

# ODD BOB



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



**10-bell Training Day at Aston Clinton, see page 6**

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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 2015.

Rob Needham

## **Data Protection Act 1998**

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## **Master's Mutterings**

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I have visited most branches now, for a meeting, a practice or an event. Everywhere I go I am reminded that the work of the Guild is carried on in towers and branches, by a large number of people, running practices and teaching new ringers. As officers we are here to encourage and support, but the work is done at a local level, often through people from one tower helping a neighbouring tower. The displays at our AGM have given a flavour of what officers and sub-committees, Bell Fund and others, do. We are very fortunate that we have people willing to run courses to help people progress in their ringing, or learn bell maintenance. We are benefiting financially from the foresight of those who set up the Bell Fund, which is now able to contribute a significant proportion (currently up to 20%) of the cost of most work.

In the normal course of events, I run several practices a month in my own branch, and enjoy that aspect of ringing very much. Watching people make progress – some tentatively, others with gusto – is rewarding. Also encouraging is the number of ringers who are happy to ring something to help others – for some people, this can be for the majority of the practice. The person running the practice takes all this into account when setting up the next touch – and it makes things much easier if we all pay attention to what is being called for next, so we can catch hold if invited. Sometimes we are too “polite” and offer our rope to someone else, which may not be what the person running the practice had in mind, as it is important that touches are kept “strong” for the benefit of the less-experienced ringer. We ought also to keep in mind that we can be heard outside the tower – if we happen to be outside, it can be surprising how noticeable the bells are!

I wish you all a good summer of ringing, both regular practices and services, and also if you are ringing for something special. Do try and let your listening public know the reason – and remember that the Guild Public Relations Officer ([pro@odg.org.uk](mailto:pro@odg.org.uk)) is always happy to hear what you are doing and to help draft publicity.

Hilarie Rogers, Guild Master

## **The Birth of THE SPIRE**

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The Reading Branch, of the Oxford Diocesan Guild, is proud of the fact that for many years now there has been some ringing at all of its towers with four or more bells, including redundant churches.

It was with some concern that we learnt in 2001 that redundant St. Peter's church in Ufton Nervet was to be sold to a charitable trust. Enquiries were made on several occasions but we could not get any information on what was happening to the church and its bells. That was until early 2013 when we found out, to our great relief, that the church building had been acquired by the St. Peter's Ufton Charitable Trust and was to be converted into a Cultural Community Centre, for the benefit of the village, and was to be known as *The Spire*.

Much to our delight the new Trust not only wanted to keep the bells but wanted to make them available to be rung on special occasions and by visiting ringers. The reason for the lack of communication became apparent when we learnt of the protracted and difficult negotiations that the Trustees had gone through to acquire the building.

We knew that the bells had not been rung for many years, the last recorded ringing was for the Millennium on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2000, although there may have been other ringing after that. Arrangements were made for an inspection and Len Palfrey went over to Ufton on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2013 to assess the situation. The first cause for concern was the old wooden ladder, stored in the corner of the ringing room, used for accessing the bell chamber immediately above. The woodworm had had a feast and the rungs and stiles were riddled with holes. By keeping feet close to the stiles it was possible to climb high enough to open the hatch and have a quick look inside. The bird screen was non-existent and the floor and bottom of the frame was buried in twigs and bird debris.

The Trust agreed to provide a new aluminium ladder and the Reading Branch agreed to provide the materials and labour to clean out the bell chamber and fit bird screens. On 26<sup>th</sup> October Keith Vernon, Keith Jackson (non ringing supporter), Chris Johnson and Len Palfrey met with Anthony Peabody, representing the Trust, and cleaned out the bell chamber, filling many black plastic sacks with twigs and dirt. The working party, minus Keith J (whose daughter had just given birth), met again on 23<sup>rd</sup> November to install the bird screen and check out the bells, which proved to be in quite good condition considering the lack of maintenance over many years. All we needed now were some second hand ropes, preferably with synthetic top rope as the bells are very exposed to the elements. After an appeal to local towers, including people outside the Reading Branch who had expressed interest in being part of the working party but had been unable to take part, four

good quality ropes were gratefully received from Thatcham tower. All that remained to be done was to fit the ropes and find a good day to re-open the bells.

The Reading Branch was keen to get some publicity both for bell ringing and for The Spire. We decided against the Monday of late Spring Bank Holiday 2014 and opted for the Monday of the August Bank Holiday, in the hope of better weather and the possibility of a BBQ. Although, in principal, a good idea we had failed to take account of the building work to convert the church into a community centre and the builder, effectively, put a block on any ringing during 2014. We kept in touch and in November it became apparent that work was progressing well so it was suggested that we re-open the bells at noon on New Year's Day 2015, to which the Trustees agreed.

A flurry of emails arranged sparkling wine and savoury nibbles. More emails invited the local press, radio and television to attend. Only Radio Berkshire responded to say that they would put a feature on their website, which they did.

Keith Vernon and Len Palfrey met an hour or so before noon to fit the new ropes – just as well because the ringing chamber was being used by the builder to store bits of masonry prior to their reuse. Ringing room cleared and ropes fitted we descended to ground level to find a large crowd of people and a reporter from BBC South Today who conducted interviews with Peter Newall, Chairman of the Trustees, and Len Palfrey for Reading Branch. We just made the lunchtime local news and were featured more on BBC South Today after the early evening news. Subsequently, Peter was interviewed the following Sunday by Radio Berkshire. A good result for both bell ringing and *The Spire*. (News of Ufton's bells even reached New Zealand!)

Then came the ringing, Bucks Fizz and nibbles, someone counted 84 people in the churchyard, only 35 of them being ringers. Such is the support of the villagers for the bells and "The Spire" project. All of the ringers had a go on these quite challenging bells. The ringing room is cramped and the ropes fall close to the wall and each other, less than a metre from the wall and from the adjacent rope! Some



people found it easier to handle the rope facing outwards rather than into the circle. We were delighted that a number of ringers who were members of the St Peter's band before the church was made redundant, were able to join us. They told us what it was like to ring in the cramped ringing room. Everyone had "their" bell and rang call changes from cards. Jenny Page, who learnt to

ring here, was very excited to find that the call change cards were still in the box on the side of the clock case. Jenny told us that she used to ring the treble and, although right handed, was taught to ring left handed so that the ropes of the treble and two did not get mixed up!

We were conscious that the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Ufton Rail Crash had occurred in October and that we were unable to ring the Ufton bells for that occasion so we dedicated our ringing to the memory of those who died and were injured in that tragedy.

For the future? There is still much to be done in the building, including installing lighting on the spiral stairs and in the ringing room. When the building work is finished The Spire will be a venue for Concerts, Plays, Exhibitions, Film Shows, Education Classes and much more, its use limited only by imagination and demand. The Reading Branch have made a commitment to the Trustees that they will make every effort to provide ringers whenever the Trust want ringing for an event. The Trustees have confirmed that occasional visiting ringers will be welcomed at The Spire, the Tower Correspondent will be Anthony Peabody, contact details on the Reading Branch website or in the ODG Annual Report.

Len Palfrey

## **An excellent day at Aston Clinton**

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Aston Clinton Ringing Centre was the venue for this year's Oxford Guild 10-bell course on November 29<sup>th</sup>. For once in a while the students (Chris Nunn, Jacqui Hazell, Sue Powell, Mai Bell, Matt Bulbeck and Bobbie May) had prepared well and at least had a certain amount of ten-bell experience instead of attempting something which was beyond them. The photo contains twenty people and two more appeared later: helper Annie Davis and student Jacquie Hazell (Shottesbrooke).

To begin with Tim Pett, the tutor, asked everyone what they could ring and what they expected to be able to ring, and followed this with useful hints about how to ring Plain Bob Royal, Little Bob and Kent. According to Alan Bentley who organised the course, there was very favourable feedback and people in general thought well of the day and what they got out of it.

The helpers worked like Trojans and did most of the conducting. Some of them also came from far away and we thank them for their help.

In the photo on the front cover, from left to right the ringers are: Sue Haines (Aylesbury), Cathy Bentley (Aston Clinton), Alan Bentley (Aston Clinton), Alan Griffin (Bloxham), Ken Darvill (Beaconsfield), Chris Nunn (Amersham), Jon Chamberlain (Faringdon), Bobbie May (Shinfield), Roger Powell (Aston Clinton), John Davidge (Chalfont-St-Giles), Chris Parkinson (High Wycombe), John Pusey (St Giles, Oxford), George Whiteside (High Wycombe), Mai Bell (Clewer), Sue Powell (Aston Clinton), Alan Barsby (Eversley), Tim Pett – The Boss (Abingdon), Matt Bulbeck (Clewer), Chris Hoare (Herts Co Assn), Jonathan Cresshull (St Aldate, Oxford).

In between the plain methods were many attempts at half courses of Cambridge Royal which some were ringing for the first time and some were revising it after accruing many years of rust.

Refreshments were on tap most of the day and a leisurely lunch was taken at the clubhouse, a few steps from the church.

Tim Pett, the tutor, controlled the merry throng in a very understated way and, in fact, most of the ringing seemed to run almost by itself on well-oiled castors without any noise or fuss.

Thank you, Alan and Cathy for your organisation and Tim for running a very happy course.

Bobbie May

## **Educational matters**

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The Guild continues to provide four standard courses a year. Basic courses based at Radley (spring) and Steeple Aston (autumn), a more advanced course at Michaelmas and a 10 bell course at the end of the year. Please watch for notices (circulated to your tower and on the Guild website) and apply for those that meet your needs, or recommend them to anyone you know who could benefit from attending.

The training meeting in February was attended by 24 from 12 branches (more people and more branches than in the last five years) who shared ideas and experiences. The morning's discussion themes were: working with schools and how to meet the training needs within the Guild. After lunch together in the *Eight Bells*, the practical session in the tower covered exercises that can be used to develop striking and rhythm, and methods that can be used to help the transition to method ringing as well as provide interest and variety to practices.

A total of ten young ringers registered to take part in the Young Ringers Award Scheme that will run from 1<sup>st</sup> April for a year, with awards presented at the 2016 AGM. Please support any participants that you know, and try also to encourage all young ringers with whom you come into contact to develop their ringing skills and interests.

Interest in developing teachers of ringing continues, with several groups within the Guild using the Integrated Teacher Training Scheme (course run by the Association of Ringing Teachers, followed by a period of mentored teaching practice) to meet local needs. The Guild wishes to encourage all those who seek to develop their teaching ability.

If you need help or advice, for example to run local courses for your members, the Education Subcommittee is willing to provide.

The Guild offers grants for educational purposes. The most recent grant was towards a portable dumbbell for training and recruitment via public demonstrations at Wolvercote. The Committee will consider another application at its April meeting. If you think that a grant could help you to invest in better training within your tower or branch there is more information on the Guild website at: [odg.org.uk/education/#GRANTS](http://odg.org.uk/education/#GRANTS).

The Guild e-mail support network for ringing teachers in the Guild to share ideas and problems is under-used. If you think this could be of interest to you, see: [odg.org.uk/education/teaching](http://odg.org.uk/education/teaching).

Three long-standing members of the Education Subcommittee did not seek re-election in March – Alan Bentley (secretary), Alan Griffin and John Harrison (chairman). The committee will elect a new secretary and chairman at its meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> April.

John Harrison, Outgoing Education Sub-Committee Chairman

## **Towers and Belfries Committee report**

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The committee has met once since the last report, with an attendance of eight. Twelve inspections/visits have been carried out, details of which are shown below:

- Adderbury (TMA)
- Bloxham (general inspection & report)
- Chalgrove (TMA)
- Coleshill (correcting oddstruckness, aligning clappers, sound control)
- Cropredy (TMA)
- Henley (TMA)
- Kinton (correcting oddstruckness)
- Lambourne (advice on repair)
- Mapledurham (TMA)
- Radley (comparing quotes)
- South Leigh (TMA)
- Woodeaton (general inspection & report)

A “Guild-wide” course was run at Chalgrove on the 1<sup>st</sup> November, as well as a *Correcting Oddstruckness* course at Coleshill (VofWH) on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

A further maintenance course, and a rope-splicing course, will be run later in the year and will be advertised across the Guild. Rope adjustment, and the fitting of muffles will be included in the maintenance course.

John Davidge, Chairman T&B Committee

## **Tower Maintenance Award Scheme**

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Since the last report there has been significant activity in the Tower Maintenance Award Scheme, with the number of current awards now standing at twenty, an increase of one. The number of towers participating or expressing an interest is eighty-three, which is about eighteen per cent of the towers listed in the annual report last year. There have now been one hundred and twenty-four inspections (of which twenty-seven were preliminaries), resulting in ninety-five awards (fifty-eight Gold, twenty-three Silver, and fourteen Bronze).

The number of expired awards has risen slightly and is now 25. T & B committee members continue to contact the expired towers with the aim of persuading them to renew their awards. The awards for Deddington, High Wycombe and Peasmore have expired since the last report and it is hoped that they will soon attempt to renew them. Eight towers (Chalfont St Peter, Mapledurham, Henley-on-Thames, Cropredy, Adderbury, Reading St Giles, Ellesborough and Chalgrove) have all renewed Gold Awards – congratulations.

Congratulations also to South Leigh who, having been inspected for the first time, gained a Bronze Award.



The number of Branches having a tower in the “current awards” list remains at nine out of the fifteen Guild Branches, with EBSB no longer holding its predominant position, having been “caught” by Reading, Sonning Deanery and South Oxon Branches. Details as follows:

EBSB	3	(2 Gold, 1 Silver)
Reading	3	(3 Gold)
Sonning Deanery	3	(2 Gold, 1 Bronze)
South Oxon	3	(2 Gold, 1 Silver)
Banbury	2	(2 Gold)
Newbury	2	(2 Gold)
Witney & Woodstock	2	(1 Gold, 1 Bronze)
Central Bucks	1	(Gold)
Chiltern	1	(Gold)

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 near the back of 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**

Ellesborough (SS Peter & Paul)	Chiltern	Expires 31.03.17
Chalgrove (SMV)	South Oxon	Expires 31.01.17
Reading (St Giles)	Reading	Expires 31.01.17
Adderbury (St Mary)	Banbury	Expires 31.12.16
Cropredy (S M V)	Banbury	Expires 31.12.16
Henley-on-Thames (S M V)	Reading	Expires 30.11.16
Mapledurham (St Margaret)	Reading	Expires 30.11.16
Chalfont St Peter	EBSB	Expires 30.11.16
White Waltham (St Mary)	Sonning Deanery	Expires 30.09.16
Thame (St Mary)	South Oxon	Expires 30.09.16
Thatcham (St Mary)	Newbury	Expires 31.05.16
Denham (St Mary)	EBSB	Expires 31.01.16
Hungerford (St Lawrence)	Newbury	Expires 30.09.15
Sonning (St Andrew)	Sonning Deanery	Expires 30.09.15
Winslow (St Laurence)	Central Bucks	Expires 30.09.15
Freeland (S.M.V)	Witney & Woodstock	Expires 30.06.15

### **Silver Award**

Great Milton (St Mary)	South Oxon	Expires 31.08.15
Fulmer (St James)	EBSB	Expires 30.04.15

### **Bronze Grade**

South Leigh (St James)	Witney & Woodstock	Expires 31.01.17
Wargrave (St Mary)	Sonning Deanery	Expires 31.07.15

### **Expired Awards**

Dorchester (SS Peter & Paul)	South Oxon	Expired 30.09.05
Finchampstead (St James)	Sonning Deanery	Expired 31.07.07
Stoke Mandeville (S.M.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 (S.M.V.)	Reading	Expired 31.01.10
Benson (St Helen)	South Oxon	Expired 31.10.11
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
Wokingham (All Saints)	Sonning Deanery	Expired 28.02.13
Henley (S.M.V.)	Reading	Expired 31.08.13
Wantage (SS Peter & Paul)	Old North Berks	Expired 31.08.13
Letcombe Regis (St Andrew)	Old North Berks	Expired 30.09.13
Bray (St Michael)	EBSB	Expired 31.10.13
Clewer (St Andrew)	EBSB	Expired 31.05.14
Thatcham (St Mary)	Newbury	Expired 31.05.14

Chalfont St Giles	EBSB	Expired 30.09.14
Kintbury (S.M.V.)	Newbury	Expired 30.09.14
Harwell (St Matthew)	Old North Bucks	Expired 30.09.14
Tadmarton (St Nicholas)	Banbury	Expired 30.09.14
Deddington (SS Peter & Paul)	Banbury	Expired 31.12.14
High Wycombe (All Saints)	EBSB	Expired 31.12.14
Peasemore (St Barnabas)	Witney & Woodstock	Expired 28.02.15

John Davidge

## **Librarian's Report**

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There have been six library enquiries since Odd Bob issue 91. These have been about:

- Which years Dennis Leslie was VOWH branch ringing master
- Composition of the extent of Plain Bob Maximus
- Two enquiries re membership number of EBSB members
- When Herbert Druce (Penn) was elected
- Details of (recently deceased) Robert Winstanley's first peal

A number of Guild reports for the late 1930s and early 1940s were donated to the library by Owen Davis of Peterborough. These included 2 reports for which the library does not have unbound copies, so were very welcome. I have thanked Owen Davis on the Guild's behalf.

As reported in Odd Bob issue 91, the bookcases purchased in the early 2000s are almost full now, which presents a suitable occasion to review the library with particular reference to its size. A short paper on the subject was duly discussed at the Guild Committee meeting in November, and it was agreed that a review should take place. This will be conducted by a sub-committee consisting of the librarian and Ken Davenport and John White. The review report should be ready by the time of the September 2015 F&GP meeting.

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

## **News from the Branches**

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### **Banbury**

On Boxing Day there was a branch practice held at Deddington, which has been traditional for many years, and afterwards the ringers retired for some liquid refreshment and a social natter at the nearby hostelry.

Last summer, Deddington ringers held an open morning that coincided with the farmers market, which during the morning attracted over sixty visitors who were allowed to see the bells, admire the view from the top of the tower and watch the bells being rung. On this occasion it didn't generate any new ringers to join but there are plans to repeat the event again this year given the number of people that came.

A visit for the local Scout group was also arranged and some of the older members were able to try their hand at ringing. Following a recruitment leaflet distributed through the village, two new ringers joined and have now become members of the Guild.

At Steeple Aston the ringers have a high degree of involvement with the church and a desire to improve the facilities. With this in mind a ringing outing was organised to visit Brill, Chearsley and Cuddington towers, which was especially planned to see churches that have installed kitchen and toilet facilities as well as enjoy some ringing! A member of the PCC was also able to join them to help with the reconnaissance. Shortly after, whilst observing the Holy Week moratorium on ringing, the annual tower dinner was held instead of the practice night and was attended by 20 ringers and a few spouses at the local pub.

Around the branch, some of the towers will be ringing on St George's Day and in May, to mark the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day.

Heather Bletchly

### **Bicester**

On Saturday 21 February ten branch members (from Launton, Bicester, Islip and Charlton on Otmoor), two new recruits (also from Bicester) and two Guild representatives met at Launton for the Branch AGM thanks to the arrangements made by Michael MacArthur and the Launton band. Our service was led by the Reverend Becky Mathew and all officers were re-elected. Encouragingly we were able to elect three new members (Samuel Cole, Nicholas Thomas and Amanda Harris, all of Bicester).

Anthony Cole arranged our branch outing on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April when 14 ringers started the day at Haynes in Bedfordshire in homage to our Branch President, Willie Haynes (who has recently been in the news having celebrated being Tower Captain and Steeple Keeper of Charlton on Otmoor for 50 years)! This was followed by Biggleswade, Eaton Socon, the testing anti-clockwise ring of Eynesbury and the much less demanding Elstow (birth place of John Bunyan) with, almost as importantly, a wonderful cream tea in the Abbey gardens. We all thoroughly enjoyed the day – thank you to all those who let us in and to Anthony for making all the arrangements so well.

Monthly branch practices have been enthusiastically attended and we're all being encouraged to attempt something a little (only a little) beyond our 'comfort zone'!

Sadly we have had the recent news of the death of Bill Knaption at 92, a Bicester ringer for many years, whose funeral was held on 1<sup>st</sup> May. May he rest in peace.

Kathryn Grant

## **Central Bucks**

*[Nothing received from the branch.]*

## **Chiltern**

*[Nothing received from the branch.]*

## **Chipping Norton**

The first two Branch practices of 2015 were held on Saturday mornings and followed by pub lunches. Three new members were elected in January, Andrea Jordison of Burford, Sue Hotham of Chadlington and Peter Cox of Idbury.

The Branch AGM took place at Churchill in March with the service in the afternoon. This marked a change in timing from recent years and we were pleased to welcome James Champion and Colin Lee, our Branch Steward, to the proceedings. It had been hoped that the earlier time would enable more members to attend but, in the event, the low turn-out was disappointing although it meant more cake for those who were there!

Ken Wakefield was elected Branch Chairman and Sally Austin, Vice-Chairman. The other officers remain as before. Tony Merry, from Charlbury, volunteered to be the Branch Public Relations Officer and this was warmly received.

The first ever peal at Fulbrook was rung on 31<sup>st</sup> January with Daniel Glyde and Jenny Lewis ringing their first peals (see photo on back cover). This followed the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in November 2014 of the restoration and augmentation work at that tower.

Daniel Glyde and Jenny Lewis have now rung their first quarter peals of Plain Bob Minor inside and Nicki Unwin her first of Grandsire Doubles inside.

Recently three Branch members helped on the Radley one-day course and three other members went to the Hereford Course as students.

We are sorry to report the death of a former member, Jeremy Evans, of Little Compton. Jeremy was involved with the restoration of those bells some years ago and was also very active in village community life. At the time of his death, Jeremy was the churchwarden at Little Compton and had been for many years. His funeral was held at St Denys' Church on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April with half-muffled ringing before the service.

Following a request from Radio Oxford, bells were rung at Chipping Norton just before 9.00am on St George's Day and broadcast as part of the coverage of the *Ringling for England* campaign.

It is hoped that there may be a Branch outing in July, subject to there being enough interest.

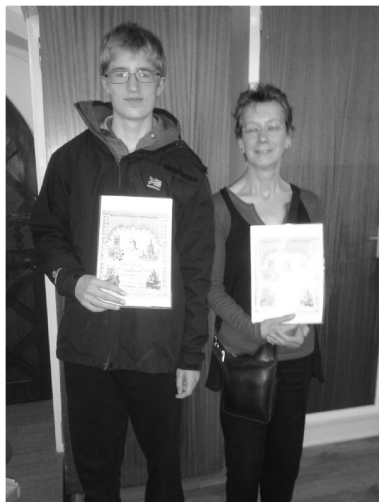
Meanwhile many towers are gearing themselves up for the wedding season and trying to ring for these events when requested.

Our congratulations and best wishes go to Mark Tarrant, a former Branch member, and Constance Young, who get married in May.

Christine Harris

## **East Berks and South Bucks**

An active programme of general, novices' and surprise practices has continued, and for the first time for a while a special method (Lessness) was chosen and rung at the surprise practice at Hughenden on 14 February. John Harrison kindly visited to run a Listening Skills course at Chalfont St Giles on 28 March. This was well received and hopefully will be repeated in a future programme.



The Branch AGM was held on 25 April at Burnham, and we were pleased to welcome Hilarie Rogers and James Champion as Guild Officers. We were sad to record the deaths of Peter Badcock, Neil Belson, Geoffrey Cooper and Stan Darmon, but a good total of 17 new members were elected or re-elected. Two (Thomas Haslam and Jane Thornley) were present at the meeting and received their certificates of membership from the Chairman (see photo).

Branch finances remain in a healthy state, and the fundraising committee had another good year, raising about £2000 from their stalls at various events, and from the 100 Club.

Kath Firman and Mandy Salter did not seek re-election as Ringing Master and Newsletter Editor respectively, and were warmly thanked for their hard work over several years. Ken Darvill and Patricia Newton were elected to these posts and we wish them well. All the other Officers were re-elected.

This year's eliminator for the National 12-bell striking competition was held at St Nicholas, Pier Head, Liverpool. High Wycombe entered a team again and travelled up north for a practice on 8<sup>th</sup> March. The bells are a fine ring but rather heavier than the band were familiar with, and the situation was not helped by a back-ender subsequently having to drop out through illness. The twelve ringers who took part in the eliminator on 28 March had therefore not practised the set piece of Cambridge Maximus on the bells before, and although they did not disgrace themselves they were unfortunately placed last. Let us hope for a better result next year!

Peter H Mackie

## **Newbury**

Ringing across the branch has been fairly healthy; the format and timing of Branch Practices is being varied at the request of members and they are generally

well attended and useful. Quarter Peal week is now a regular February occasion – as usual a good number of quarters were scored this year and the week ended with an excellent and well attended branch dinner.

The AGM was held in Hungerford in March and was again well attended; the standing officers were re-elected. The subject of unringable towers was raised both at the AGM and subsequently at the Tower Representatives meeting in April – good progress is being made at Brimpton although the other towers are more difficult. The latter meeting also agreed the schedule of events up until the 2016 AGM, which this year will be distributed on a new-style membership card that includes contact information.

The Branch Outing this year was by car and visited village towers in the Winchester area. The outing was well supported and organised, and everyone had a very enjoyable day, helped by excellent weather.

Finally the Branch website has been revamped under the *Bells near Newbury* heading and is proving, together with the associated Facebook page, to be another useful means of communication.

Mark Brock

## **North Bucks**

The Branch Quarter Peal week was held in November. Thirteen quarters were rung with around thirteen ‘firsts’.

The Branch Practice and Christmas social was held at Olney this year, with ringing beforehand, followed by mulled wine, a meal and a quiz in the church hall.

The Branch Annual General Meeting and annual dinner was held in March, two weeks later than usual, in order to commemorate the life of Frederick Charles Andrews who had died exactly 100 years previously. Frederick was wounded during the Battle of Neuve Chapelle and died of his wounds the next day, 14 March 1915. He rang at Clifton Reynes and was a member of the North Bucks Branch from 1907 to 1909.

The day started with half muffled ringing at Newton Blossomville, a ring of three which is seldom rung. The ringing at Newton Blossomville was then followed by half muffled ringing at Clifton Reynes, where Frederick rang regularly for services.

After this a short but poignant service was held, and our thanks go to The Reverend Canon Christa Pumfrey for conducting the moving ceremony.

The AGM itself was held later in the day at the Two Brewers in Olney. A new chairman was elected, two officers swapped roles, and all other officers were re-elected. Ten new members were proposed and elected to the Branch and Guild. The AGM was followed by the candlelit annual dinner, when those members staying were joined by some non-ringing family members.

As well as all of this we have been holding monthly Branch Practices, monthly eight bell practices, and a monthly bob doubles/call changes/plain hunt practice.

Gary Reading

## **Old North Berks**

New Year's Day 2015 started with ringing at Radley, with refreshments provided by Daphne Pollard and her ringers. This was an enjoyable occasion and proceeds were donated to the Radley Bell Restoration Fund. It is planned that, hopefully later this year, Whites of Appleton will rehang the bells with new fittings, and branch members have offered to raise £3000 towards the projected costs of £35,000.

At North Moreton, the newly augmented bells have now been rehung and fully restored by Whites of Appleton. The bells are awaiting the installation ceiling bosses and the construction of the ringing gallery, which will start in June. Unfortunately the project to complete the rehang and build the gallery was delayed because of fund raising. The faculty for the gallery had to be combined with the faculty for the provision of kitchen facilities and an accessible toilet, and the total project costs are in the region of £145,000. It is hoped that the bells will be ready to ring in August and that the practice night will be on a Monday.

We will soon have another restoration project in the pipeline. The back four bells at Brightwell are still hung on plain bearings and have become very difficult to ring. It has been estimated that it will cost about £40,000 to rehang all the bells on new bearings and have new clappers and fittings. The crown staples of six of the bells will be drilled out, all eight bells will be retuned and the wooden frame will be strengthened.

Branch membership in 2014 remained steady at 262, and we have gained twelve new members from six towers already this year. Matt Napper, who has been one of our branch representatives for several years, stood down from this post at our AGM. Our new representative is Dick Peters of Wantage. We were sorry to hear that Lorna Curtis is standing down as our Guild Steward at the Guild AGM. Lorna has been a loyal supporter of our branch for the past six years and we hope that she will stay in touch with us.

In March, five teams entered our 6-bell striking competition, which was ably judged by Robert Partridge and Joanna Knight of Shiplake. Congratulations go to Wallingford for winning, and they will go forward to represent the Branch in the Guild's 6-bell striking competition in October. All the ringing was to a good standard and it was especially pleasing to have a team made up entirely of young branch members.

Our monthly, mid-week, afternoon practices are going from strength to strength and we have held some social events for the supporters of these practices. In January we had a post-Christmas dinner in the Red Lion at Blewbury, and in April we held a 'mini-outing', in the South Oxon Branch, ringing at Brightwell Baldwin, Warborough and Benson, with lunch at the Waterfront Café in Benson. Our thanks go to tower captains Claire, Sue and John for making us so welcome in their towers. Susan Reed is also holding social events for our younger members during school holidays. The most recent was ringing at Garsington, followed by 10-pin bowling.



Our next branch social event will be an outing and barbecue on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July. Philip Roberts is arranging ringing at various towers in the Swindon/Cricklade area in the morning and afternoon, with a pub lunch and afternoon tea. The evening barbecue will be held at Stuart and Naomi Gibson's home. As usual there will be croquet to entertain both the players and the watchers, and everyone is most welcome to join us.

Gill Loyd

## **Oxford City**

Our AGM, hosted by St Aldates in November, saw some changes of officers. Katie Lane became our new Ringing Master, Dorothy Hall our Treasurer, and Lindsay Powell branch Secretary. A big thank you was given to Hugh Deam who stepped down as Ringing Master. He is still very active in the branch, organising outings and providing some much valued support to towers who struggle with numbers on their practice nights. We all wish Katie Lane well as she steps into her new role.

Branch practices continue to be held monthly on a Saturday, and there is usually a good turnout. These are supplemented by regular Surprise Major practices which are organised bimonthly, usually on a Sunday afternoon. Due to the level of enthusiasm at present, there are events for keen ringers of all abilities to attend nearly every weekend.

In March we had a spring outing to Hampshire attended by over 20 people, and we rang at Kingsclere, Highclere, Burghclere and Hannington. By popular demand we also have three more full day outings planned, one for the end of May to the Bath area, one in July to Essex, and one in the Autumn with details still to be announced.

The outings are supplemented by extra Saturday practices both in Branch towers and further afield. Headington have now had their simulator installed, and there will be the opportunity for extra practices on this, and Wolvercote are planning to install a Saxilby simulator in conjunction with Abel software, to aid practices there. On 11<sup>th</sup> July the *Ringing World National Youth Contest* will be held in Oxford. Although not a branch event, many Oxford City Branch members will be helping as volunteers, and we hope some of our under 19's will be joining in. Many city towers will be open, and there will be hand bell sessions, a quiz/treasure hunt and refreshments.

Lindsay Powell

## **Reading**

The Branch AGM was held at Nettlebed where all the Branch Officers were re-elected, the service was taken by the Rev Brendon Bailey and thanks go to the Nettlebed ringers for the arrangements and excellent tea.

The Branch is continuing its once a month afternoon Surprise practice.

Ringing took place in several towers in the Branch for St George's Day.

Ken Baker

## Sonning Deanery

In the months leading up to Christmas 2014 the branch training officer, Jacquie Hazell, has been training six primary school children at Waltham St Lawrence tower. She has been assisted by Vikki Bulbeck, another Waltham St Lawrence ringer. The goal for the youngsters was to ring for their school's Christmas service at Waltham St Lawrence, which they all managed – in pairs supported by more experienced ringers. In the New Year most of the children wanted to continue learning to ring, and they now have two sessions a week, three children on a Monday and 3 on a Wednesday.

The 15<sup>th</sup> January 2015 marked a special birthday – the 50<sup>th</sup> of one of White Waltham's long serving ringers, Simon Graves. A quarter peal was successful on the day and they rang two methods, St Simon's and St Martin's, as these are Simon's first two names.

We were pleased to welcome Guild officers Hilarie Rogers, James Champion and Katie Lane to our branch AGM in February. All Branch officers indicated that they were prepared to continue in post, and no other nomination for any officer post was raised, so all officers were re-elected. It is good to report that twelve new branch members were elected to the ODG, plus two returning ringers to our branch. At the AGM the branch Ringing Master, Steve Wells, gave a presentation with slides about *An Approach to Recruitment and Retention of Bell Ringers*.

The joint support by Sonning and Wargrave of each other's practice nights is working well and is helping to bring on several beginners, 4 at Sonning and 5 at Wargrave. The additional competent ringers at a practice help to provide a solid framework in which beginners can develop their skills. Vinni Sullivan, the chief trainer at Wargrave, is a good, experienced ringing teacher and is going on the ITTS course to acquire more teaching tips and techniques.

Last year Jennie King, a member of Waltham St Lawrence band, entered a competition to find Shaun the Sheep's biggest fan; he's a character who originally featured in the Wallace and Gromit adventure *A Close Shave*. Following his role in that Shaun was given his own TV series and his popularity grew and grew. Jennie won the competition and her prize was a starring role in the *Shaun the Sheep* film. Jennie sent some photos of herself in her favourite pair of boots, to the model maker. When filming was complete the model was Jennie's to keep (see photo).



In February three Sonning ringers went to a Belfree wireless ringing simulator demonstration at a church in Leicester. Later the tower ordered 6 sensors for the front 6 Sonning bells, and they were lucky to be given a PC on which to run the Abel ringing software. The ODG Education Committee recommended a grant of £140 (yet to be ratified) towards the cost. The simulator will be available to support Sonning and the Branch's training requirements.

I have heard of two quarter peals rung to mark the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first recorded peal; these were at All Saints, Wokingham on 2<sup>nd</sup> May and at Sonning on 3<sup>rd</sup> May.

Joyce Crockford & David Goodwin (Arborfield band) were married on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May at Brookside Church, Earley. They booked the Charmborough mini ring, which was set up in the grounds of the church, so that ringers could celebrate their marriage after the service in the approved fashion.

Rob Needham

## South Oxon

We started the year with a “High Numbers” (or more correctly, Caters to Maximus) evening at High Wycombe just after the New Year. It was quite challenging for some – and a real treat for others!

Our AGM was almost a mobile event. We had hoped to hold it at Brightwell Baldwin but for many varied reasons ended up at Chalgrove. Thanks go to all parties for their understanding – and to Chalgrove ringers (and families) for their willingness to make cakes and sandwiches! At the AGM we welcomed a new branch newsletter editor, Benji Coles. Maureen Bosley stepped down as Treasurer and Kay Bartholomew was elected to the office. All other officers remained in post, although I believe our chairman is ready for a change – Andrew Davis has announced he would like to stand down next year.



*After several winches were used to get it out of its bell pit and across the frame, the Berrick Salome tenor is carefully lowered by Paul Lawrence*

In February the Berrick Salome bells were removed from the tower and sent to Whitechapel for tuning. We expect they will be back in the tower over the summer and look forward to hearing them again!

Our branch striking competition was held at Aston Rowant. We had four teams competing, where one was a mostly novice band. It was excellent to see a group of new ringers at the competition; just the experience of ringing under competition conditions is excellent. A bit of nerves and a ton of concentration never hurt anyone! They did very well and we hope to see them again next year! One unusual note about the competition – Aston Rowant has a ground floor ring and the lights in the ringing area

were not working properly. We had some lighting from the main church, but to help the ringers we had a desk lamp, an emergency light, a camping lamp and a stand of candles. Very atmospheric!

This winter the tenor at Shabbington has been out of commission. They are busy organising fund raising this spring and summer to raise money to have it repaired – so watch for more about this!

This spring has also had its very sad times. Bill Simon from Berrick Salome died on 25<sup>th</sup> February and Glenys Gray of Chalgrove died on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March. Our thoughts and prayers are with Wendy Simon and Brian Gray and their families.

Amy Herlihy

## Vale of the White Horse

The Branch supported the *Ringing for England* campaign with ringing at all ten towers with members on St George's Day. This included eight quarter peal attempts of which seven were successful. Several towers reported appreciative comments from residents.

Our Deputy Ringing Master, Joe Norton, is doing his best to encourage VOWH ringers to ring their first peal this year as part of the FirstPeal2015 initiative.

Andrew Prince and Jonathan Wright both scored at the first attempt in a peal of Bob Doubles, conducted by Joe, at Coleshill.

Faringdon provided a superb ringers tea when they hosted our AGM in their smart new Church rooms. Attendance was good with all except 3 towers with members represented. All the officers were re-elected unopposed, and we were pleased to welcome two new members to the Guild.

The annual Shrivenham train outing was a grander affair this year as a party of thirty ringers and friends took the Eurostar to Brussels. Their ultimate destination was t'Klockhuys, a ring of eight in Dordrecht (Netherlands), for a very convivial



long weekend hosted by Paul de Kok. As well as general ringing and three quarter peal attempts (two successful), there was plenty of time for sightseeing. One of the highlights was a trip up the adjacent Cathedral tower where there was an opportunity to swing chime the six huge bells (heaviest nearly 10 tonnes!) and watch carillonneur Boudewijn Zwart play the 67 bell carillon, with a little help from Jonathan and Matthew Wright for one of the pieces.

Lucy Laird

## Witney and Woodstock

Woodstock hosted our AGM at St. Mary Magdalene Church on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February and we are grateful to the Woodstock ringers for making the arrangements for the church service and providing refreshments. Neil Ephgrave thanked Canon Adrian Daffern for a very enjoyable service and welcomed the Guild Master Hilarie Rogers, Guild General Secretary James Champion and Branch members. Robert Walton was elected to the role of Chairman and acting Secretary, and Alison Merryweather-Clarke to the role of Branch Representative. Many thanks were given to Neil Ephgrave, Lorna Curtis and Anthony Williamson for their dedicated work and support to the committee over past years as Chairman, Deputy Ringing Master and Branch Representative respectively. Nine new Guild members were elected, bringing the total Branch membership to 177.

A report from Alison Merryweather-Clarke on her recent trip to Lundy.

‘I’ve just returned from a memorable ringing trip with the Salisbury Guild on the inspirational island of Lundy, staying in the picturesque *Old Light Upper*. The publicity advises visitors to “Pack their sense of adventure”; I thought I had, but I certainly got more than I bargained for! I was hoping for a first caters QP perhaps (but was happy with 2 mostly well-struck QPs on the back 8), or my first sighting of a puffin.

So, with a few spare hours between the 2<sup>nd</sup> QP and a 10 bell practice, I set off to sample Lundy’s more solitary delights. It was while appreciating the rugged West Coast scenery, and attempting to secure a photographic record of my presence there, that I lost my footing and my head collided with a rock. Thankfully I didn’t lose consciousness, only my pride and an irritating quantity of blood. I applied admonishment, pressure, prayer and tissues, walked back and took a shower, not being a fan of the blood-stained hair look! I think I briefly toyed with the idea of seeking help, but the lure of a 10 bell practice (with Grandsire Caters, Little Bob Royal and the opportunity to finish circling the tower) was too much for this W&W ringer to resist, as was the subsequent whacky singing workshop at the top of the lighthouse! I would have just stayed there to enjoy the sunset, but Jane the singing teacher produced her violin at this point, so I beat a hasty retreat and, although I still felt fine, decided I’d better seek “first” aid, 5 hours after the event. And that was how I became the 2<sup>nd</sup> head case in as many days to be helicopter-rescued from Lundy!

At the excellent Barnstaple A&E, the sweetest nurse imaginable glued my head back together, the team seemed happy that I was talking no more gibberish than usual (which, let’s face it, is quite a lot!), and they discharged me to the only hotel in the area with a vacancy – the 4 star Saunton Sands Hotel! I am one lucky ringer!’

Geoff Holden died on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February. He gave outstanding service to the Witney and Woodstock Branch spanning several decades. He held numerous positions in the Branch, including Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Branch Representative. He made huge contributions to many towers, including his home tower of North Leigh, in very different ways and will be sorely missed.



A quarter peal was rung following his funeral on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March and a peal of 7 methods: one extent of London, Lightfoot, Bourne, Norwich, Beverley, Durham and Cambridge was rung at North Leigh on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March and the band included his son Peter and grandchildren Simon and Mary.

A first Quarter peal for Adrian Rodriquez of Freeland was rung on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March; Adrian rang the tenor to Grandsire Doubles.

A Quarter peal was rung at North Leigh on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April to celebrate St. George's Day, with Alison Merryweather-Clarke ringing 5 quarter peals in one day – a bit like a marathon!

Sue Rhodes

## Points from Peals

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There have been fewer peals recorded so far this year than in the comparable period last year.

**Firsts:** A number of firsts have been recorded:

- first peal: Daniel W Glyde, Jenny J Lewis, Andrew Prince, Jonathan D Wright.
- as conductor: Joanna E Knight Spliced Surprise Major (8m).
- as conductor on handbells: Jack E Page, June D Wells Spliced Surprise Major (4m).
- as conductor on 12 handbells: Oliver D Cross
- handbell peal of Bristol Maximus inside: Jack Page.
- in method; Plain Bob doubles: Elaine C Baber, Jonathan D H Norton, Simon W Edwards, Joe D R Norton. Cornwall Surprise Major: Stephen R Smith (II), Stephen A Rossiter, Joanna E Knight, Zanussi Surprise Maximus: Jack Page
- spliced Maximus on handbells: Jack Page.
- of doubles: Nigel G P Harrison
- first handbell peal for 47 years: Christopher M Tuckett.

**Methods:** First peal in the method; Glastol Surprise Maximus.

First peal in the method on handbells: Xylophone Surprise Maximus, Counter's Creek Delight Maximus.

**Personal Milestones:** Significant peal milestones have been achieved by: Jack Page (100), Marcia L Dieppe (150), Kenneth R Davenport (200 as conductor), Patricia M Newton (1,000 tower bell), June D Wells (1,100 for the Guild and 1,200), Graham A C John (1,500), Jeffrey Knipe, (1,600), Timothy G Pett (2,500 for the Guild), William Butler (3,500), Ian G Campbell (4,800), and peals together Michael Chester & Rosemary K Hemmings (100), June D Wells & E John Wells (900).

Most Surprise Minor to a peal: Ian G Judd, Antoinette J R Jackson, June D Wells, Kenneth R Davenport, E John Wells.

Most Surprise Major to a peal: Joanna E Knight (23m).

Most Surprise Major to a handbell peal: June D Wells, Christopher P Cole, E John Wells (20).

Circled the tower to peals: Joanna E Knight (Shiplake), Richard Lewis-Skeath (Swerford), Timothy G Pett (Buckland), James W S Crawley and L Roy Woodruff (Chalfont St Giles).

Cambridge Surprise Fourteen was rung on handbells at Maidenhead and was the first of Cambridge S Fourteen on handbells for six of the band and first on fourteen for two of the band.

**Events:** Several peals were rung for Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day.

Other notable events also marked were All Saints Day, The Feast of St Nicholas, The Feast of the Conversion of St Paul, Easter, Wokingham, St Paul 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first peal in the tower, Fulbrook, first peal in the tower on the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the re-hanging and augmentation of the bells, Reading, Tilehurst, 15 Lytham End 250<sup>th</sup> peal in the house.

**Personal events:** 55 years of ringing at Buckland by Alan O'Shaugnessy, 53 of those years as Tower Captain.

Peals were rung for the births of Archie Gregory, Evelyn Anne Loweth, and Joshua Darby, first grandson of Christine and David Darby; also to celebrate the birthdays of Revd Mark Bennet (Rector of Thatcham), Ruth Blackwell. Ian G Campbell, Stuart F Gibson, Josie S Irving, Bobbie May and grandson Finlay, Sophia Lewis-Skeath, Sue Thomas, Chris Turner, and 5090 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Surprise Major for Ieuan Elfed Roach.

**In memoriam:** The Guild remembered; Susan Rothera, Richard Turner; and Geoffrey Holden and Mary Lee with peals at their home towers. Peals were also rung remembering Marion Ainsworth, Jim Diserens and 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the peal immediately following the interment of Sir Winston Churchill at Bladon.

**Corrections to points in previous Odd Bob:** Alan Bain first London Surprise Royal not London Surprise Major, first of minor for Mark Tarrant not Claire Tarrant.

Ken Davenport, Peal Secretary

## **Paying Peal Fees electronically**

If you would like to pay peal fees electronically, instead of sending in cheques, then please contact the peal secretary ([peals@odg.org.uk](mailto:peals@odg.org.uk)) to obtain the details. Thank you.

Stuart Gibson

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**Woodstock**

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## Diary of Events for 2015

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 2015

Sat	16	Chiltern	BP	Bledlow (8)	9.30–11.30am
Sat	16	Sonning	BP	Binfield (6)	10.30am–noon
Sat	16	<b>Guild</b>	<b>AGM</b>	Oxford City Branch	TBC
Tue	19	VOWH	SC (6)	Stanford in the Vale	7.00pm–
Wed	27	ONB	BP	Cumnor (8)	2.00–3.30pm
Sat	30	South Oxon	BP	Great Milton (8)	7.00–8.30pm
Sat	30	EBSB	BP	High Wycombe (12)	7–9pm

### JUNE 2015

Mon	1	CN	BP	Salford (5)	7.30–9.00pm
Wed	3	Bicester	BP	Middleton Stony (6)	7.30–9.00pm
Wed	3	ONB	SP	Sutton Courtenay (8)	7.30–9.00pm
Fri	5	EBSB	BP	Chalfont St. Peter (6)	2.30–4.30pm
Mon	8	ONB	BP	Sutton Courtenay (8)	7.30–9.00pm
Sat	13	EBSB	SC 6 Bell	Hitcham (6)	5pm
Sun	14	<b>National</b>	Anniversary	Great Ringing Day for 800 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of Magna Carta (sealed 15 <sup>th</sup> June 1215)	
Tue	16	Bicester	BP	Islip (8)	7.30–9pm
Thu	18	VOWH	BP	Hinton Waldrist (6)	7.30–9pm
Sat	20	Sonning	BP	Hurst (8)	4.30pm–6pm
Sat	20	Chiltern	BP	Monks Risborough (6)	9.30–11.30pm
Wed	24	ONB	BP	Sunningwell (6)	2.00–3.30pm
Sat	27	<b>National</b>	12 Bell SC	St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich	
Sat	27	South Oxon	BP	Chinnor (6)	7.00–8.30pm

### JULY 2015

Fri	3	Bicester	BP	Caversfield (5)	7.30–9pm
Mon	6	CN	BP	Ascott-u-Wychwood (6)	7.30–9pm
Sat	11	EBSB	SP	Chalfont St. Giles (8)	7–9pm
Sat	11	<b>National</b>	Ringling World National Youth Contest	Oxford (OS)	TBC
Thu	16	VOWH	BP	Coleshill (6)	7.30–9pm
Sat	18	Sonning	BP	Shottesbrooke (6)	7.30–9pm
Sat	18	Chiltern	BP	Marsworth (6)	9.30–11.30am
Tue	21	Bicester	BP	Islip (8)	7.30–9pm
Wed	22	ONB	BP	Brightwell (8)	2.00–3.30pm
Sat	25	EBSB	BP	Hughenden (8)	7–9pm
Sat	25	South Oxon	BP	Marsh Baldon (5)	7.00–8.30pm

## AUGUST 2015

Wed	5	ONB	SP	Goring (8)	7.45–9.15pm
Fri	7	Bicester	BP	Ludgershall (5)	7.30–9.00pm
Fri	7	CN	BP	Asthall (6)	7.30–9.00pm
Wed	12	ONB	BP	Cumnor (8)	7.30–9.00pm
Sat	15	Sonning	BP	Wokingham, All Saints (8)	10.30am–noon
Sat	15	VOWH	BP	Ashbury (6), Bishopstone (8)	4pm–
Sat	15	Chiltern	BP	Weston Turville (6)	9.30–11.30am
Sat	15	<b>National</b>	Anniversary	70th Anniversary of VJ Day	
Wed	26	ONB	BP	Radley (6)	2.00–3.30pm
Sat	29	EBSB	BP	Marlow (8)	7–9pm

## SEPTEMBER 2015

Tue	1	Bicester	BP	Launton (6)	7.30–9.00pm
Tue	1	CN	BP	Chipping Norton (8)	7.30–9.00pm
Sat	5	Bicester	SC & BBQ	TBC	
Tue	8	ONB	BP	Abingdon, St Nicholas (6)	7.30–9.00pm
Sat	12	EBSB	BP	Cookham (10)	7–9pm
Thu	17	VOWH	BP	Buscot(4)	7pm–
Sat	19	Sonning	BP	Highworth(8)	
Sat	19	Chiltern	BP	Finchampstead (6)	4.30–6pm
Wed	23	Bicester	BP	Ivinghoe (6)	9.30–11.30am
Wed	23	ONB	BP	Bletchingdon (6)	7.30–9pm
Fri	25	EBSB	BP	North Moreton (6)	2.00–3.30pm
Sat	26	<b>Guild</b>	<b>Michaelmas Training Day</b>	Bray (8)	2.30–4.30pm
Sat	26	South Oxon	BP	Dorchester (8)	7–8.30pm

## OCTOBER 2015

Fri	2	CN	BP followed by business meeting	Taynton (6)	7.00–8.30pm
Sat	3	<b>Guild</b>	<b>6 Bell SC</b>	South Oxon (final at Chalgrove)	
Mon	5	Bicester	BP	Bicester (10)	7.30–9.00pm
Wed	7	ONB	SP	Wallingford TBC (10)	8.00–9.30pm
Sat	10	Chiltern	BP	Central Bucks	2.30pm
Sat	10	EBSB	SC & HY meeting	Chenies (6)	5pm
Tue	13	ONB	BP	Milton (8)	7.30–9.00pm
Tue	20	Bicester	BP	Islip (8)	7.30–9.00pm
Wed	21	VOWH	BP	Buckland (8)	7.30–9.00pm
Sat	24	<b>Guild</b>	<b>Steeple Aston Course</b>		
Sat	24	South Oxon	BP	Thame (8)	4–5.30pm
Wed	28	ONB	BP	Drayton (8)	2.00–3.30pm

## NOVEMBER 2015

Mon	2	CN	BP	Enstone (6)	7.30–9.00pm
Wed	4	Bicester	BP	Bletchington (6)	7.30–9.00pm
Fri	6	EBSB	BP	Beaconsfield (8)	2.30–4.30pm
Wed	11	ONB	SP	West Hanney (6)	7.30–9.00pm
Sat	14	EBSB	BP	Amersham (12)	6–8pm
Mon	16	Bicester	BP	Bicester (10)	7.30–9pm
Sat	21	Sonning	Business meeting & tea	Wokingham, St. Paul (8)	4.30 tea, 5pm meeting
Sat	21	Chiltern	BP	Cheddington (6)	9.30–11.30am
Wed	25	ONB	BP	Chilton (6)	2.00–3.30pm
Fri	27	VOWH	BP	Longcot (8)	7.30–9pm
Sat	28	<b>Guild</b>	<b>10 Bell SC</b>	Warfield, SDB	TBC
Sat	28	<b>Guild</b>	<b>General Committee Meeting</b>	Whitegrove Community Centre, Warfield	TBC



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

# **MICHAELMAS TRAINING DAY**

## **Want to advance your repertoire of methods?**

**Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup> 2015**  
**10.00 – 18.00**  
**Cost £15**

The aim of the day is to provide the opportunity for students to learn more advanced methods than those offered on the Radley and Steeple Aston one-day courses.

The day will start with tutorials in the first Tower followed by practical ringing in other nearby towers. The course this year will not be centred around Shiplake but in various parts of the Guild.

Groups will be formed to cover the following range of methods:

1. Surprise Minor
2. Stedman Triples
3. Basic Surprise Major (e.g. Cambridge, Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, Superlative)
4. Advanced Surprise Major (e.g. Pudsey, Rutland, London, Bristol, Spliced)

Further details and application forms can be obtained by sending an SAE to Ann Osborne, 10 St. Michaels Road, Tilehurst, Reading, RG30 4RP or E-mail [annosborne.1@btinternet.com](mailto:annosborne.1@btinternet.com) by:

**17<sup>th</sup> August 2015.**



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

**Education Committee**

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

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2015**  
**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 31<sup>st</sup> August 2015**



*The Bicester branch outing, 18 April 2015, see page 12*



*The Fulbrook peal band: L-R are Nigel Harrison, Claire Tarrant, Graham Clifton(C),  
Brian Hall, Jennifer Lewis & Daniel Glyde*