



General Meeting

7:30pm Sunday 14th September 2025

Meeting to be held

Minutes of the Meeting

1. Welcome

The meeting was chaired by Eleanor Linford. There were 9 attendees including 6 members of the Standing Committee. We received apologies from 5 members. Details held in the meeting attendance book.

2. Updates

- Ringing Master's Update – Rachel Mitchell

Rachel sent a report in which she apologised for not being able to attend and thanked us for supporting the guild outing to Birmingham in May. It was encouraging to see so many getting the opportunity to ring on some of the best bells on our home turf. The Solihull Higher Numbers Practices continue to be well attended and it's been lovely to see new faces. She looks forward to getting back there after the summer break.

The RWNYP contest was a huge success, well done to those involved in organising and to our very own Brumdingers for winning the 6 bell method ringing contest.

She thanked everyone for supporting Guild practices over the summer months. It's much appreciated when we're likely to be light on experienced ringers. A special thanks to those that attended the surprise major practice that she ran at Edgbaston in August. Eleanor added her thanks generally to those supporting the surprise practices at Edgbaston, whilst lightly attended they are very useful.

Rachel looks forward to seeing lots of us at Guild events over the coming months.

It was also noted that the Sheldon Workshops are always fun and well supported but could do with additional helpers.

- Finance Update - Malcolm Paulson

Our membership now stands at 265 active members, slightly up on last year.

From the Bell Restoration Fund (BRF) we have supported clapper refurbishment at Edgbaston and we currently have requests being progressed for Coleshill and St Paul's Jewellery Quarter. Anyone wanting support for bell maintenance is encouraged to contact us.

The Guild bank account has been moved to Metro Bank though whilst they too will now be charging us, the fee is lower than Lloyds Bank and we will be moving our BRF there too.

We were reminded that our subscriptions are going up next year from £10 to £12 and concessions £5 to £6, which will be ratified at the AGM.

- Safeguarding Update – Trish Everett

The Diocese has restructured their safeguarding team and Trish has requested to meet the new Training Officer and Advisor. The training requirements are unchanged. Basic Awareness is required for all ringers. Most Tower Captains require foundation level. Leadership is required for the Tower Captains at St Pauls JQ, St Martins, Moseley, Solihull and the Cathedral and also the Guild Master and Guild Safeguarding Officer.

Training going forward is unlikely to be bespoke to ringers but some online courses do have case studies relevant to bell ringers.

Trish is contactable by email or phone if anyone has any concerns to raise with her.

3. Election of Members

- Full Members

No new members were elected.

- Associate Members

Ted Pitman BSoBR

Elizabeth Porter BSoBR

Both were agreed.

4. Future Events

- Nottingham Outing 11th October

We will be ringing at All Saints (10) St Peter's (12) St Mary's (12) in Nottingham and Beeston (10) with a social gathering in the evening in Beeston.

Details and sign up form to follow. It is suggested that we travel by train and buy a tram day ticket or, drive to the park and ride and use the tram. There will also be the opportunity to hear Little John strike at 12 noon, at the Council House. The deepest toned clock bell in the country. We hope the outing will be well supported.

- Annual General Meeting Saturday 10th January 2026

The Standing Committee is considering where we might have the meeting and are looking to go north this time round. Details to follow.

- Henry Johnson Dinner 28th Feb 2026

Burlington Hotel. Will Bosworth Ringing World Editor has agreed to chair for us. He was a student in Birmingham.

- May Event

There will also be a May event, ideas were welcomed. Last year we had a home outing, we may return to a Guild Challenge day as previous years.

- Walking Tour

We may have a Walking Tour this year possibly with James Ramsbottom.

- Autumn Guild Outing 19th September 2026

Note the date of this outing will be earlier than usual as we are going to Oxford outside University Term time.

5. Residential Ringing Course and ART course Bursaries

Proceeds from the 100 Club now come to the Guild General Fund for projects and are available for 12 months. If not spent, they are passed to the BRF at end of calendar year. In Coronation year funds were used for Ring for the King celebrations. Last year funds were used for bursaries, both students

and helpers. So far this year we have awarded 5 people who helped at Bradfield and 1 for an ART M1 course. We are holding funds pending for a Hereford Course application.

We are encouraged to get involved and support residential ringing courses particularly more experienced ringers and we are happy to help with funds.

If anyone would like 100 Club funds for any other project they are asked to approach us.

Bursaries are not means tested as we have not been in a position where applicants have exceeded the funds available. The subsidy has been £100 unless already receiving a subsidy, (Bradfield gives a subsidy to under 25s). If we had too many applications we would have to consider who we can support.

6. Any Other Business

Central Council fees for associations has gone up to 40p this year and will be £1 for 2026. This is partly why our Guild membership fees will rise in January, having carried previous Central Council fee increases.

Richard Andrew will prepare a CCCBR report for the next Guild Newsletter. Closing date for articles being 23rd September.