BANBURY BRANCH

MINUTES OF AGM HELD 12TH APRIL 2025 AT STEEPLE ASTON VILLAGE HALL STARTING AT 4.32PM.

The meeting started at 4.32pm and was chaired by Branch Chairman Heather Bletchly who welcomed everyone to the meeting. A minutes’ silence was held in memory of members who had died in the past year. David Vere of Banbury, Jean Davis of Banbury, and David Stone of Bodicote.

**Present**: Heather Bletchly, Dorothy Clifton, Graham Clifton, Janine Coaker, Karen Colvin, Brenda Day, Catherine Fairbank, Alan Griffin, Rosemary Hemmings, Jack Knowles, Catherine Lane (Guild Master), Adam Lee, Colin Lee, Simon Lee, Zoe Lee, , Graham Oliver, Jane Oliver, Stephen Skinner.

**1. Apologies** were received from Andreis Bosland, Chris Cox, Stephen Day, David Field, Elizabeth French, Roman Sadowski, Nikki Stell, Roderick Stell, Alison Tite, Alison Varney, Luke Wright.

**2. Minutes of HYM** held 19th October 2025. These had been circulated beforehand and were agreed as correct. Proposed Graham Clifton and Seconded by Brenda Day.

**3. Matters arising:** **From HYM item 4 finances**: The change of account signatories is still ongoing.

A motion of change to facilitate the banking administration of the branch bank account is required by the Santander Bank It was decided to use in the statement job titles and not personal names.

The formal motion of change is for:

Additional signatories of the Branch Chairperson and Honorary Secretary be added for the Branch bank account in accordance with the bank procedures.

To appoint the new Treasurer upon election, as a signatory to the Branch bank account and the change in address for all correspondence and communication.

The motion was Proposed by Colin Lee, seconded by Graham Clifton, and agreed by all those present.

**From Tower Reps**: 1. The Branch Information cards have been printed and are ready to be distributed. 2. Centenary Tee shirts; Graham Oliver has ordered samples; polo shirts will be embroidered and details will be on the website once these are received. The cost will be reasonable. 3. Payment of subs; David Field had reported that he would have to chase up those who had not paid up on time. It is important to pay on time as the insurance cover is affected. 4. Membermojo; This is going okay though there are some teething problems. Members have to log in annually to renew their membership and receive an email reminding them. New members have to register on the ODG website. Rosemary Hemmings to re-send new member instructions again. 5. Centenary Celebrations; 20th June. A three-course dinner has been arranged at the Whately Hall Hotel for maximum 60 people and minimum of 40, so far 38 have booked and it may have to be moved to a smaller room. The branch would have to provide table flowers and may have the Guild banner depending on whether it is available. Quarter peals are being rung in every tower and Jack Knowles reported that five had been rung so far, the most recent at Steeple Barton the day before. There are 1st quarter peal certificates available for those who ring their first quarter peal. Brenda Day reported that she had spoken to a professional photographer who would take photos of all the tower bands in the branch or tower could get photo done locally. Heather Bletchly has contacted the Ringing World about having a front cover photo of Banbury plus articles of interest about the branch from members. Colin Lee is organizing a peal at Banbury on 21st June.

**4. New members for election:** Clive Dunn and Karen Colvin of Cropredy, Sarah Brennan and Adam Lee of Adderbury, Julian Masters of Banbury, Hamish Winser of Steeple Aston. Proposed by Zoe Lee and seconded by Brenda Day. Agreed and welcomed.

**5. Presentation of certificates:** The certificates for Trish Fennell and Jackie Roberts were given to Zoe Lee and the certificate for Andrew Whiffin was given to Alan Griffin for passing onto them.

**6. Reports:** The report from the **Secretary** had been circulated beforehand along with the **Treasurer’s** report and members had been encouraged to contact David Field if they had any questions regarding the accounts as David was unable to be at the meeting. The model bell is now removed from the accounts. David is resigning as Treasurer and was thanked for his 11 years’ service. The accounts were agreed and adopted. Proposed Graham Clifton and seconded by Alan Griffin. **Branch Representative:** Tracy Stanton had been unable to attend the Guild Spring Committee meeting, Graham Clifton who had attended reported that Lesley Bamford would be elected as Communications Officer at the AGM and a large legacy had been given to the bell fund. **Ringing Master**: Zoe Lee reported that practices had been well attended with a wide range of ringing. More advanced practices had been planned every other month in addition to the monthly practice at Banbury. Simon Lee and Lewis Knowles were in the ODG young ringers team. She hoped that like last year there would be plenty of first timers taking part in the Branch striking competition on 21st June. Social Committee: Brenda Day reported that all the social events had happened throughout the year with the support of the team.

7. **Election of Officers**:

Chairman Heather Bletchly Proposed Zoe Lee Seconded Alan Griffin

Vice Chairman Graham Clifton Proposed Zoe Lee Seconded Alan Griffin

Treasurer Alison Tite Proposed Brenda Day Seconded Graham Oliver

Secretary Rosemary Hemmings Proposed Zoe Lee Seconded Alan Griffin

Ringing Master Zoe Lee Proposed Brenda Day Seconded Graham Clifton

Deputy Ringing Master Jack Knowles Proposed Brenda Day Seconded Graham Clifton

Branch Rep (1) Tracy Stanton Proposed Zoe Lee Seconded Jack Knowles

Branch Rep (2) Janine Coaker Proposed Zoe Lee Seconded Jack Knowles

Social Committee (1) Brenda Day Proposed Jack Knowles Seconded Jane Oliver

Social Committee (2) Sue McCouaig Proposed Jack Knowles Seconded Jane Oliver

Social Committee (3) Nikki Stell Proposed Jack Knowles Seconded Jane Oliver

Social Committee (4) Alison Tite Proposed Jack Knowles Seconded Jane Oliver

Webmaster Graham Oliver Proposed Colin Lee Seconded Jane Oliver

Independent Examiner Christopher Dean Proposed Colin Lee Seconded Jane Oliver

All agreed and carried.

**8. Future Meetings**: Tower Reps 24th September at Zoe Lee’s house. HYM at Adderbury, AGM 2026 venue to decide at HYM.

**9. Branch practices/social events**: 20th June Centenary Dinner at the Whately Hall Hotel. 21st June Striking Competition at Tadmarton. 2nd August Outing to Moreton in the Marsh area. Brenda Day reported that a provisional programme had been planned and she was looking for a suitable pub for the evening meal, the Indian Queen at Wroxton and the Horse and Groom at Milcombe were suggested. 6th December Carol Service at Horley. Early spring 2026 Quiz and supper to be decided on at HYM. At Banbury weekly practices have resumed on Wednesday evenings.

**10. Guild Events**: 5th May Guild Ringing Day in ONB Branch. 17th May 8-bell striking competition and Guild AGM. Katie Lane said that all members are expected to attend the AGM and there needs to be a minimum of 50 in attendance in order to hold the meeting. There will be open towers at Watlington, where strong ringing volunteers will be needed to help and Warborough, and the CCCBR touring tower will be on the village green. The meeting will be at 2.30pm and there will be a service after the meeting. 25th October Steeple Aston course. Two people have volunteered to co-ordinate arrangements. 22nd November 10-bell competition and General Committee meeting being hosted by Bicester Branch.

**11. Any Other Business** 1. Katie Lane said that she was doing one more year as Guild Master and there was a volunteer to take over from Karen Pile as Guild Secretary. The vacancy for Communications Officer had been filled. A volunteer is needed to become Guild Librarian. The library is very bulky and currently takes up two rooms of the current librarian’s house. It has been suggested that the library be held at the Oxford County Records Office and to have a library workgroup to look into this. 2. Tadmarton clappers. Graham Clifton said that Tadmarton had had work done on the clappers and could the Branch donate £150 towards the cost. Proposed Graham Clifton seconded Alan Griffin. Agreed carried. The cost of tea was £3.

**12. Vote of thanks**: Heather Bletchly thanked Harriet Orridge the incumbent for taking the service and Martin Dale for playing the organ. Vicky and Dorothy and the Steeple Aston ringers were thanked for the tea.

The meeting closed at 5.27pm