system. Each Branch is being asked to provide a list of ringers' names and email addresses, so please co-operate with your Branch officers to compile your Branch list. If you don't have an email address of your own, you will need to ask someone you know well, perhaps your tower captain, to act for you in this respect. There are other advantages to Membermojo. It will ensure we comply with GDPR. Your data will be held on a secure server administered by Membermojo, rather than on PC's held by, for instance, the Branch Secretaries. You will be able to opt out of receiving emails you don't want. On the other hand, you will get Branch and Guild news (if you opt in) more reliably, more directly. The aim is to get the database information collected and set up over the next year. The details of how you will pay your subscription will then be evaluated, in consultation with branches, but for now the current system will continue. Meanwhile, once we have a complete set of email addresses, the system will be tested and trialled, and tweaked so that it works for us all.

- b. It was noted that the ability to pay online will help a lot of Tower Treasurer accounts, as banks are increasingly ceasing to offer suitable types of account.
- c. There is a solution for PCCs paying subscriptions on behalf of ringers.
- d. It was noted that Andrew Goldthorpe will be creating an account creation area in the ODG website to allow registration by members on the Membermojo system.

II. Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund Contribution

- a. 2022 donation was £300.
- b. The 2023 AGM forgot to discuss and vote upon a donation.
- c. It was noted that the branch has benefited in the past from the Bell Fund and continues to do so.
- d. In view of the above, it was suggested that the Branch make up the 2023 donation of £300 and donate £300 in 2024, totalling £600 in 2024.
 - i. Proposed: Lorna Curtis. Seconded: Alison Merryweather-Clarke.
Carried nem. con.

Action: Richard Law

III. Paper copies of ODG Annual Report & Odd Bob

- a. It was noted that it can take a long time for the ODG Annual Report to be published in paper and digital form. The Secretary observed that he collects the paper copies at the AGM in May and alerts the branch membership they are available for collection and publishes the digital version on the website as soon as he receives it. It is likely the Annual Report will be produced in a more GDPR compliant format this year, with the more personal information available to view on the ODG website for those who have signed up with an online account.
- b. Paper copies of the 2023 Annual Report were requested in advance by the Secretary (2), Yarnton (1), North Leigh (2), Witney (2), Woodstock (2), Combe (1), Lorna Curtis (1), Ducklington (2), South Leigh (2), Church Hanborough (2). The Secretary will reduce the order this year to 17.

Action: Andrew Goldthorpe

- c. The meeting was asked if anyone in the branch is willing to take over the role of Odd Bob Editor. There was no volunteer.
- d. The meeting was informed that the Hon. Guild Secretary, Karen Pile, is stepping down, which will be a big loss. There is an urgent need to recruit a replacement. It was noted that ODG Committee members do not need to be the best bell ringers. It is more important to be collaborative with good administration skills. There were no volunteers.

IV. Safeguarding, and Health & Safety – Incident procedures.

- a. The Secretary reported that there had recently been an incident in a branch tower. It involved a ringer becoming entangled in a rope. Thankfully, serious injury was averted but it had been shocking to all involved.
 - b. The Tower Captain prepared a report of the incident for the Secretary in collaboration with the ringer, the clergy, and congregation who witnessed the incident. The Secretary submitted the report to the ODG Master and ODG Safeguarding Officer and the incident was logged and followed by an exchange of correspondence to learn from the incident.
 - c. The Secretary advised that this was the correct process to follow in the event of another incident occurring.
 - d. The incident highlighted the need for competent standers to be present with new, nervous, or inexperienced ringers, or those with handling issues, and that in the absence of trained ringers to support those less experienced, safety must come first even if it means cancelling ringing at the tower due to insufficient tower ringers and support ringers.
- V. Past AGM Papers
- a. The Secretary noted that all past papers can be accessed on the Branch website at the “Resources > Links & Advice” page - <https://witneyandwoodstock.odg.org.uk/resources/>
- VI. 2023 Quarter Peal report
- a. Alison Merryweather-Clarke was thanked for producing an analysis of Tower and Hand Bell quarter peals rung in the branch in 2023. This can be accessed on the Branch Website in the 2024 AGM papers - <https://witneyandwoodstock.odg.org.uk/resources/>

12. Branch practices & training

I. Ringing Master Honorarium

- a. This was kindly waived by Richard White.

II. Ringing calendar

- a. The Secretary asked if there any objections to the new format, which can be updated throughout the year and circulated to all members, rather than the published card. There were none.
- b. It was asked that it be published and updated on the Branch website - <https://witneyandwoodstock.odg.org.uk/resources/>

Action: Andrew Goldthorpe

III. Oxon. Ringing School

- a. Andrew Goldthorpe notified the meeting of the Oxon. Ringing School, a joint activity of the Bicester, Witney & Woodstock, Old North Berks, and South Oxon Branches, who have come together and formed a Teaching Hub with the Association of Ringing Teachers (ART). The intention is to continue and

improve the delivery of good, consistent teaching of bell handling, foundation, and more advanced ringing skills across the Witney & Woodstock branch and the other Ringing Centres. Graduates are then encouraged to apply for the ODG hosted courses for method ringing such as the Steeple Aston and Radley Courses. Full information and enrolment links can be found on the ODG website at this link - <https://odg.org.uk/info/oxfordshire-ringing-school/>.

- b. Katie Lane reported that she will supply blank ODG First Quarter Peal certificates for use by Oxon Ringing School and Towers.

Action: Katie Lane

IV. 8, 10, and 12-bell Practices

- a. The Branch Ringing Calendar covers branch organised 8-bell practices, and the calendar also provides dates of ODG organised 10 and 12-bell practices in 2024.
- b. It was noted that the ODG 10-bell striking competition will be held on the 4th Saturday of November.

13. Programme for 2024

- i. Branch 6-bell striking competition: 8th June 2024 Black Bourton

Action: Richard White

- ii. 8-bell striking competition

- a. Andrew Goldthorpe wondered if the branch should raise a band to enter the competition this year. The Ringing Master took this under advisement.

Action: Richard White

- iii. Firsts Fortnight

- a. This will run as usual in the fortnight prior to the Branch Social where certificates will be distributed.

Action: Richard White

- iv. Branch social/quiz

- a. There were no volunteers from the floor to host the 2024 Branch Social/Quiz.

Action: Andrew Goldthorpe

- v. Spring & Autumn Branch outings:

- a. The Ringing Master proposed organising a Spring outing for 2024 in addition to the normal Autumn outing.

Action: Richard White

vi. 2025 AGM

- a. Neil Crossley agreed to discuss Standlake hosting the 2025 AGM.

Action: Andrew Goldthorpe

14. Any other business

a. Elmley Castle Bells project

- i. Michael Probert raised the matter of the Elmsley Castle Bells project, applauding its recent 10 Quarter Peals in a day fund raising effort, and referencing three former Branch ringers involved in the project. Details can be found at this link - <https://www.elmleycastlebells.uk/>. Personal donations are an option via the website, but Michael proposed that members could, on occasion, look outside the branch and offer a donation.
- ii. Andrew Goldthorpe suggested a donation of £50, and Lorna Curtis proposed no donation, citing the need to prioritise our own branch projects.
- iii. The proposal to donate £50 was defeated, with 4 votes in favour and the rest against.

b. Lorna Curtis

- i. Richard White informed the meeting that Lorna is shortly moving to Cornwall. Her many ringing accomplishments, and long years of service to the branch, including as Hon. Secretary, were gratefully acknowledged and the attendees wished her well for the future.

The meeting closed at 14:25.

15. Concluding vote of thanks

The vote of thanks was led by Julie Minch, who thanked the committee, and Revd. Nick Wood for the service.

Andrew Goldthorpe, Witney & Woodstock Branch Secretary

Version. 19/02/2024