

# ODD BOB



**Newsletter of the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers**  
website: [odg.org.uk/](http://odg.org.uk/)



*Big Ring Pull ringers and helpers at Wavendon (see page 21)*

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## From your Editor...

Don't forget to check regularly the Guild website at [odg.org.uk/](http://odg.org.uk/) and your branch website.

In particular the EBSB Fund Raising website address is: [bellfund.org.uk](http://bellfund.org.uk).

Contributions for the next issue, please, by the end of October 2013.

Rob Needham

## Data Protection Act 1998

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## Master's Mutterings

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**6,000 peals.** What a phenomenal achievement! Congratulations to Colin Turner on becoming the first to reach this landmark. I suspect that very few individuals will ever match this feat in the future of ringing. Although the actual 6,000<sup>th</sup> was not rung for the Guild, the vast majority of Colin's peals have been. The organisation, focus and commitment that have been dedicated to this cause over some 30 years are truly mind-boggling. Amazingly, Colin only became interested in peal ringing in the mid 1980s, after he had already visited and rung at virtually all the 'ringable' towers in the UK. He has an effortless ringing style and seems to be equally 'at home' in any part of the circle. The method choices have rarely been 'conservative' and multi-minor and challenging major are the norm; for him it has never been a case of 'Yorkshire and score'. Mention should also be made of those who have featured regularly in Colin's peals, often as conductor: his wife Nicola, Peter Ellis, David Salter, Tim Pett, Bob Crocker and, of course, Bernard Groves, who last year became only the second person to pass the 5,000 peal mark. Hearty congratulations to him, also.

I am indebted to the late Phil Walker, former Guild Vice-President and Librarian, for the research he undertook into peals rung for the Guild in its first hundred years. By aggregating those rung since, we have been able to reintroduce, as you will have seen, the numbering of peals in our Annual Report. I believe that our current total, in excess of 21,000, is a few thousand ahead of our nearest rival association. I am sure that those of you who are able, will strive to maintain the status quo!

There is much to be said for peal ringing. Like practices and quarters, peals greatly help to improve the quality of what is heard outside our towers, Sunday by Sunday.

Happy ringing!

Robert Newton, Guild Master

## **Educational Grants**

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The Guild approved a scheme to give grants for educational purposes in March last year. Some people expressed concerns that there might be too many applications but so far there have been none. With over 2500 members in over 250 bands it seems unlikely that no one wants to improve some aspect of training for which the offer of a financial helping hand would be welcome. We all accept the need to make periodic investment in our bells, and with the current need for more ringers, we should also be thinking about investing in training.

Grants under the scheme can go towards any aspect of education – training new recruits, developing and enhancing the skills of established ringers or developing new or existing ringing teachers – and the expenditure can be applied to any costs or fees directly related to training, including the cost of training equipment.

Grants can be big or small. At the high end might be a major recruitment and training programme like the North Bucks Branch's *Big Ring Pull* (towards which the Guild made a grant before this scheme was set up). At a more modest scale are the sorts of investment made by individual towers, for example to install training equipment such as a simulator. As with most grant programmes, the grants are intended to be added to money provided or raised locally, so that it can be made to go further.

If you are thinking about training aids for your tower, the Guild website has practical advice on the use and benefits of various different kinds, see: [odg.org.uk/education/TrainingAids.php](http://odg.org.uk/education/TrainingAids.php). If you are thinking about doing something new and innovative, contact the Education Committee to discuss your ideas, and whether a grant might help. You can download an explanatory leaflet and application form from: [odg.org.uk/education/pdf/EdGrants.pdf](http://odg.org.uk/education/pdf/EdGrants.pdf)

John Harrison, edchairman@odg.org.uk 0118 978 5520

## **Support network for Guild teachers**

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Teaching the next generation of ringers is an important task. We need to develop new teachers and we need to ensure that our existing teachers will teach to high standards, ideally seeking continually to improve their skills.

To learn about teaching ringers you can go on courses, for example *Laying the right foundations* that the Guild used to run or the Integrated Teacher Training Scheme (ITTS) promoted by the Association of Ringing Teachers. And you can read books or articles, but you also need to develop your ability through practical experience – learning while doing.

While you can learn just from your own experience, you often learn much more, and more quickly, and keep learning, if you can draw on the experience of others. That can be hard with ringing teachers so thinly spread. Many teachers work on their own, in their own towers, so there is no one else with whom to discuss problems and to share ideas.

The Guild Education Committee is concerned that this may be one of the most significant barriers to developing more experienced teachers. Ideally several teachers would work together in a teaching centre or would share teaching for a cluster of towers, but for the time being many will not be able to do this. We

are therefore putting in place a support network to provide ready access to other teachers with whom to share ideas and problems. It will not be as good as face to face contact, but it should provide better support than what many currently have.

The network will operate mainly by e-mail. Teachers wishing to ask a question will be able to consult other members of the network with the assurance that someone will answer the question. For those who are lucky enough to have another teacher in the same tower or nearby, the network will provide an extra resource, but for those who don't have local access to another teacher with whom to share thoughts, it should provide at least a partial substitute.

If you teach ringers within the Guild and you would like to find out more, go to the Guild website at: <http://odg.org.uk/education/teaching/> where there is more detailed information and an on-line form to register.

John Harrison, Chairman, Guild Education Committee

## **Sound control at St Mary's, Twyford, Berkshire**

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However joyous and beloved the sound of ringing church bells may be, it can be a mixed blessing for those living near a church and in the case of St. Mary's the volume of the bells has been a concern since the tower and bells were installed in 1913. The surrounding houses are very close to the church (and predate the tower) and the design of the tower projects the sound of bells more vividly than many: instead of two small openings on each side, there are three openings originally 8ft tall and 2ft wide. Within a year of ringing at St Mary's, bell ringers' minutes from 1914 record a discussion about how much ringing should be allowed each week, probably a response to growing local concern. The openings were partly bricked up by 1922 (invisible from the outside) to above the level of the bells which would have reduced the sound levels; one can only guess how loud they originally were.

When I began to ring at Twyford I was concerned by the volume of bells in the immediate vicinity of the church and their likely effect on local residents. On becoming tower captain I decided to tackle the issue. We raised money, investigated possible designs, and went through the lengthy process of gaining permission. We built and installed wooden panels some five inches thick and weighing some 20 kilos each to cover the twelve openings within the tower. Four of the twelve panels have a flap that can be opened to allow sound out and, as each flap can be opened independently, we can adjust the sound levels flexibly on each side of the tower to suit the occasion.



*Simon Farrar & Richard Bennett*

The panels are two layers of 18mm exterior ply sandwiching a 60mm batten, the ensemble stuffed with loft insulation. Their bottom flange rests on a 3m batten running the length of each side of the belfry, which gives a ledge to support the panels. Three tubes of mastic per opening were applied to the wall to ensure a sealed fit and 80mm fixings were drilled through the top flange into the brickwork. Total cost (including safety equipment) has been £1100 for materials. Labour was free!

There has been a 20 decibel reduction in the sound levels, which are now equivalent to the noise of planes on their glide path into Heathrow. We ring “open” on Sunday mornings and for special occasions, keeping the flaps mostly closed on practice nights, hoping to find the right settings to keep our neighbours happy yet allow those who enjoy the bells to continue to hear them. The flaps will be fully closed for extra ringing beyond this. Comments at our recent centenary open day tell us that the sound controls are greatly appreciated by nearby residents and we look forward to being able to ring more freely.

Simon Farrar, Tower Captain

## **Young Ringers Award Scheme**

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Further information can be found from the Guild's web site via the following link: <http://odg.org.uk/education/YRA/>

John Harrison (chairman)/Alan Bentley (secretary), Education Sub-committee

## **Towers and Belfries Committee Report**

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Since the last report in October, the committee has met twice with an average attendance of ten. Twenty inspections/visits have been carried out, details of which are shown below.

- Adderbury (TMA)
- Amersham (Problem with tenor clapper staple)
- Bishopstone (Advice on improvement of internal acoustics)
- Buckland (Advice on improvement of internal acoustics)
- Chalfont St Peter (TMA)
- Chalgrove (TMA)
- Chesham (Advice on walkway)
- Clewer (Advice and assistance after broken stay & wheel)
- Cropredy (TMA)
- Deddington (TMA)
- Ellesborough (TMA)
- Fulmer (TMA)
- Great Shefford (Grant inspection)
- High Wycombe – two visits (Grant inspection & TMA)
- Oxford – SMV (Grant inspection)
- Peasemore (TMA)
- Reading – St Giles (TMA)
- Stoke Poges (General inspection and advice on clapper wear)
- Uffington (Advice on improvement of internal acoustics)

The next bell maintenance course is planned for Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May and rope splicing courses were held in April at Pangbourne.

A paper has been prepared on aligning clappers to reduce wear. This will be added to the Guild website as a technical paper and will also be used to update the Guild's maintenance booklet.

The committee is in the process of contacting all towers in the Guild to make them aware of the existence of the Towers & Belfries committee and the advice and assistance that it can offer.

Stiff ropes due to damp weather can be a problem in some towers and the committee has prepared a paper to help people construct a rope-drier to reduce this; the paper will be added to the Guild website. The paper was prepared with the help of Allister Godfrey of Ashbury, to whom thanks are due.

John Davidge, Chairman T&B Committee

## **Tower Maintenance Award Scheme**

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In the period since the last report the scheme has improved, with the number of current awards having returned to 23 (from 20). The number of expired awards has risen slightly and is now 15, and members of the Towers & Belfries committee are working to try and persuade towers with "long-expired" awards to renew them. The number of towers participating or expressing an interest is 75, which is about 17 per cent of the towers listed in the annual report last year. There have now been 98 inspections (of which 19 were preliminaries), resulting in 74 awards (41 Gold, 21 Silver, and 12 Bronze).

Although the number of awards has only changed slightly there has, in fact been a good deal of activity: Chalfont St Peter, Chalgrove and St Giles, Reading all renewed Gold awards, while Ellesborough renewed a Gold Award for the second time with a 100% score! Cropredy, Deddington and Peasmore all converted Silver awards to Gold. Adderbury joined the list with a first-time Gold, while Fulmer converted a Bronze award to a Silver. High Wycombe has become the first twelve bell tower to gain an award, following a major project involving a huge amount of work by the band resulting in a brand new ring of fourteen bells and necessitating the modification of the TMA marking sheets! Congratulations to the bands and steeple-keepers at all of these towers.

The number of Branches having a tower in the "current awards" list has now dropped to eight out of the fifteen Guild Branches, with EBSB still maintaining its predominant position, as follows:

Banbury	4	(3 Gold, Bronze)
Chiltern	1	(Gold)
EBSB	7	(6 Gold, Silver)
Newbury	3	(3 Gold)
Old North Berks	3	(Gold, Silver, Bronze)
Reading	2	(Gold, Silver)
Sonning Deanery	1	(Silver)
South Oxon	2	(2 Gold)

Members of the committee will be continuing to try and persuade towers in their area, where the TMA has expired, to have a re-inspection. If your tower is in one of the remaining seven, how about trying to get your branch included by gaining an award?

The main features of the award scheme are as follows:

- There are three award grades (Gold, Silver, and Bronze) based on the results of an inspection using a marking sheet that is made available, in advance, to participating towers to enable them to prepare for the inspection. The grades will be based on the percentage of the "perfect" mark (currently 235), as follows:
 

Gold	85% +
Silver	70 – 84%
Bronze	55 – 69%
- The award takes the form of a certificate that is current for two years from the date of inspection (rather like an MOT) and can be displayed in the tower
- Towers holding current awards are listed in Odd Bob and the Guild Report
- Each inspection is carried out by judges from the Towers & Belfries committee and the detailed results of the inspection are made available to the tower
- Inspections can be requested at any time, via the Secretary or the Chairman of the Towers & Belfries committee (addresses elsewhere in Odd Bob), irrespective of whether the request is for an initial inspection or to try and improve an existing grade.

If you haven't already started, why not consider taking part? We will provide you with all the details of how you will be marked so that you can plan what has to be done to get an award; if asked, we will even do a preliminary inspection before you start, to help the process. If you do gain an award you can be confident that your tower and bells are in a good, safe condition and, whether or not an award is gained, you will be given useful information on how they can be improved.

### ***Current Tower Maintenance Scheme Awards***

#### **Gold Award**

Denham (St Mary)	EBSB	Expires 31.08.13
Bray (St Michael)	EBSB	Expires 31.10.13
Clewer (St Andrew)	EBSB	Expires 31.05.14
Thatcham (St Mary)	Newbury	Expires 31.05.14
Thame (St Mary)	South Oxon	Expires 31.08.14
Chalfont St Giles	EBSB	Expires 30.09.14
Kintbury (SMV)	Newbury	Expires 30.09.14
Harwell (St Matthew)	Old North Bucks	Expires 30.09.14
Chalfont St Peter	EBSB Branch	Expires 31.12.14
High Wycombe (All Saints)	EBSB Branch	Expires 31.12.14



Cropredy (S M V)	Banbury Branch	Expires 31.12.14
Adderbury (St Mary)	Banbury	Expires 31.12.14
Deddington (SS Peter & Paul)	Banbury Branch	Expires 31.12.14
Reading (St Giles)	Reading Branch	Expires 31.01.15
Chalgrove (SMV)	South Oxon Branch	Expires 31.01.15
Peasmore (St Barnabas)	Newbury Branch	Expires 28.02.15
Ellesborough (SS Peter & Paul)	Chiltern Branch	Expires 31.03.15

### Silver Award

Henley (S.M.V.)	Reading	Expires 31.08.13
Wantage (SS Peter & Paul)	Old North Berks	Expires 31.08.13
White Waltham	Sonning Deanery	Expires 31.08.14
Fulmer (St James)	EBSB Branch	Expires 30.04.15

### Bronze Grade

Letcombe Regis (St Andrew)	Old North Berks	Expires 30.11.13
Tadmarton (St Nicholas)	Banbury	Expires 30.09.14

### Expired Awards

Dorchester (SS Peter & Paul)	South Oxon Branch	Expired 30.09.05
Finchhampstead (St James)	Sonning Deanery	Expired 31.07.07
Stoke Mandeville (St Mary V.)	Chiltern	Expired 31.12.07
Warborough (St Laurence)	South Oxon	Expired 31.12.07
Easthampstead (St Michael)	Sonning Deanery	Expired 31.12.08
Winkfield (St Mary)	EBSB	Expired 31.05.09
Purley (St Mary V.)	Reading	Expired 31.01.10
Benson (St Helen)	South Oxon	Expired 31.10.11
Sonning (St Andrew)	Sonning Deanery	Expired 31.10.11
Hungerford (St Lawrence)	Newbury	Expired 30.11.11
South Stoke (St Andrew)	Reading	Expired 31.03.12
Cookham (Holy Trinity)	EBSB	Expired 31.05.12
Mapledurham (St Margaret)	Reading	Expired 30.11.12
Winslow (St Laurence)	Central Bucks	Expired 31.01.13
Wokingham (All Saints)	Sonning Deanery	Expired 28.02.13
Freeland (S.M.V)	Witney & Woodstock	Expired 31.03.13

John Davidge

### Librarian's Report

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There have been 12 library enquiries since the previous Odd Bob:

- Information about Jack Berry, recently deceased ringer from Wallingford (2 enquiries)
- Biographical information about W.H.Fussell, early 20<sup>th</sup>C. ringer at Slough
- Membership date of an Old North Berks Branch ringer
- Information about Dorothy M. Batten, early 20<sup>th</sup>C. ringer at St Giles, Reading
- Books on "permanent" loan to the Guild by the Central Council library

- Copy of the Service sheet for the Dedication of the church at Berinsfield in 1961
- Length of ODG membership of an EBSB Branch ringer
- Information about the Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund papers held in the library
- Information about 43ers (those who started ringing at the end of World War II) articles in the Ringing World
- Editions of Rev F.E.Robinson's 'Among the Bells'
- A request for a copy of the ODG Educational Leaflet about Sound Control of bells.

The enquiry about books on permanent loan was to do with eight books that the Central Council Library loaned to the Guild in 1979. The loan was believed to be because the CC Library had several copies of these books, and the library stewards decided to free up some space by lending them indefinitely to various Guild and Association libraries. They changed policy recently and decided to dispose of their surplus books, as has been reported recently in the Ringing World. They therefore asked for their books back, and the eight books were duly conveyed back to the CC Library – usefully freeing up a year or so's worth of space in our library.

A notable addition to the library has been William Sottanstill's "Elements of Campanologia", published in 1867. The book was found amongst the belongings of the late Douglas Walton, tower captain at Weston Turville from 1944 to 2004, and was presented to the library by Brian Robson. By coincidence, an article about it appeared in one of John Eisel's "Essays for the Friends of the (Central Council) Library" just last year. It is a handsome volume, with gold tooling on the cover and pages edged in gold, so it was very pleasing to receive it for the Guild collection.

Readers of the Ringing World may have seen an article about the Friends of the CC Library Outreach Day held in February at Wellesbourne. I was unable to attend owing to a prior engagement at Worcester Cathedral, but read with interest the account of the keynote address by Chris Pickford. In the article he says that he "acknowledged that there are some fine Guild and Association libraries out there, but questioned whether some of them were not much-used vanity projects and whether they had much to do with achieving their Guild's aims of education and the promotion of ringing". The conclusion of the discussions following his talk was that "we should identify and get details of the 'key' ringing libraries and perhaps look to providing some co-ordinated cataloguing building on work already done". We will have to see if there are any impacts of this sort of thinking on our library.

The usual reminder, if you would like some information, or would like to visit the library or borrow a book, you are very welcome to, just let me know.

Doug Beaumont

## **ODG Group Personal Accident Insurance**

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The Guild has Group Personal Accident Insurance cover for Guild members and those under instruction by a Guild member. Full details are at website: [odg.org.uk/reports/odg\\_insurance\\_definition.php](http://odg.org.uk/reports/odg_insurance_definition.php)

## News from the Branches

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### Banbury

Wardington hosted the Carol Service and about 50 ringers and friends attended. After the service mince pies and mulled wine were served. The concerns expressed in earlier years in respect of lower attendance than might be expected at this service, happily turned out to be incorrect this time around.

In the usual way, the Guild Annual Report information was all collated and forwarded to the Report Editor in January. Reports were issued by the Guild in March and the majority of towers and individuals have now received their copies.



On Saturday February 2nd almost forty branch ringers and friends gathered in the village hall at Hanwell for a quiz night and jacket potato meal. As usual the food was excellent with Vicky Clifton, Brenda Day and other members of the Social Committee overseeing the food and arrangements. An imaginative quiz had been compiled

by Stephen Wass of Cropredy, in which all the answers contained the word "bell" or "bel". The winning team was Cropredy! The raffle raised £60 which was donated to the Banbury Young Homeless Project.

The Branch Annual Dinner on 9<sup>th</sup> March was, once again, held at the Joiners Arms in Bloxham, where we were treated to a delicious meal with good service.  
Heather Hughes

### Bicester

Bicester Branch's AGM was held on 23 February at Ludgershall and, although icy in the church, was a warm affair, especially in the Bull and Butcher afterwards where about 20 of us had a very enjoyable supper!

The big event in the Branch recently has been the augmentation to six at St Mary the Virgin, Weston-on-the-Green and the return of all the bells to a ringable state. They were tried out on 4 March when the new bell (inscribed 'Jenny') was rung first so that the donor could hear it (via a long distance telephone call to South Africa!). Sadly his health was failing and the re-dedication of the bells was held on 5 May which was also the week of his funeral. Congratulations to Tower Captain Bob Hessian, who has managed the project and to Taylors who completed the work.

Our outing on 23 March had to be cancelled due to snow but we hope that Anthony Cole, who had organised it, will be able to rearrange it for the autumn. Now that he's celebrated the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ringing on 16 April with a quarter peal on the back 8 at Bicester of Cambridge Surprise Major he'll have more time on his hands!

Tuesday 16th April, Bicester  
1250 Cambridge S. Major in 45 mins

1. Michael Probert
2. Brian Curtis
3. Roger Barnes
4. Lorna Curtis
5. Josie Irving
6. Richard White
7. Anthony Cole
8. Stuart Gibson (c)

To mark 30 years of ringing by 7.

Kathryn Grant

## **Central Bucks**

Our AGM in February was hosted by the Claydon Ringers – East & Steeple – on a very cold Saturday. Lured and fuelled by the usual excellent tea, the branch stalwarts managed to conduct the business. As usual, it was a hard task to persuade people to stand for office and we have some vacancies to fill during the year. (Does any branch have the answer to this perennial I wonder.) The meeting thanked outgoing Ringing Mistress Heather Dobson and Chair Jan Robinson. Jan stepped down from her Chairman duties to take on the more arduous task of Ringing Mistress. There was a healthy clutch of new members to enrol and then in our main business, we decided to continue and revitalise the ‘George Edmans Bell Fund’. This, our own CBB Bell Fund, is designed to make small grants for minor projects. The principle is that having improved the capacity to make grants, towers will make claims and the level of enthusiasm for fund raising will increase. Watch this space!

Exciting news from Chearsley where they have launched a major augmentation project to increase from 3 to 6 bells. Now that calls for major fundraising! More information is on our website.

Our Webmaster has given notice that he wants to stand down – demands of university life and attendant ringing opportunities are proving too demanding. But he has left us the legacy of a new CBB website at [www.cbucks.odg.org.uk](http://www.cbucks.odg.org.uk)  
Many thanks to Ryan Noble for this and all his hard work for the branch.

Diana Slevin

## Chiltern

The Branch AGM was held on 20<sup>th</sup> April at Great Missenden, when all officers were re-elected with the exception of the Secretary, who stood down after 6 years in the post; he was replaced by Chris Green, whose details are in the list of secretaries on page 24. The meeting included a wide ranging discussion about recruitment and retention of ringers (of all ages) and the possible use within the Branch area of one of the mobile mini-rings to generate some publicity.

Ellesborough has also gained the distinction of achieving a run of FOUR consecutive “Golds” in the Guild’s Tower Maintenance Award Scheme, with a another 100% mark. Congratulations to the Steeple Keeper (Rex Norris).

Several towers rang to mark St George’s Day. Ellesborough successfully rang a quarter peal of *April Day* (1320 changes in 48 mins). Marsworth also achieved an appropriately named quarter peal, *Dragon Doubles*, see the photograph on the back cover of them holding knitted dragons made by one of the ringers. All Weston Turville’s novice ringers turned up and rang call changes, so congratulations to them for their enthusiasm; Little Missenden and Monks Risborough also rang.

Little Missenden has resumed ringing for evensong on Sundays (5.30 for 6.00 service) and hope to do so until the end of October.

It is hoped that Cheddington’s bells will be back in action by July this year.

There has been a long-standing relationship between serving Prime Ministers and Ellesborough Church, because of its proximity to Chequers. In particular, Mrs (later Baroness) Thatcher was a very regular worshipper at the church, frequently attending morning and evening service – often with Dennis, and on occasions reading the lesson. It was to Ellesborough she came after the bombing in Brighton, where she sat on her own in deep shock and sorrow. The blue light streaming through the stained glass rested on her pew and she said that it gave her some strength to carry on. To mark Lady Thatcher’s funeral, the ringers decided to ring the 5<sup>th</sup> bell half muffled at the same time as St Paul’s tolled its single bell. It is traditional at Ellesborough to ring the 5<sup>th</sup> for a woman whereas the tenor is for a man. It should be pointed out that Ellesborough is not politically biased, and not long ago rang for Mr and Mrs Blair’s silver wedding. The Tower Captain, Les Floyd, was interviewed for Television News.

During a ringing outing, it was noted that the ringers at Olney had installed a CCTV monitor in the nave showing the operation of the bells for the benefit of the congregation. The Aston Clinton ringers thought this was a very good idea that they would like to copy. The Ringing Centre funded the DIY installation, which includes two cameras in the belfry and one in the ringing chamber, with another in the nave.

An audio feed from the church's sound system is connected back to a monitor in the ringing chamber (very useful for checking the progress of weddings). The monitor in the nave relays pictures from the belfry and the ringing chamber, and the belfry cameras can also be switched to the ringing chamber monitor. Provision has also been made for connecting in a camcorder to the ringing chamber monitor primarily for training purposes. The system has been in operation for a few months prior to services and has proved to be a great success with the congregation.

Brian Robson

## **Chipping Norton**

The February branch practice took place on the second Saturday at Chipping Norton. A small group of members, who had not been deterred by the wintry weather a few days earlier, enjoyed a pub lunch at the Fox Hotel afterwards.

The following month, the Branch AGM was held at Fulbrook, where the service of Evensong was led by the Revd. Jan Fielden, who has now retired after eight years as Chairman.

That post is currently vacant but Ken Wakefield was elected Vice Chairman, Claire Tarrant Ringing Master and Training Officer, and Nigel Harrison Deputy Ringing Master. The other officers remain as before. There were no new members. Our thanks go to the Fulbrook ringers for their kind hospitality.

As Leaffield Church is closed for repair work until the autumn, the April practice was relocated to Spelsbury where a core of regulars was in attendance.

Two members, who have been ringing for many years, had the honour of being invited to Christ Church Cathedral to receive Maundy money from the Queen in recognition of service to their churches and communities. They were Pat Stratford of Hook Norton and Derek Fowler of Charlbury.

Three members helped with the Radley course and two were students.

Christine Harris

## **East Berks and South Bucks**

We are very pleased to report that the new ring of 12 bells (plus 2 semitone bells) has been installed at High Wycombe. They were first rung on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2012, with the first quarter peal following on 15<sup>th</sup> November and the first peal on 8<sup>th</sup> December. The latter included bell donors, local band members and representatives of the EBSB, and a good peal of Cambridge Surprise Maximus was rung. Work has subsequently proceeded to improve the internal acoustics, with good effect.

A Christmas social event was hosted by Bray on 8<sup>th</sup> December, and a post-Christmas outing, arranged by John Davidge, took place on 27<sup>th</sup> December, when Thatcham, Bucklebury and Aldermaston were visited.

During the first part of 2013 the programme has consisted of the usual varied selection of practices to cater for all levels of expertise. Novices' practices continue to be popular but unfortunately the novices' striking competition did not go ahead because of lack of entries.

The Branch AGM was held at Amersham on 27<sup>th</sup> April. This year we have tried a different format for this event. A practice was held between 4.30 and 6 p.m., structured to cater for ringers of all levels of expertise from eight bell methods upwards. There was no service, and the AGM, attended by 28 members, was held in the adjacent Church rooms at the conclusion of the practice, with light refreshments kindly supplied by the Amersham ringers. At the beginning of the meeting we welcomed Katie Lane, Guild steward, who represented the Guild officers. All the Branch officers were re-elected apart from two of our representatives on the Guild General Committee, whose posts remain vacant for the time being. Seventeen new members were elected, and three re-elected, indicating an encouraging level of support for our Branch.

Peter H Mackie

## **Newbury**

*[No news received. Ed.]*

## **North Bucks**

In November 2012 the branch organised a plain hunt training day at Olney and Newport Pagnell. Both towers used simulators, which allowed ringing to take place without disturbing the public. The course was primarily aimed at the new recruits from the *Big Ring Pull* recruitment project and others of a similar standard. Thirteen students were split across the two towers for morning and afternoon sessions. Each session had an equal number of supporting ringers to enable maximum progress to be made. Thanks to Doug Hird and Alan Marchbank for running the training sessions. Some very positive feedback from the students was received.

The Christmas celebration this year was held at Emberton. It started with a carol service in the church and was followed by a very enjoyable hot meal in the village hall for over 50 members. Entertainment was in the form of a picture quiz and accompanying handbell ringing.

At the beginning of 2013 we changed the emphasis of the regular monthly branch practices. With the influx of our new ringers from the *Big Ring Pull* we were worried about focussing too much on our new learners and neglecting those in the branch who wish to advance their change ringing skills. The practices are now more focussed on change ringing, surprise ringing and 10-bell ringing. For those wanting rounds and call changes there are other practices where this can be concentrated upon.

Buckingham hosted the AGM in early March, with ringing both at Buckingham and at Maids Moreton. Some excellent home made soups and cake made a nice change to the traditional tea. Two new ringers from the *Big Ring Pull* were elected onto the committee into Guild Representative positions. All the existing officers were re-elected.

Later in March the second *Big Ring Pull* outing took place. Following the success of the first outing last September the *Big Ring Pull* ringers met again to celebrate a year since the completion of the initial bell handling training and to visit another six towers around Milton Keynes. Twenty ringers and some helpers (less required than last time!) had an enjoyable day, ending up at Downs Barn for a fish and chip supper.

Jonathan Griggs

## **Old North Berks**

Our 6-bell striking competition in March was well supported this year, with five tower bands and a branch youth team entering. We were extremely fortunate to have Shirley McGill, Ringing Master of the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths, as our judge with Lee Pinnington assisting. We were all very pleased when Shirley said that, although the competition had encompassed a wide range of ringing abilities, there had been excellent ringing and great enthusiasm. This year it was Harwell's turn to snatch victory and they have been invited to represent the Branch in the Guild 6-bell striking competition in October.

Our AGM was reasonably well attended. This could possibly have been the result of having a wonderful, traditional ringers' tea at Didcot in the new church hall before the meeting. There was no change to branch officers other than that we welcomed Mary Friskney as our new Training Coordinator. Thanks were given to Jill Garlick for all the work she has done over the past two years in this position. Seven new members from five towers were elected to the Guild. Sadly we have lost one of our long-serving members, Jack Jarvis, Tower Captain of North Moreton, who joined the Guild in 1949.

Branch practices continue to be held monthly, with varying attendance levels. We also have monthly midweek afternoon practices aimed at improvers, as well as our long-established surprise major practices every other month (the next one is on 5<sup>th</sup> June at Drayton at 7.30pm).

Susan Read has continued to organise events for the young ringers in the Branch. Each event has tower and hand bell ringing, followed by a fun activity. Recent activities have been a 'Pancake Day Get Together' at Goring and an afternoon walk. Susan would appreciate more help from the experienced ringers in the Branch at these events.

As ever, our social events continue to be popular. Our autumn social last November was a skittles evening with fish and chip supper. Over seventy branch members and friends attended and they were divided into eleven teams. The winners of the two matches were the obscurely named 'Originals' and 'Half-measures'. With the help of a raffle we raised £250 for branch funds. Our thanks go to our younger members, who spent most of the evening arranging the skittles, and to Daphne Pollard and the Radley ringers for making the event such a success. The New Year's Day 2013 ringing with refreshments was held at Chilton. Thanks go to the Chilton ringers together with Janette Roberts of Didcot for all their efforts to make this a pleasant and successful occasion for the Branch.



The next branch social will be an outing and barbecue on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June. Philip Roberts will arrange ringing at various towers in the Tring area in the morning and afternoon, with a pub lunch and afternoon tea. A barbecue with croquet will be held in the evening (venue still to be decided). We are also planning to hold a quiz evening and supper on Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> November in Abingdon St Helen's Church Centre.

A new restoration project is just beginning in the Branch. There are plans to rehang and augment to six the five bells of North Moreton. These historic bells, one of which dates back to around 1350, have not been rehung since 1905, when they were put into a frame that can accommodate six bells. Now they are becoming increasingly difficult for the local band to ring and to teach learners. The Rector, PCC and ringers of North Moreton have all expressed a willingness and desire to restore the original bells and their fittings, and to purchase a new treble bell to augment the ring. The cost of all this work will be in the region of £50,000. A rope guide will be required, however the project team is now looking into the possibility of constructing a ringing gallery. The Branch has committed to raise a minimum of £3000 towards this project over the next eighteen months. If anyone is interested in making a donation or would like more information, please contact Richard Loyd on 01235 850459.

Gillian Loyd

## **Oxford City**

Oxford City Branch has continued to thrive with branch practices now becoming a more regular event and with opportunities to ring at towers across the whole of the branch and further afield growing, such as at Stanton St John in April. There are an encouraging number of learners of all ages in some of the branch towers, and it is promising to see people attending practice nights across the branch regularly.

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March the spring tour saw a group of branch members and friends head to Cambridgeshire. Whilst the weather was far from spring like (there being snow on the ground) a good day out was had ringing at Over, Willingham, Oakington and Longstanton with an excellent lunch at The White Horse in Oakington.

Katherine Stonham

## **Reading**

The Branch Annual General Meeting was held at Shiplake on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> February, following the usual format of ringing, a service followed by an excellent tea and the meeting. All the Branch Officers were re-elected for another year. Thanks go to the Shiplake ringers for the AGM arrangements.

The Branch practices are again being held generally on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in the month from 10.00 until 11.30; since we have gone to morning practices, attendance seems to have improved.

The Surprise practice is generally held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in the month.

The 'higher numbers' practices at Reading St Laurence have not been successful due to the time of day that they were being held, and no longer take place.

There have been several training courses arranged in the Branch by Ann Osborne, the first being on 5<sup>th</sup> January with 5 youngsters from the Reading Branch and 4 from Abingdon. The day included general ringing, handbell ringing, both tunes and methods, and 3 successful quarter peals.

The Mapledurham ringers had a training day at the Shiplake ringing centre, and the Mortimer ringers also held a day at Padworth. Thanks go to all the various helpers.

Several towers rang on 23<sup>rd</sup> April to mark St George's Day.

The Reading and Sonning Deanery branches have agreed in principle to take part jointly in the Sonning Deanery 8-bell striking competition, which is held in October.

Kenneth Baker

## **Sonning Deanery**

The AGM was held at St. Andrew's, Sonning on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> February. It was attended by 28 Branch members and by the ODG Master, Robert Newton. The following branch officers were elected:

Chairman Simon Milford continued in post; Secretaries Pam & Andrew Elliston stood down and were replaced by Rob Needham; Treasurer Sue Davenport continued in post; Joint Ringing Masters Simon C Farrar and Graham E Slade were elected; Bookstall Officer Rob Needham stood down and was replaced by Pam & Andrew Elliston. The Training Officer, Webmaster, Newsletter Editor, Branch Rep. and Independent Examiner were unchanged. Twelve new members were elected. The AGM included two short talks by different members on their recruitment and ITTS training experience. The chairman thanked the ringers of Sonning and Waltham St Lawrence for providing an excellent tea.

The Captain at Binfield tower, John Harper, has had to stand down on health grounds and Dave Creasy has stepped into his shoes. Binfield has several learners, and some of them benefit from attending the weekday BP that is held at Binfield on the first Tuesday afternoon of each month. The BP at Binfield on 4<sup>th</sup> April was particularly well attended, perhaps because it was just after Easter and still the holiday period. There were 15 members present and a variety of methods up to London Surprise Minor were rung.

Some of the ringers at St. Mary's, Twyford, (with some help from another local tower) have done a DIY installation of a sound control system for the tower. Designed, built and installed by the ringers, [*see the article on page 5*] it is very effective and has reduced the sound level near the tower by about 20 decibels when the shutters are closed. This may not sound a lot (excuse the pun), but it makes a huge difference such that the noise outside the tower is about one quarter of the noise before.

In April Easthampstead ringers combined a ringing outing with travelling on the Watercress Line railway. The outing was very well attended to the extent

that the ringers were given a whole carriage to themselves (see photo on back cover).

Our 6-bell striking competition was held at Sandhurst on April 20<sup>th</sup> and we were blessed by the first decent day of weather in 2013! Five teams took part and it was really good to see several youngsters involved in the competition. The first three teams were: All Saints, Wokingham



(photo) with 16 faults, Easthampstead 21 faults, and Sonning 27 faults.

On April 27<sup>th</sup> two towers, Waltham St. Lawrence and Sonning, combined forces for an outing to four towers in the Devizes area. There were 21 people in total on the outing and 4 of them were not ringers. As well as ringing at two 6-bell and two 8-bell towers, Tony & Alison Evans treated us all to a welcome morning-coffee break, and we had a long, sociable lunch at a nearby pub.

Also on April 27<sup>th</sup> a peal of Cambridge Surprise Major was rung at St. Mary's, Twyford to mark the centenary of the installation of Twyford's bells. In the evening Dicon Love gave a talk about the Jubilee bells that were installed on the barge that led the pageant on the Thames last year.

Rob Needham

## **South Oxon**

At the Guild General Committee Meeting on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2012, the ODG approved the transfer of Marsh Baldon Tower from the Oxford City Branch to the South Oxon Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild. The South Oxon Branch extends a very warm welcome to the Marsh Baldon Tower! The new ringers at the tower have made very good progress, and thanks goes to John White, Hilarie Rogers and the team of helpers for the on-going support in weekly training sessions.

The eagle eyed readers of the Guild Annual Report, may wonder what happened to the South Oxon Branch in 2012. Goodness, from 21 towers to 212 towers in one year! Perhaps some fantastic breeding of church towers or a secret Church of England building scheme? Alas no, just a glitch someplace between computers that turned our correction of 21 towers to 22 towers, due to the addition of Marsh Baldon, into 212!

In November, the band from Drayton St Leonard represented Oxfordshire at the Four Shires competition. This year the towers representing their counties were: Tewkesbury Abbey (Gloucestershire), Drayton St Leonard (Oxfordshire), Ilmington (Warwickshire), and Pershore Abbey (Worcestershire). Drayton St Leonard were placed second (by fractions of a point) after first place Tewkesbury Abbey.

Over the past six months the branch has had a few firsts – Hil Pennick from Little Milton and Margaret Coombe from Chalgrove both rang first quarters. Andrew Davis rang his first peal ringing at Chalgrove, and he only reported two blisters! Congratulations to James Anderson-Besant who rang his first quarter as conductor (Bob Doubles) at St Nicholas, Abingdon on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January. This was to celebrate the 450<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Refounding of Abingdon School on the same date in 1563. The band was made up of two pupils, two members of staff and two parents.

Although our outings have not been held for the past few years due to lack of numbers, our Tower Twinning program is continuing. We have six towers in the twinning groups. Pairs of towers share a practice night once a quarter. Comments are that the towers are really enjoying visiting each other – perhaps more for the social event!

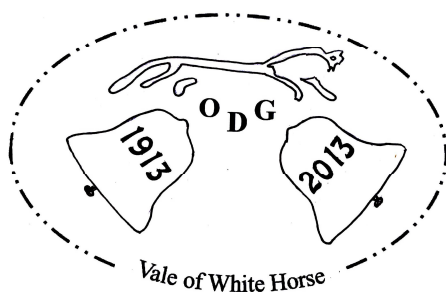
Amy Herlihy

## Vale of the White Horse

Branch members were saddened to hear of the death of Dennis Leslie, Tower Captain at Hinton Waldrist, on 3<sup>rd</sup> January at the age of 82. Den and twin brother Norman arrived in the Vale as nine-year-old evacuees from London and stayed on after the war. A Guild member since 1953, Den served as Branch Ringing Master from 1972 – 1993. We will miss him.

This year is the centenary of the formation of our Branch, and its affiliation to the Guild. Five towers were initially involved with a total of 43 members. The Branch now comprises 14 towers including two that are currently unringable, and a membership of one hundred. Celebrations commenced on 9<sup>th</sup> February when six Branch members were joined by the Guild Master and Steward in a peal of Vale of White Horse Surprise Major at Buckland, where the inaugural meeting was held in 1913.

We are now looking forward to the Centenary Dinner and a day of quarter peals at all our towers. A competition to design a Branch logo to mark the centenary was won by Anne Jones.



There was a good attendance at the Branch AGM at Stanford in the Vale, with all but one of our towers with members represented. Carina Lobley stood down as Branch Rep as she would no longer be resident in the Vale – Maggie Minchinton-Smith replaced her. Joe Norton took over as Deputy Ringing Master and Ann Stevens agreed to take on the Bell Fund Raffle. Nine new members were welcomed to the Guild.

First quarter peals have been rung by Anne Rogers, George Ruck and Andrew Rainbow-Ockwell. Congratulations to them all.

Lucy Laird

## **Witney and Woodstock**

Richard White kindly arranged the branch outing in November to North Bucks. A splendid day was enjoyed by 26 ringers who were grateful for the opportunity to ring at five superb towers with a minimal amount of travel. Our first tower of the day was at Great Brickhill followed by Wavendon. During lunch at the Swan Inn, Olney, Terry Hester of Witney was presented with his Guild certificate for reaching 50 years as a Guild Member. Ringing recommenced in Olney itself and gave many on the outing their first experience of ringing on 10 bells. The last two towers of the day were in the ever-increasing development of Milton Keynes at Downs Barn and Shenley.

The annual Quiz evening was held again at the Woodstock tennis clubhouse on a freezing day in February; the heating took a while to get going, so the teams had to group huddle together for warmth! There was a clear outright runaway winning team this year – so no need for the usual re-counts and tie-break questions – congratulations go to the 'Akemen and women' combining the brains of Stonesfield and Combe ringers. Many thanks go to Richard White for organising and quiz mastering and providing the essential real ale to keep us going. And thanks to everyone for coming out to support this event on such a bitterly cold evening; the heating will be put on a week in advance next time or maybe we should have warm-up cardio tennis beforehand!

Witney hosted our AGM at St. Mary's church in April and we are grateful to Terry Hester for making the arrangements for the church service and refreshments. Roger Barnes thanked Rev'd Toby Wright for a very enjoyable service and welcomed the Guild Master Robert Newton, Patricia Newton and Branch members. Anthony Williamson and Neil Ephgrave were elected to the role of Deputy Ringing Masters and Richard White was elected as our second Branch Representative. It was agreed to create a new role of Assistant Secretary, which would also include the existing Newsletter Editor's role. Lindsey Thornton was elected to this role. Many thanks were given to Lindsey Thornton and Louise Brown for their dedicated work and support to the committee over past years as Deputy Ringing Masters. Eleven new Guild members were elected, which brings the total membership to 184.

Fourteen towers in the branch rang to celebrate St. George's Day. This comprised general ringing together with a quarter peal of All Saints Place Doubles rung at Freeland.

Michael Probert

## Points from Peals

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Peals totals so far are similar to last year with 85 peals rung up to 30<sup>th</sup> April compared with 241 peals for the whole of 2012. Again many of these featured a notable performance, a selection of which appear below.

The Guild remembered several well known and respected members of the exercise: Roger Bailey, Howard Egglestone, Arthur Stacey, Keith Begrie and Jack Berry, all of whom contributed significantly to ringing in the Guild.

Ringers from the Reading area enjoyed a weekend in The Netherlands, ringing peals at Dordrecht, where Jack Page rang his first peal of Bristol and of Spliced.

### Peals rung for significant events

- The centenary of the Vale of the White Horse Branch at Buckland.
- The birth of Noah James Gregory, grandson to John and June Wells.
- The Marriage of Brenda Rockall and Peter Rivet.
- Birthday compliments to Bernard Groves (70<sup>th</sup>) James Stonham (60<sup>th</sup>) ringing his first peal of Bristol, Lorna Curtis (50<sup>th</sup>), Tony Fortin (70<sup>th</sup>) with the first “Anthony” peal.

### Personal Achievements

Congratulations are extended to Colin Turner on his 6000<sup>th</sup> peal and also to the Guild Master Robert Newton on achieving his 2500<sup>th</sup> peal.

First peal on ten bells: Alan Bain and Richard Loyd.

1200<sup>th</sup> peal: Lesley Knipe. John and June Wells both rang their 900<sup>th</sup> for the Guild. 600<sup>th</sup> peal Janet Menhinick. 1000<sup>th</sup> peal together: Bernard Groves and Robert Newton. 750<sup>th</sup> peal together: Bernard Groves and John Wells. 400<sup>th</sup> peal together: Julie and James Haseldine.

Most Spliced Surprise Royal (14 methods), Antoinette Jackson, June Wells Patricia Newton, Robert Newton, Richard Youdale and John Wells rung in the same peal conducted by Tim Pett. Most methods to a peal (11) Josie Irving. First Surprise inside Mhairi Miller. First Spliced Belfast, Glasgow, London, Bristol Surprise Major: Josie Irving, Stuart Gibson, Chris Tuckett.

First Surprise Royal Jack Page. First Royal in hand as conductor June Wells. Chris Cole rang his first Cambridge in hand inside to celebrate the birthday of his wife Sarah.

Completion of Surprise Major alphabet June Wells. Completion of Surprise Major alphabet as conductor Ken Davenport.

Ken Davenport, Peal Secretary

## **Guild Officers for 2012/13**

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<b>Mike Hopkins Till</b>	<b>Jenny Page</b>	<b>Ken Wakefield</b>

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Mr Alan Bentley

Mr John A Harrison

Dr Timothy G Pett

Mrs Bobbie May

Mr Ken R Davenport

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# Diary of Events for 2012/13

Some of these dates may change, so you should check the [odg.org.uk](http://odg.org.uk) web site for diary updates on an ongoing basis.

TBC	To Be Confirmed	AGM	Annual General Meeting	AP	Advanced Practice
BP	Branch Practice	EP	Elementary Practice	HY	Half Yearly Meeting
QM	Quarterly Meeting	RCP	Ringling Centre Practice	SC	Striking Competition
SM	Surprise Major	SP	Surprise Practice	CM	Committee Meeting

## MAY 2013

Wed	1	Bicester	BP	Piddington (5)	7.30–9pm
Thu	2	Chipping Norton	BP	Hook Norton (8)	7.30–9pm
<b>Mon</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Guild</b>	<b>SC (8)</b>	<b>EBSB (Bray</b>	
<b>Mon</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Guild</b>	<b>Annual Ringing Day</b>	<b>EBSB Branch</b>	
Wed	8	ONB	BP	West Hanney (6)	7.30–9pm
Thu	9	Banbury	BP	Somerton (8)	7.30pm
Sat	11	South Oxon	Outing	TBC	TBC
<b>Sat</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>Guild</b>	<b>AGM</b>	<b>Ascott-u- Wychwood (6)</b>	
Sat	18	Sonning	BP	Hurst (8)	10.3am –pm
Sat	18	Banbury	Young ringers practice	Swerford (6)	10.30am–noon
Sat	18	North Bucks	SP	Stony Stratford (8)	5–6.30pm
Mon	20	Bicester	Little Bob Minor and Grandsire Triples	Islip (8)	7.30–9pm
Sat	25	RCP	Doubles & Minor	Aston Clinton	10am–noon
Thu	30	Banbury	SP	Cropledy (8)	7.30pm
Fri	31	EBSB	10/12 Bell Practice	High Wycombe (12)	7.45–9.15pm

## JUNE 2013

Sat	1	RCP	8/10 Bell Practice	Aston Clinton (10)	7.30–9.30pm
Wed	5	Bicester	BP	Middleton Stoney (6)	7.30–9pm
Fri	7	Chipping Norton	BP	Taynton (6)	7.30–9.00pm
Sat	8	North Bucks	Summer Social and SC	Bradwell (6)	5pm
Sat	8	EBSB	SC	Dorney (6)	5pm
Thu	13	ONB	BP	Radley (6)	7.30–9pm
Sat	15	North Bucks	10 Bell Practice	Olney (10)	5pm
Sat	15	Sonning	BP	Simulator	
Wed	19	Bicester	Grandsire Doubles	Shottesbrooke	4–6pm
Thu	20	VOWH	BP	Bletchingdon (6)	7.30–9pm
Sat	22	RCP	Doubles & Minor	Hinton Waldrist (6)	7.30–9pm
Sat	22	South Oxon	BP	Aston Clinton	10am–noon
Wed	26	EBSB	Weekday BP	Marsh Baldon (5)	7–8.30pm
				Hambleden (8)	2.30–4pm

## JULY 2013

Thu	4	Bicester	BP	Stratton Audley (5)	7.30–9pm
Thu	4	Chipping Norton	BP	Enstone (6)	7.30–9pm
Sat	13	EBSB	SP	Chalfont St. Giles (8)	7–9pm
Tue	16	Bicester	Stedman Doubles and Plain Bob Major	Islip (8)	7.30–9pm
Sat	20	North Bucks	BP	Calverton (6)	5–6.30pm
Sat	20	Sonning	BP	Wokingham All Saints (8)	4–6pm
Tue	23	VOWH	BP	Uffington (6)	7.30–9pm
Sat	27	RCP	Doubles & Minor	Aston Clinton	10am–noon

Sat	27	EBSB	BP	Chalfont St. Peter (6)	7–9pm
Sat	27	South Oxon	BP	Dorchester (8)	7–8.30pm

### AUGUST 2013

Fri	2	Bicester	BP	Ludgershall (5)	7.30pm – 9pm
Sat	3	RCP	8/10 Bell Practice	Aston Clinton	7.30 – 9.30pm
Tue	6	Chipping Norton	BP	Chastleton (6)	7.30 – 9.00pm
Sat	10	EBSB	SP	Hughenden (8)	7–9pm
Wed	12	ONB	BP	Didcot (3)	6.30 – 7.15pm
Wed	12	ONB	BP	Long Wittenham (6)	7.30–8.30pm
Fri	16	EBSB	Weekday BP	Marlow (8)	7–9pm
Sat	17	North Bucks	SP	Turvey (8)	5–6.30pm
Sat	17	Sonning	BP	Warfield (10)	4–6pm
Thu	22	VOWH	BP	Buscot (4) TBC	7.30–9pm
Sat	24	RCP	Doubles & Minor	Aston Clinton	10am–noon
Fri	30	EBSB	10/12 Bell	Amersham (12)	7.45–9.15pm

### SEPTEMBER 2013

Tue	3	Chipping Norton	BP	Churchill (8)	7.30–9.030pm
Sat	7	RCP	8/10 Bell Practice	Aston Clinton (10)	7.30–9.30pm
Mon	9	ONB	BP	Marcham (6)	7.30–9pm
Sat	14	EBSB	SP	Stoke Poges (8)	7–9pm
Sat	21	Sonning	BP	Arborfield (6)	4–6pm
Wed	25	VOWH	BP	Coleshill (6)	7.30–9pm
Sat	28	RCP	Doubles & Minor	Aston Clinton	10am–noon
Sat	28	EBSB	BP	Hitchan (6)	7–9pm
Sat	28	South Oxon	Special Practice	TBA	TBA
<b>Sat</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>Guild</b>	<b>Michaelmas Training Day</b>	<b>Shiplake etc.</b>	

### OCTOBER 2013

Wed	2	Chipping Norton	BP	Charlbury (6)	Meeting 7.00 BP 7.30–9pm
<b>Sat</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Guild</b>	<b>SC (6)</b>	<b>Monks Risborough</b>	
<b>Sat</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Guild</b>	<b>Training Course</b>	<b>Steeple Aston</b>	
Sat	12	EBSB	SC + HY	Winkfield (6)	5pm
Tue	15	ONB	BP	Abingdon, St. Helen (10)	7.30–8pm
Sat	19	Sonning	SC (8) + BP	Easthampstead (8)	4–6pm
Wed	23	VOWH	BP	Buckland (8)	7.30–9pm
Sat	26	RCP	Doubles & Minor	Aston Clinton	10am–n/on
Sat	26	South Oxon	BP	Lewknor (6)	4–5.30pm
Sat	26	RCP	8/10 Bell Practice	Aston Clinton (10)	7.30–9.30pm

### NOVEMBER 2013

Fri	1	Chipping Norton	BP	Burford (8)	7.30–9pm
Fri	1	EBSB	Weekday BP	Bray (8)	2.30–4.30pm
Sat	9	EBSB	10 Bell Practice	Cookham (10)	7.45–9.15pm
Wed	13	ONB	BP	Cumnor (8)	7.30–9pm
Sat	16	Sonning	Meeting + BP	W. Waltham (6)	4–5.30pm, 5.30–7.30pm
<b>Sat</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>Guild</b>	<b>SC (10)</b>	<b>Newbury Branch</b>	
<b>Sat</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>Guild</b>	<b>General Committee Meeting</b>	<b>Newbury Branch</b>	
Sat	23	RCP	Doubles & Minor	Aston Clinton	10am–noon
Fru	29	VOWH	BP	Longcot (8)	7.30–9pm
<b>Sat</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>Guild</b>	<b>10 Bell Course</b>	<b>Aston Clinton</b>	



# **Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers**

*Established 17<sup>th</sup> January 1881*

## **Education Committee**

### **STEEPLE ASTON ONE-DAY COURSE**

**Saturday 12th October 2013**

**9.15 a.m. to 8.00 p.m.**

This course will provide tuition & practice on basic methods from Plain Hunting to Plain Bob Major.

Applications are invited from Guild Members only.  
Priority will be given to members who have not attended before.

Cost: £25

For further details and an application form please email  
[steepleastoncourse@odg.org.uk](mailto:steepleastoncourse@odg.org.uk)

or write, with SAE to

Richard Stanworth, 11 Valley Road, Buckingham MK18 7BW

The Application Form will also be available on the Guild Web Site  
[www.odg.org.uk](http://www.odg.org.uk)

**Closing Date for applications is 31st August 2013**



*Easthampstead Ringers on the Watercress Line*



*Marsworth Dragon Doubles band holding knitted dragons (see page 13)*