

DISTRICT MEETING AT THE ABBEY ON SATURDAY 17th OCTOBER 1991

Afternoon singing took place at St Stephens, followed by a service of Evensong. Members and friends then proceeded to the crypt of the Abbey for a splendid tea followed by the Quarterly Business meeting, chaired by the Association President, Roy Smith.

Apologies for absence were received from G Beynon, J Beardwell, C Pocock, A and Mrs S Spreadbury and Mrs J Balger.

The Minutes were read and signed as correct. There were no matters arising.

Election of New Members

The following members were elected

Rachel Taylor probationary of Haspenden, proposed Mr MA Coburn seconded L Coburn

Maria Cole Pill of Haspenden, proposed Mr MA Coburn seconded L Coburn

Ratification of NBLM W.J.V. Conduct of Plymouth proposed J J Ford seconded R. Brown.

District Barn Dance.

The secretary gave details of the Barn Dance to be held on Saturday 23rd November at Essendon, with tickets priced at £5. Volunteers to assist with preparations and on the day were asked for as well as prizes for the raffle.

Discussion on District and County Bell Fund

The secretary reminded the meeting that the Association was trying to raise more money for the Association Bell Restoration Fund so that substantial grants could be given to towers. The District Committee had discussed this and put forward the following recommendation for consideration by the District: that the excess above a certain sum of money in the District Bell Fund be donated to the Association Bell Fund on an annual basis, that the cut-off sum be decided each year at the ADM and that £500 be the suggested

cut-off sum at the January 1992 ADM. The committee would like the district to express their views today so that the recommendation could be voted on at the ADM. ^{Currently the Bell Fund stood at just over £500} The ensuing discussion showed that on the whole the District was in favour of the principle but views varied as to the cut-off level. G. Penney thought that £1,000 would be a better level. J. J. Ford added that £500 would be sufficient for minor items but not major ones. G. Dodds stated that many towers would not consider asking the County Fund for grants towards such things as bell ropes, which were now quite expensive, but would turn instead to the District Fund. Mrs M.A. Coburn remarked that local PCCs are very pleased to receive two cheques, one from the District and one from the County, as they felt that more bodies were interested in the restoration work.

Date and Place of next meetings

The secretary stated that these could be found on the cards. She apologised for the mix up in the October adverts in the Ringing World but she and the Ringing World had been talking at cross purposes.

Any Other Business

D. Badger reported that the newsletter would be distributed during the next 2 weeks. He apologised for its lateness but there had been a hiccup in its production.

R. Smith thanked the District for having him.

G. Dodds proposed a vote of thanks to the vicar and organist at St Stephens for the service, to the Abbey ringers for providing tea and to the clergy and ringer at both St Stephens and the Abbey for the use of the bells.

There being no other business the meeting was declared closed.

Ringing took place on the twelve bells at the Abbey until 8-30 pm.

R. Smith
21-12-91