

Notes from the Branch Officers' Meeting,
13.07.11 at Drayton Parslow

Present: Paul Bagni (PB), Heather Dobson (HDo), Hal Drysdale (HDr), John Lomas (JL), Caroline Luxford (CL), Ryan Noble (RN), Jan Robinson (JR)

Apologies: Diana Slevin (DS)

1. Re-instatement of a 1/2 yearly meeting within Central Bucks Branch.

It was agreed that this would be a sensible way forward to keep all Branch members 'in touch' with events etc and increase the sense of cohesion and inclusion. After some discussion the idea proposed by RN and HDo, of a meeting in July so as to spread Branch events evenly through the year, was accepted provisionally.

2. Striking Competition

Holding this in June has put the event in competition with several fetes in the area and caused a loss in entries. It was proposed by HDo that it be moved and that it take place in May (HDo & RN) so it gave a focus earlier in the year and was sufficiently far away from the Orchard cup in the calendar. This was accepted.

3. Branch Archives

HDo expressed thanks to RN, on behalf of the Branch, for the time he has spent going through these. RN reported that there was an amount of material and suggested this be stored somewhere centrally where it would be accessible. This was accepted and Wing (CL, JL) was suggested, also Aylesbury (RN, HDo). Both have merits. Wing tower is to be approached in the first instance, this tower having more Branch Officers in the locality currently.

RN also pointed out that the Minutes' book was not in a very good state and suggested that these be stored in a lever arch file for protection. This was agreed and a suitable file was offered by JL. RN also pointed out that not all of the recent minutes of AGMs were available in hard copy; this is to be rectified - DS (& HDo) to be asked to provide these. Also that some had not been signed. RN to follow up on this.

4. Timing of Branch Practices

HDo reported that for the past several months no-one had arrived at these for 20 mins or more after the official starting time. She was not sure why the time of 18:30 had been chosen. There was some discussion around this. HDo proposed that the time be altered to be from 19:00 to 20:30. This would be in line with the 'Advanced' Practice. This was accepted on a trial basis; this will be reviewed with a view to a differing winter timetable if required.

5. Bell Funds and Finances.

RN had mentioned the George Edmans Fund and clarification was sought as to the exact nature of this fund. JR explained that the interest was for more minor maintenance of bells in the area. PB brought into the discussion consideration of Guild funds and relative monies available for use. Fund raising for the Guild funds was also brought up, as was the claiming of expenses by Branch Officers. JL reiterated the message given by the Guild Treasurer at the AGM that this should be done in order to reflect the genuine cost of running the Guild; also so people did not feel put off from taking up official positions because of perceived cost to themselves. JL agreed to provide further more detailed information to Branch Officers regarding these topics.

Heather Dobson

