

# ODD BOB



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



**The Leaffield ringers mark the Centenary of the Titanic disaster (*see page 17*)**

# Contents

<b>Master's Mutterings .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Young Ringer's Bell Maintenance Course .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>A Tale of Three Masters .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Young Ringers visit clock tower .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>ODG 10-bell competition.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>ODG Bell Fund Policy Statement .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>ODG Bell Fund Report .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>ODG Restoration Fund Report .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Education matters .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Grants for educational purposes .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Librarian's Report .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>ODG Group Personal Accident Insurance.....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>News from the Branches .....</b>	<b>14</b>
Banbury .....	14
Bicester.....	15
Central Bucks.....	15
Chiltern .....	16
Chipping Norton .....	17
East Berks and South Bucks .....	17
Newbury.....	18
North Bucks .....	19
Old North Berks .....	20
Oxford City.....	21
Reading .....	21
Sonning Deanery .....	22
South Oxon.....	23
Vale of the White Horse .....	23
Witney and Woodstock.....	24
<b>Points from Peals .....</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Guild Officers for 2011/12 .....</b>	<b>26</b>
Branch Secretaries.....	27
<b>Diary of Events for 2012.....</b>	<b>28</b>

## **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 2012.

Rob Needham

## **Data Protection Act 1998**

*As members should expect, a record of their membership is maintained on a combination of paper and computer systems. These records are used solely for the administration of the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers and for notification of future events to members. They are not made available to anyone for commercial purposes. If any member wishes to inspect the records held, please contact the Guild Secretary.*

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## **Master's Mutterings**

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What constitutes a good Branch practice? Is it one that is particularly well supported? I remember my father describing an EBSB practice in the mid-1960s, which was attended by around 60 people. Despite the limited time available, everyone rang at least twice and it was claimed that they all had something for their benefit. At the other end of the scale, I can think of several occasions when those attending were obliged to ring almost every time, or worse, when there was insufficient support for any ringing to take place.

It seems to me that something between these extremes is preferable. Ideally the number of ringers attending should be about two or three times the number of bells. Hopefully, this should give plenty of opportunities to practise without anyone being over stretched, and a few spares for standing behind.

Many branches strive to achieve this happy medium by arranging targeted practices, with ringing masters and training officers responding to the needs of various 'ability groups' within their membership. It ensures that what is being offered at the practice or training session is relevant to those attending and an appropriate number of helpers can be invited along to provide a strong framework. Over time, the continuity provided by such approaches can, and does, lead to substantial progress.

At the same time, I hope that all branches continue to maintain a regular general branch practice so that all members can benefit from coming together and ringing with 'different' people. If you manage to attract an attendance of 60 – well done!

In more contemplative moments, I wonder what would happen if, say, half the Guild membership supported the Festival or the AGM. The selected venues would not accommodate that many but what a wonderful problem it would create!

I hope that the extra celebratory ringing has been going well this year, and that many of you have participated and will be participating in special touches, quarters and peals for St George's Day, for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and for the Olympics. Please remember to keep me updated about your intentions, particularly with regard to the Jubilee and Olympic Torch Relay. Thank you.

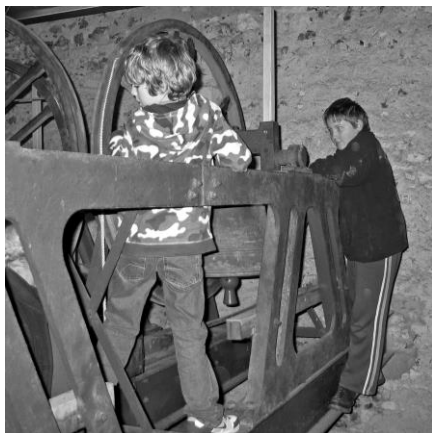
Robert Newton

## **Young Ringer's Bell Maintenance Course**

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Three of this year's YRA participants, Jack, Victoria and Chris, were given a very hands-on appreciation of belfry maintenance by John Davidge, the Guild's Towers and Belfries sub-committee Chairman. The venue was Cholsey, chosen because of its good access around the bells and an installation of sufficient age to give the participants opportunities to find some (minor) faults.

The session started in the ringing chamber with John giving important practical advice on matters of safety. For example: never work in the belfry when the bells are up; never work alone; take a mobile phone and torch every time; always have one hand holding something stable when walking across a bell frame.



The aim of the practical exercises was to find and report on faults that could be caused from normal usage. For this John used the Guild's Tower Maintenance Award inspection check list and with one of the bells demonstrated how to look for the tell-tale signs of wear and record them on the sheets. Working in pairs, which included the parents, the participants then proceeded to inspect the other bells with a great deal of enthusiasm, making notes and recording faults on the check lists. The checks typically included checking for cracks in stays,

movement of sliders, alignment of the clapper at rest and in the strike position using callipers, evidence of slack nuts, water ingress into the belfry, and the like.

Once inspections were complete we returned to the ringing chamber where John gave a verbal summary of the findings which he said he will consolidate into a proper report for the tower; a training exercise with a useful outcome for the tower as well being worthwhile for the participants.

Proceedings concluded with refreshments in the well appointed Church, another good reason for bearing this venue in mind for a similar event in the future. John then handed out to each young ringer a copy of the Guild's Safety Guidelines, Tower Maintenance Award marking sheet, Guide to Good Maintenance, Suggested Maintenance Schedule and the Central Council's Maintenance booklet.

Our grateful thanks to John for making the session very enjoyable, useful and interesting, to Jenny Jeskins for taking the time to organise our visit and to the authorities for allowing us the use of the Church. As John said to the youngsters, if they haven't done so already, they should now follow up this experience by asking their own tower captains to take them up to see their bell installation and gain some further practical knowledge and experience.

Alan Bentley, Education Sub-committee

On Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November I went to St Mary's Church, Cholsey, Oxfordshire to attend a Bell Maintenance Course as part of the Young Ringers Award. This was run by John Davidge and organised by Alan Bentley of the ODG Education Committee.

I found this very interesting and enjoyed climbing amongst the bells looking for any defects and damage. This included whether any of the ropes were frayed, that all moving parts were not sticking or out of line, and whether anything needed to be replaced.

John made bell maintenance great fun and I am looking forward to inspecting the bells in my own bell tower. It was a good job that John told us to wear old clothes as we got very dusty during this session.

Many thanks to all concerned.

Victoria, St Michael's, Cumnor

On the 19<sup>th</sup> November I attended a Bell Maintenance Course at Cholsey, organised by Alan Bentley and run by John Davidge, chairman of the ODG Towers and Belfries Committee.

It was organised specially for young ringers participating in the Young Ringers Award Scheme this year.

Following the safety instructions, we were given the instruction sheet for how to inspect bells and belfries, used for the ODG Tower Maintenance award. We found a cracked stay, measured clappers to ensure they were parallel to the Bell Frame, and discovered that Cholsey's roof is leaking. In addition to this we also looked for oil leaks, frayed ropes and loose gudgeons.

It was an enjoyable experience. I can now tell people how to inspect a bell, and what to look out for when inspecting one. I would like to say thank you to both Alan and John for a good use of my Saturday morning.

Jack, St Peter's, Caversham

## **A Tale of Three Masters**

This must be a first for the Guild – three masters working together on the same restoration project. Graham Clifton of Whites of Appleton Bellhangers (Master 2002 to 2004) was assisted by (amongst others) Robert Newton (current Master) and Patricia Newton (Master 1989 to 1996) in the removal of the bells and bell frame from All Saints' High Wycombe.

(For details of the project see [allsaintshighwycombe.org/bell\\_ringers.htm](http://allsaintshighwycombe.org/bell_ringers.htm))



Pat Newton

## **Young Ringers visit clock tower**



On Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> April there was a tour of the Houses of Parliament Clock Tower including being in the belfry when the bells struck for noon. This was organised by Alan Bentley for participants and parents under the Young Ringers Award scheme. The photo shows some of those who went up the Tower outside Portcullis House.

Tracey, one of the Young Ringers, said, “Thanks for organising the trip yesterday to the Clock Tower/Big Ben. We all enjoyed the tour and had a good day in London afterwards”.

## **ODG 10-bell competition**

The 10-bell competition this year was held on the recently restored and augmented 10 at Shrivensham, on Saturday November 26<sup>th</sup>. Eight teams entered, which was a record entry and most encouraging.

The judges were Kate and Paul Flavell from New Malden. Their comments were that Shrivensham was a nice 10, easy to hear and with no obvious odd-struckness. Marking was 2 for a good row, 1 with a clip and 0 for a crunch or two clips. The judges awarded percentages with higher scores for the better teams. Their tips included: all ring at the same speed; don't rush the leads or leave holes; exude confidence, not arrogance.

The test piece, 287 Grandsire Caters, was a mixture of tittums and handstroke home: the piece was marked fairly severely because of the high quality nature of the competition. The judges would have preferred to hear more runs in the touch.

At Shrivenham the bells are all but inaudible inside the church; had a rave been taking place inside the church during the competition, neither the ravers nor the ringers would have been any the wiser.

Many thanks must go to the Shrivenham ringers for supplying coffee, tea and ploughman's lunches. The day was very tight for time as some ringers had to go further north in the afternoon to the Guild Autumn Meeting. Thanks must also go to Alan Marchbank, Deputy Master, for helping to produce a seamless arrangement of ringing and for keeping, in the main, to schedule. How did you manage to get hold of the President of the Central Council when she is so busy! And her equally busy husband, Paul?

Branch	Place	%	Comments
E.B.S.B.	1st	89	Peal speed 3:16. Whole piece measured and was consistent throughout. All had the same speed goal. Confident. Few faults. Occasional clips.
Reading	2nd	84	Peal speed 3:19. Good, steady practice. Good opening rounds and once into changes ringing settled well. Occasional hesitations upset the rhythm.
Central Bucks	3rd	83	Peal speed 2:58. Very fast practice. Fast rounds settling into a crisp rhythm. Few faults. Little trips and rather edgy. Some little bells were clipping. Improved. Good over-all ringing.
Vale of the White Horse	4th	82	Peal speed 2:59. Good, confident practice. Touch rung at a good speed and with confidence. Good recovery from trip but didn't get back the rhythm and hence quite a few clips.
Newbury	5th	79	Peal speed 3:21. Difficulties in the practice. Measured opening rounds which never really settled. No method mistakes. Generally good but some small trips. Slow speed contributed, making it difficult to settle into a rhythm.
Old North Berks	6th	77	Peal speed 2:56. Lots of little bells clipping over big bells. Not all agreed on speed before going in to changes. Hence trips. Tenor good rhythm. Most faults at the back. Improved as it went along. Still a bit edgy and uneven.
Sonning Deanery	7th	69	Peal speed 3:02. Choppy going in to changes. Not agreed on speed which led to some faults. Hesitant and never really settled to a steady rhythm, though got better. No major mistakes.
Banbury	8th	67	Peal speed 3:13. Difficulties in the practice. Problems settling and ringing together as a unit. Some very nice runs. Lots of problems and did well keeping it together.

As it can be seen, there were only 12 percentage points between 1<sup>st</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> place with very little difference in the positions in the middle.  
[A photograph of the winning team is on the back cover. Ed.]

Bobbie May

## **ODG Bell Fund Policy Statement**

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At the 2009 Annual Meeting, the Trustees submitted a policy statement to clarify the position with future investments and grants. This action was a direct consequence of the national and international uncertainties in the financial markets and the economy in general at that time. The Trustees undertook to provide an annual update on the policy and this is the third such annual update. For ease of comparison, the 2009, 2010 and 2011 assumptions are shown in italic script.

### **The Trustees have made the following basic assumptions:**

- The investment income is likely to reduce by at least 30% from the 2008 level as the direct result of the interest rate reductions implemented by the Bank of England and the associated impacts on the value of stocks and shares as the recession continues. The assumption for 2012 is that the yearly investment income will exceed £20,000. *Investment income received for 2011 was £20,984.88 (2010 – £18,684.31; 2009 – £18,155.78).*
- The value of the Fund’s investments is likely to reduce after 2009 from the valuation at 31 December 2008. A further reduction in value may be expected in 2010 and 2011. This will limit options to reinvest in different holdings and by so doing benefit from capital appreciation from specific investments. *Value of investments at 31 December 2011 was £408,497.76, including accrued capital appreciation of £77,942.82 (2010 – £403,694.89; 2009 – £348,652.88).*
- In line with past policy the Trustees will maintain an investment portfolio, balancing income with growth potential wherever possible and seeking to minimise risks to the capital value. They will continue to take advantage of the professional service offered by the investment advisor to the Diocese. However it must be noted that all financial commentators regularly remind us all that the current economic situation is really ‘uncharted waters’ and in these circumstances the best financial advice may well be to ‘do nothing’. *During 2010 £40,000 was transferred from the deposit account with the Central Board of Finance of the Church of England (where the average interest rate reduced to 0.521% for the 3 months ended 30 November 2010) and reinvested in Investment Funds. During 2011, £30,000 was transferred from CBF Fixed Interest to CBF Global Property Fund and a further £10,000 was also invested in the CBF Global Property Fund. These funds are designed to provide both high income, capital appreciation and a balanced range of holdings to minimise risks in any specific area.*



- The Trustees are aware that the foundries and bell hangers have generally full order books up to a year ahead and consider it unlikely that there will be a large number of new projects coming forward during 2011 and 2012. It is possible that the Queen's Jubilee may provide the impetus for some new projects. *6 provisional grants were offered during 2010, of which 2 were completed during the year in order to avoid the increased VAT rate from January 2011. 5 provisional grants were offered during 2011 of which 2 projects were completed. The Trustees understand that two provisional grants may not be taken up.*
- The Trustees expect that new money raised during 2009 and 2010 may not achieve the same levels as recent years (2008 – £11,473; 2007 – £9,020; 2006 - £8,514) as the result of the economic downturn and the forecast increases in unemployment. As 2012 is a Leap Year the income from the Sponsored Ringing Week should serve to boost the overall total of new money raised.
- *New money raised in 2011 totalled £10,230.28 (2010 – £8257.11; 2009 – £9,806).*

**For 2012 the Trustees will:**

- Maintain the level of all outstanding provisional grant offers
- Allocate the available income in any year between the applications
- seek to maintain each new provisional grant offer at 10% of the cost of eligible work
- Limit the maximum provisional grant in any one year to £9,000 (the amount of the previous largest grant paid)
- Continue the present policy of not considering projects of modest cost (less than £3,000)
- Continue to allocate provisional grants from the predicted income of future years to match as far as possible with the timescale of the project. This is particularly important for projects, which seek support at an early stage in the fund raising process. This policy has been well received over the years
- Review the policy of excluding VAT from the calculation of provisional grants following the changes in VAT treatment for Listed Buildings
- In view of the ongoing uncertainty of the financial situation review this policy annually and report to the Annual Meeting.

**In conclusion for 2012 and the immediate future:**

- The Trustees will continue to review the level of grant to strike a balance between the income available and the number of calls for financial support. Both these variables are outside the control of the Trustees.
- If it becomes necessary for the Trustees to have to change the percentage from the present level of 10% then this change will be publicised as soon as possible.
- Given the ongoing national and international financial uncertainties, it is not appropriate to speculate about the level of any change or its likely timing. However given the experience of 2010 and 2011 there are

grounds for optimism for the future and the expectation that a change is less likely than previously envisaged.

- The Trustees wish to thank all those who support the Bell Fund and take this opportunity to restate the benefits of gift aiding donations whenever possible in order to increase their value to the Bell Fund by reclaiming the income tax.

## **ODG Bell Fund Report**

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As of the 30<sup>th</sup> April the fund has received £2,818 compared to £1,795 at the same point last year. This is broken down as follows:

Branch Donations (10):	£1,721
Tower Donations (6):	£ 740
PCC Donations (1):	£ 20
Individual & other donations:	£ 35
Gift Aid:	£ 302

In addition to this income the proceeds of the Sponsored Quarter Peal week have been received, this event being held in the last week of February of a leap year. This year members have raised a splendid figure of £3,124, much of which was Gift Aided and this will contribute a further £500. The results of the Branch competition will be announced at the Guild AGM in May!

No grants have been paid so far this year but there are several projects due for completion in the coming months.

At the last meeting in February there were no new grant applications to consider, however the Trustees agreed to reserve £8,000 towards the major project going on at High Wycombe this year. This is in addition to the £7,000 allocated in each of the previous two years. No grant applications have been received since the meeting.

The Trustees continue to work with the Oxford Diocesan professional advisor to ensure that we get the best return on our investments and maintain the overall value of the investment portfolio. The income from these investments plus any interest provide the funds to pay grants and to date we have received £5,200 in 2012.

At the annual meeting of the Bell Fund in March the Trustees presented an updated policy statement on future investments and grants. This was adopted and can be found in this edition of Odd Bob.

The Trustees are very grateful to the branches, members and other individual and societies/organisations who continue to financially support the Bell Fund. It is very much appreciated.

Stuart Gibson, Hon. Treasurer

## **ODG Restoration Fund Report**

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As of the 30<sup>th</sup> April the fund has received £630, which is almost double what had been received at the same point last year. Very encouraging! The income to date breaks down as follows:

- Donations from branches & towers £565
- Individual donations £30
- Income from investments £35

There were no outstanding grants at the beginning of the year, however the Trustees have offered a grant of £189 to St Nicolas, Abingdon towards some essential restoration work that is expected to be carried out later in the year. There are no pending grant applications.

The Trustees would like to thank everyone for their financial support to the fund and also remind individual donors that, as it is a registered charity, Gift Aid can be claimed should they be tax payers. Applications forms for regular donations by standing order or for one-off donations, with an associated Gift Aid declaration, can be found on the Guild website or from myself.

Finally the Trustees would also like to express their thanks to the members of the Towers and Belfry committee that have made inspections on behalf of the fund.

Stuart Gibson, Hon. Treasurer

## **Education matters**

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We ran two courses at the end of 2011, the Steeple Aston basic course at the end of October, and the 10-bell training day in December (when some of the students were invited to take part in a post course quarter peal attempt of Grandsire Caters).

We ran a day of intensive teaching practice in November for student teachers from North Bucks Branch, as part of the Branch's preparation for its *Big Ring Pull* recruitment project.

Eight of the ten participants in the 2011 Young Ringers Award scheme submitted their records at the end of the year for assessment. Katie Lane and Claire Bell agreed to be assessors. The awards will be presented at the Guild AGM in May.

At the training meeting at Thame in February, when all branches were invited to send people interested in training, 17 people represented 11 branches. The morning had a discussion session followed by demonstration of training techniques in the tower, and lunch together.

The General Committee approved the proposal for surplus money accumulated from courses in previous years to be used to support other educational causes within the Guild, and the Sub-Committee has prepared a set of guidelines for grants, on the Guild website at: [odg.org.uk/education/](http://odg.org.uk/education/). (See the article below for more detail.)

In the pipeline is the Radley course in April.

John Harrison, Education Sub-Committee Chairman

## **Grants for educational purposes**

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The Guild has run training events for many years, all aimed to break even financially, though in practice most make a small surplus. During the final years of the Easthampstead course, there were several occasions when the venue withdrew the main hall at the last minute (usually for a wedding party) and compensated us with a large refund. As a result, the Guild accumulated a significant surplus from its educational activities.

After discussion, the General Committee has agreed that this surplus may be used to provide grants to other educational initiatives within the Guild. Guidelines for the criteria that any proposal should meet and an application form are on the Education Sub-Committee area of the Guild website at: **[odg.org.uk/education/](http://odg.org.uk/education/)**

Grants are intended to benefit Guild members and/or training activity in towers within the Diocese. They may relate to initial training or subsequent development of ringers, or to the development of ringing teachers. Expenditure may relate to equipment to support training or other costs incurred by training activity.

The Guild's intention is to make a difference, i.e. to facilitate activities that would be less likely to happen otherwise, or to ensure higher quality outcomes. Grants will be a proportion of the cost, not the whole cost, with each case judged on its merits.

Applicants will be required to say: what is proposed, why it is required and who will benefit, what it will cost, how it will be funded, and how long the benefit will last.

John Harrison, Education Sub-Committee Chairman

## **Librarian's Report**

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There have been eight library enquiries since Odd Bob issue 85. These have been about:

- Residency status of member elected during 1970s
- Two ringers in peal at St Ebbe's Oxford in 1954
- Ringers at Penn, Bucks from Annual Reports
- World Wars I and II casualties at Ellesborough, Bucks
- Christian names of lady ringers in a number of peals during the 1950s
- Numbering of ODG peals, and why it stopped after 1977
- Accreditation of seven peals rung during 1955/56
- Early years of the Chiltern Branch, founded in 1962

I have responded to Alison Hodge's letter in the April 13<sup>th</sup> Ringing World asking for information about bookbinders used by Guilds and Associations. The bookbinders I use for Guild material are Masters Bookbinding in West Reading. They keep 'rubbings' of the three publications I arrange to be bound from time to time (The Ringing World, Odd Bob and the Guild's Annual Report), which makes the ordering process reasonably straightforward.

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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For a number of years, the Guild has arranged Group Personal Accident Insurance cover for Guild members and those under instruction by a Guild member. Full details of the cover and benefits payable are on the ODG 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

The Carol Service in December at Steeple Aston was held a week later than in previous years and at a slightly later time in the hope that a few more ringers and their families would attend. In the event about 40 ringers and friends attended. However, bearing in mind the number of branch members we have, attendance at the service was actually quite poor, although slightly better than that held in 2010.

Unfortunately, the Quiz and Social planned for the beginning of February had to be cancelled at the last minute due to snow. Fortunately, the jacket potatoes (uncooked!) were sold off and the fillings frozen and utilised at a separate outside event! The other fortunate thing was that although the hall had to be cancelled at the last minute, the hire fee was refunded in full!

We had more luck with the Branch Annual Dinner, just over a month later, and this was held at The New Inn, Wroxton, and was once again an enjoyable evening with delicious food and good company. Since the February social was cancelled, it was decided to have a raffle at the dinner instead and this raised £70.



The old tenor bell at Steeple Aston was removed on 7<sup>th</sup> March. The old bell metal was recycled on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> into the new bells to be used in the Queen's river pageant in June. On Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> the new Jubilee tenor was installed. This is now ringing out a little more resonantly than the old bell did. Since our AGM is being held at Steeple Aston, we will perhaps get a few extra ringers coming along!

The Carillon at Banbury church was removed on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> March for complete refurbishment at Gillett & Johnson's. This is part of the Banbury town celebrations for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The carillon plays on a three hourly cycle at 9am, midday, 3pm and 6pm daily. A new fourth barrel is being made and the people have been asked to suggest five tunes and two hymns from a list of fourteen. The carillon will be reinstalled in time for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Heather Hughes

## **Bicester**

The 2012 AGM was held in Bicester on the 25<sup>th</sup> February. Although few in number, no new members elected and no change of officers, we had a good discussion on forthcoming plans for the year, especially concerning the Jubilee and Olympics, before adjourning to the Swan for lunch.

On Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> March we had a car outing to the Northamptonshire area, organised by Anthony Cole. We rang at Wappenham, Green's Norton, Pattishall and the hidden tower of Easton Neston. It wasn't the best of days weather-wise but the eight ringers who came enjoyed it all, and the support band of children, non-ringers and one dog all gave a good report too!

Our website at [www.bicesterbranch.org.uk](http://www.bicesterbranch.org.uk) has details of forthcoming branch practices as well as reports of our activity and is kept wonderfully up-to-date. We're lucky to have ringers who are keen to support each other and it was especially good to see one of last year's elected members on her first outing.

Kathryn Grant

## **Central Bucks**

In the months since our last report we have held our AGM. This has led to a few changes of personnel and practice as well as seeing the enrolment of an encouraging number of new members.

One tower in particular has been resuscitated from inactivity by a few committed ringers into having a good basic band of locals, all duly now elected. This example, combined with examples from the ODG Training Officers' meeting, has led us into considering ways of supporting ringers struggling to teach others in their towers. We are watching with interest the progress of our neighbours in North Bucks with their *Big Ring Pull* initiative.

Talking of neighbours, we have had occasion to look closely at membership clauses in the rules. We 'lost' a very active tower a few years ago, not for the usual reason of the ringers wishing to change branch, but due to a Diocese change. A number of ringers wish to continue to be members of CBB and I am pleased to say that rule interpretations have now enabled this.

We are also reviewing a local Branch fund set up to disburse small grants to towers to reach parts that the ODG funds cannot. As only interest not capital can be used, it has been rendered almost useless due to the very poor interest rates available at the moment. It would be interesting to know of how other branches are using any other similar funds.

We are all now looking forward to the 'special' ringing that is promised with the Jubilee and Olympic & Paralympic celebrations.

Diana Slevin

## Chiltern

2012 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of the Guild's Chiltern Branch. The following notes taken from Bill Butler's *100 years of the ODG* may be of interest.

The Chiltern Branch came into existence following a Branch Secretaries' meeting in 1961, at which they had been asked to look at branch boundaries. They recommended a new branch, centred on Aylesbury, taking in remote towers from South Oxon, Central Bucks, and East Berks & South Bucks branches. In his report to the Guild at the autumn 1961 meeting (held in Bletchley), the then Guild Master (Rev C Elliott Wigg) noted that, "Formation of a new branch is a notable landmark in the history of any Guild of ringers. Our Guild therefore gives it blessing to the Chiltern Branch as the youngest member of the family, and wishes God-speed to its members and its enthusiastic Secretary Mr D G Wheeler". Donald Wheeler, who had been secretary of the Central Bucks Branch, became Chiltern's first secretary when the Branch officially came into existence in January 1962. Sixteen towers were transferred into the Branch and the Branch elected 51 new members (out of 68) in its first year.

There was a contest to decide the location of the inaugural meeting, with Aston Clinton receiving 15 votes to Ellesborough's 13; it was held in June 1962. H Bonham (Cheddington) was elected Chairman; BC Collins (Stoke Mandeville) and A J White (Aston Clinton) were appointed as Ringing Masters. The service at the meeting included both the organ and a string quartet, an unusual (unique?) occurrence! The then Librarian (H I Roper) was quoted as saying that he "would not have missed the meeting for the world". (*Many thanks to Roy Woodruff for this research.*)

We hope to mark this anniversary by ringing a quarter peal in all the available towers in the Branch during April and May. Wherever possible, teams should be predominantly from their own tower, but assistance from other Branch ringers is being provided where this cannot be achieved. By the time you read this, at least 9 (out of 12) should have been attempted if not achieved. Marsworth have already successfully rung their quarter peal – noteworthy because the band included 2 ringers who have been ODG members since before the Branch was formed!

This year's Branch AGM was held at Great Kimble on 21 April. All officers were re-elected for a further 12 months. The Secretary gave notice that he would not stand for a further term after the next AGM, and sought a volunteer to take over the role.

We have plenty of special ringing planned in all our towers during the year, including St. George's Day, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, as well as the Olympics and Paralympics. Are there any medals for learning how to do *Five Rings Doubles*? All this in addition to a couple of flower festivals, a good number of weddings, and the normal Branch and tower practices.

Good news from Great Missenden, ten new learners have been recruited since the beginning of the year and it is hoped to have them ringing for the Jubilee!

Brian Robson



## **Chipping Norton**

Three new members have been elected to the Guild at branch practices, Andrew Kenyon (Hook Norton) and Christina Schrerer (Burford) in January at Chadlington, and Jake Acock (Leaffield) in February, when Tim Burchell (Hook Norton) was also re-elected.

The venue for the February branch practice, held on a Saturday morning, was Hook Norton. Fourteen members braved the icy conditions to attend and ten stayed on afterwards for an enjoyable lunch at the Sun Inn. Thanks go to Keith Mitchell for making the arrangements.

The following day we were very concerned to hear about the fire at Charlbury Church. Thankfully, more disastrous damage was prevented as the fire was noticed around midday and through the subsequent prompt, decisive action taken by the Fire Service.

Sponsored bell ringing, ranging from call changes to Grandsire Doubles, took place in five of the Branch's towers: Burford, Chadlington, Charlbury, Fulbrook and Hook Norton. Jean Datson, our most senior ringer, was among the participants. A good amount was raised for the ODBF and thanks go to all the ringers and sponsors for their efforts.

The Branch AGM was held at Shipton-u-Wychwood in March. New members' certificates were presented by Colin Lee, our Branch Steward.

All Branch officers remain as before, with one exception. Chris Seers stood down as Deputy Ringing Master and thanks were extended to her for her support over several years in that post. Claire Tarrant had indicated that she was willing to take on that role and was subsequently elected.

*Five Rings Doubles* practices for all Branch members have been held in the Burford Benefice on two Saturday mornings, in preparation for the Olympics. The Branch practice at Fulbrook, in April, which had a very high attendance of members, gave further opportunities to try this out along with the usual methods.

Members of Leaffield tower rang to mark the centenary of the Titanic disaster at noon on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> April, following a request from a former resident whose father was the ship's captain.

Some towers were able to ring for St. George's Day. The ringers included Diane Bunney, who had completed the London Marathon the previous day. Many congratulations to her.

Several members have been ill over the last few months including, most recently, Keith Mitchell, our Branch Ringing Master. We send them all our best wishes for full recoveries.

Christine Harris

## **East Berks and South Bucks**

*There is currently no Branch Sec. and no news has been received from EBSB. Ed.*

## Newbury

The Branch Quarter Peal week was held in February, and quarters were rung at 24 towers, which involved all but one of our ringable towers. 58 ringers took part and a total of 55 methods, principals and variations were rung including 8 Treble Bob Minimus, rung and named for the first time. Several ringers scored their first quarter peal, first in method, first as conductor, and so on. Thatcham hosted a first ladies quarter, which was also the first ladies quarter on 10 in the branch.

Performances earlier in the week bear footnotes commemorating the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of HM the Queen's accession to the throne. The week concluded with a branch dinner where anecdotes and experiences of the week were exchanged. Before the speeches there was a brief musical interlude performed by Jacob Pennington, our young Hungerford member, on his accordion. By general consent all tower fees for the week, a total of £165, were donated to the *Sponsored Ringing Week*, in aid of the ODG Bell Fund.

Thatcham rang its 1000<sup>th</sup> peal in December, local press and radio reported the event, it being the first time this had been achieved in the home counties. The peal was conducted by Bill Butler for whom it was also his 800<sup>th</sup> peal in the tower. On completing the peal a reception was held in the church hall where Bill was presented with a magnum of champagne by The Revd Mark Bennet, Thatcham's Team Rector.

Thatcham was again in the news for its quarter peal record; the analysis of 2011 showed them to be 3<sup>rd</sup> with 37 quarter peals in the unofficial *2011 Quarter Peal Analysis* printed in issue no: 5268 of the Ringing World. The same edition mentioned two Thatcham members in the *Leading Quarter Peal Ringers 2011*, both Jo Pocock & Ben Waller on 110 quarter peals each.

Work on Great Shefford has started; we were hopeful that the bells would be returned and installed in time for the Diamond Jubilee celebration. Unfortunately the completion date has been delayed and it is more likely that they will be installed and ready for ringing for the Olympics.

A new band for Great Shefford is being taught at East Ilsley under the guidance of John Hibbert, and a few attend practices at Brightwalton where another band of learners is under tuition from Mark Robins & David Vince. Hopefully by June/July both Brightwalton and Great Shefford ringers will be competent and a very welcome addition to the Branch. The first Great Shefford member of the Branch was elected at the Branch Practice in April.

Branch practices continue to be well attended with all abilities catered for, unfortunately the weather conditions in February resulted in only six members managing to get to Stanford Dingley but for those six the evening was instructive and worthwhile.

Quarter & Curry evening are still very popular with a new variation added of a Quarter & Takeaway.

Looking forward to the rest of 2012, we have the annual branch outing in May and our branch social & 6-bell striking competition in July, plus of course ringing for the Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics. Two towers, Newbury and Thatcham are on the route of the Olympic torch and will be ringing as it passes.  
Maureen Tarbox

## **North Bucks**

2011 ended with our regular Christmas celebration, this year held at Fenny Stratford and enjoyed by 30 or so attendees. After the carol service we all tucked into a fish and chip supper followed by an excellent quiz.

The focus in early 2012 was *The Big Ring Pull*, our large-scale recruitment and training project. The first event was at the Milton Keynes shopping centre, on Saturday February 12<sup>th</sup>, where the sight and sounds of the Charmborough ring [*see back cover*] captured the attention of hundreds of shoppers. The public was able to watch demonstration ringing, have a go themselves, read the display boards and take away information. Over 80 people signed up for the next stage, a “have a go” day at Downs Barn two weeks later, and a huge effort was put into collating all the names captured and following up with everyone who had signed up.

At the Downs Barn day there was a professional approach to recruitment and engagement, with a rolling video, display stands, information points, not to mention tea and coffee and lots of enthusiastic volunteers. All the newcomers were able to watch demonstration ringing – individual bell, rounds and method ringing – and were then matched up with a trainer to have a go at backstrokes; some managed even more than this. At the end of the day 41 people had willingly signed onto the intensive 2-week training programme and two lapsed ringers were brought out of hibernation.

The 2-week training course was held at Newport Pagnell in early March, using the simulator kindly funded through the Guild. Each learner attended 5 sessions of 2 hours duration: a meticulously planned mix of physical bell handling interspersed with non-physical sessions, i.e. terminology, the social side of ringing, history, rope tying, handbells etc. Most learners achieved ringing a bell unaided, and were able to take part in rounds at the final session. During the course, a hand-over to local towers was co-ordinated, so that all the learners were introduced to their respective tower captains, or representative from the band. Thirty-eight new ringers have now been dispersed around the branch, reinforcing 14 different towers. Two towers previously without a band, Downs Barn and Wavendon, have now established new bands and have commenced regular practices.

The learners have completed an online survey, from this we have some valuable feedback about the recruitment process which we will happily share with another branch or Guild who may want to launch a similar recruitment campaign. Ongoing contact with the group of learners is being maintained, so that they can continue to meet and develop together at regular branch practices or special learner practices, and we aim to run a special Milton Keynes outing for them later in 2012.

Shortly after *The Big Ring Pull*, the branch held its AGM on 25th April at Great Linford, attended by 34 members. Our monthly branch practices and rounds and call change practices continue to be well supported, and our summer social and striking competition is to be held on June 16th at Padbury.

Jonathan Griggs

## **Old North Berks**

Our autumn social event was a barn dance and supper in East Hagbourne village hall in November. The evening was a great success, with over eighty branch members and friends turning up to enjoy live music and entertainment by the Mad Hatters Band. Thanks go to Jill Garlick and the East Hagbourne ringers for organising the event, providing supper and a bar, and for raising funds for the Branch.

New Year 2012 got off to a good start on 2<sup>nd</sup> January when the Harwell ringers hosted our New Year's ringing and refreshments, and we extend our thanks to them. Unfortunately attendance at our monthly branch practices continues to be variable. However we are still managing to ring the two methods specially selected for each practice and the joint ringing masters make every effort to ensure that all attendees have an opportunity to ring many other methods that they are learning. Attendance at our mid-week afternoon training sessions continues to be good, as does that at most of the surprise major practices held in alternate months.

We had a slight reduction in membership in 2011 to 266, however we have already gained sixteen new members from nine towers so far this year. At our AGM in March Lee Pinnington stood down as one of our Ringing Masters because of work commitments. Richard Loyd thanked him for all he had done over the past two years and was pleased to welcome Nick Clarke to join him as a Ringing Master, a position that Nick has carried out most successfully on two previous occasions. It was decided that the Branch will continue with the position of Training Coordinator. Richard thanked Jill Garlick for all her time and efforts in this fledgling role over the past year and encouraged everyone to help her as much as possible.

Congratulations go to Wantage for winning our recent 6-bell striking competition for the second year running. Having been placed equal third in the Guild 6-bell striking competition last October after an absence from striking competition ringing for nearly forty years, we have high hopes for them improving on their excellent performance this autumn. The Branch also managed to raise a cosmopolitan team, drawn from nine different towers, to take part in the Guild 10-bell striking competition at Shrivenham in November.

Our next branch social event will be an outing and barbecue on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June. Philip Roberts is arranging ringing at various towers in the Bicester area in the morning and afternoon, with a pub lunch and afternoon tea. The evening barbecue will be held at the pavilion on the Harwell site. As usual there will be croquet to entertain both the players and the watchers, and everyone is most welcome to join us.

It looks as though the summer will be a really busy time for us, with much ringing already planned to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the Olympic Games.

Gillian Loyd

## **Oxford City**

The Oxford City Branch has been busy as ever over the last few months. St Giles' bells have been reinstated in the tower after a successful re-hang, and the branch experienced them at a practice early in 2012. Branch practices in general have continued to be well attended and with a variety of methods rung. There have also been frequent joint practices with the Witney and Woodstock branch, giving a good opportunity to ring all around the local area.

Towards the end of March the Spring Outing took members of the branch to Huntingdonshire. Temperatures on the day exceeded those of Madrid. The day started at the 12<sup>th</sup> century church in Bourn (8), complete with its crooked spire, and continued onto one of the most architecturally significant churches in the east of England, Gamlingay (8). Lunch stop was at the Duncombe Arms in Waresley, a village itself worthy of mention for the numerous thatched cottages each with a different thatched creature atop them. The afternoon's ringing took in Caxton (6), a village historically noted for its infamous gallows known as the "Caxton Gibbet" and then finished with the 'piece de resistance', Great Gransden (6). It was a very enjoyable day for all concerned.

Good Friday saw Oxford City Branch heading for the 'lost' village of Imber on Salisbury Plain. The urgent need for locations mirroring the villages of Normandy prior to D-Day led to Imber being evacuated for American troops to train for such close-quarter combat conditions. Promises to villagers that they would be able to return to Imber after the war never materialised. In recent years the church has been placed in the hands of the Church Conservation Trust, the current ring of six bells being installed in 2009. A lunchtime meet in West Lavington before proceeding in convoy to the church amidst the MOD land that is usually only traversed by tanks or armoured vehicles was certainly a new and exciting experience for all involved, and was an eye opening and enjoyable day out.

Katherine Stonham

## **Reading**

It was decided that there would be a break from holding the Advent Carol Service, which had been held for many years, so in December the branch practice took place at Caversham and was followed by minced pies and mulled wine. Thanks go to the Caversham Ringers for supplying the refreshments.

January saw the branch practice being held at South Stoke where three new members, all youngsters, were elected to the Guild.

In February the Branch Annual General Meeting was held at Goring. Ringing took place prior to the service of Evensong led by the Rev Mark Blaney. An excellent tea was served in the new hall that has been built on the side of the church, and was followed by the meeting.

There were several posts that required filling and Ann Osborne was elected as our new Chairman and also to the post of Branch Training Officer. James Champion took over the post as one of our Ringing Masters, and Giles Winter as one of our independent examiners. All other Branch Officers were re-elected.

Another important decision to make was the times of the Branch Practices. The Branch has now decided that we try Saturday mornings, generally between 10.00 and 12.00 but some between 10.30 and 12.30 depending on the availability of the bells. The Committee hopes that this will be a popular change. Apart from this change of times for the general Branch Practice the other practices remain the same.

Thanks go to June Wells our past Chairman and Stephen Rossiter our past Ringing Master for all the work they have put in over the past years.

Ken Baker

## **Sonning Deanery**

At the end of July 2011 a group from Twyford (Berks) and neighbouring towers enjoyed a visit to the Winchester area, ringing at four towers including Twyford (Hants).

At our AGM at Easthampstead in February several new members were elected. John Manley agreed to continue as Ringing Master while he remains in this area. It was noted that printing our newsletter was becoming expensive; to alleviate the escalating costs it was decided to curtail the number distributed and – thanks to a kind offer by Arborfield member Andrew Dugdale – to print them ‘in-house’.

Responses to a survey on Branch Practices have led to the branch changing the start-time of Saturday practices in the summer months from 7.30 to 4.30pm. As some respondents did not know what the term ‘branch practice’ meant, the Branch has created a branch information sheet for new members, held on the Branch website, that explains what our branch (in addition to the Guild) offers. This information sheet is printed and added to the joining pack and certificate issued by the Guild to new members. The *Services* page of the Branch website has also been improved to make it easier for ringers to locate towers that they



have not visited before. The Branch thanks John Harrison for proposing and carrying out all these improvements.

A second pagoda (bric-a-brac) sale was held in Woodley shopping centre at the end of March by Sonning ringers (& friends), raising around £350 for the ODG Bell Fund. Many thanks to all those who helped on a very cold day.

Our 6-bell striking competition at Finchampstead in April attracted five entries. Sonning were placed 1<sup>st</sup> with 46 faults (*see photo on previous page*), followed by Wokingham All Saints (53) and Finchampstead came third with 73 faults – the first time they had competed for many years.

Andrew & Pam Elliston

## **South Oxon**

South Oxon branch ended 2011 with a branch practice at Warborough. Although the turnout was light, we ended the evening with mince pies, tea and good company – always a treat!

We began 2012 on an equally social note, with a fantastic branch practice in January. We rang at Shabbington (a lovely ring of six) and twenty two people turned out. As there were so many, we had shift groups between in the warm ringing chamber and in the colder church. There were biscuits and tea to warm us and it was an excellent opportunity to chat with some of the newer ringers in the branch!

In February we held our AGM at Chalgrove with ringing, a service and tea. It was lovely to see the young Chalgrove ringers (and I'd like to acknowledge appreciation for their help with the tea). All of the officers remained in post this year. We presented sixteen Guild membership certificates to a mix of new members and transferring members.

For the Leap Year sponsored ringing, the South Oxon Branch raised £510, with the lion's share coming from Aston Rowant! Well Done!!

Our Tower Twinning exchanges are continuing. This spring we have: Aston Rowant and Little Milton, Drayton St Leonard and Benson, and Shabbington and Chalgrove with visiting each other for a practice night. Unfortunately we are not having a Spring Outing due to either lack of interest or, I suspect, very busy family lives!

We have quite a lot of things to look forward to in the spring/summer. South Oxon is hosting the Guild Ringing Day on 7<sup>th</sup> May. We hope to see many of you there from our branch! I'm sure many of you share in the following comment: "We are also making plans for St George's Day, the Jubilee celebration and ringing for the Olympic Games."

Amy Herlihy

## **Vale of the White Horse**

Our Annual Dinner was held at the Horse and Jockey in Stanford in the Vale. Thanks to Jo Mitchell for organising an enjoyable evening and coping with the last minute search for a new venue after her first choice closed unexpectedly!

The Branch AGM at Coleshill was well attended, with all but one of our towers with members represented. Most of the officers were happy to continue in post and were re-elected unopposed. Julian Watson stood down after seven years as Treasurer and we have yet to find a replacement. Jon Chamberlain takes over as Deputy Ringing Master from Darran Ricks. First quarter peal certificates were presented to Andrew Slater and Jonathan Wright.

We raised £145.60 for the Guild Bell Fund during sponsored ringing week. Quarter peals were rung at Shrivenham and Longcot, and Ashbury ringers organised a 'ring and bake' with call changes before morning service, and a cake sale after the service.

Lucy Laird

## **Witney and Woodstock**

In December many Branch members gathered at St. Mary's in Witney to celebrate Terry Hester's huge achievement and extraordinary service of ringing bells at the church for 50 years, including 20 years as Ringing Master. A peal of Stedman Triples was rung at St. Mary's on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> April to recognise and celebrate this outstanding service to the church. This was the 250<sup>th</sup> peal on the bells.

Branch practices continue on a monthly basis, which are supplemented with monthly single method, minor, triples and major practices. Eight bell practices are now shared with the City Branch, with both branches benefiting from increased opportunities to ring triples and major methods, including Stedman and Cambridge.

North Leigh hosted our AGM in February and we are grateful to Alison Merryweather-Clarke for making the arrangements for the church service and teas afterwards. Roger Barnes has taken on the role of Chairman and Michael Probert the role of Hon. Secretary. Many thanks were given to Mel Leggett and Anthony Williamson for their dedicated work to the committee over past years as Chairman and Hon. Secretary respectively.

The Branch was very sorry to lose two of its members in the space of two days in February. Both Pete Burden and Peter Coveney made huge contributions to many towers in very different ways. Their lives and achievements have been celebrated with quarter peals and they are sorely missed.

Richard White kindly organised the branch quiz night at *Woodstock Bowls & Tennis Club* in February. Once again the evening was a huge success with delicious food being provided by each team. The tension and excitement mounted towards the end of the quiz, as at the close of the final round Combe and Stonesfield were tied in first place. A tie-break question resulted in victory for Stonesfield.

Congratulations to Emma Hewitt at Freeland and Nathaniel Miles at South Leigh for ringing their first quarter peals. Congratulations also to Neil Ephgrave who has successfully rung 18 quarter peals in the 12 months since he started ringing. A remarkable achievement indeed.

Michael Probert



## Points from Peals

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At the time of writing, some 55 peals have been rung for the Guild this year, 30 tower bell peals and 25 on handbells.

There have been three first peelers, and congratulations should be extended to them. All these peals had a second point of note. Firstly, Andrew Freer rang his first peal at St. Giles, Oxford on 25<sup>th</sup> February, which was the first peal on the bells since they were retuned and rehung. Secondly, Samantha Martin rang her first peal at All Saints, High Wycombe on 18<sup>th</sup> February. This was also the last peal on the bells before they were taken out of the tower for a new ring to be installed. Lastly, the peal at Englefield on 31<sup>st</sup> March was Hannah Martin's first peal, rung on her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. The peal was rung in memory of Hannah's mother, Cathy Martin, on the tenth anniversary of her death, at the tower where she rang.

Other personal achievements include Jack Page's first handbell peal, John Wells' 400<sup>th</sup> handbell peal, Stuart Gibson's 250<sup>th</sup> peal, Martin Crick's first peal of Royal, Ken Davenport's 150<sup>th</sup> peal as conductor, Bernard Groves and Graham John's 700<sup>th</sup> peal together and Oliver Cross' 50<sup>th</sup> peal on handbells. Robert Newton also rang a handbell peal on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his first peal.

One of the more notable anniversaries during the first quarter of the year was the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne, which was on 6<sup>th</sup> February. A number of peals were rung to commemorate this event. HM Queen Elizabeth II will celebrate her official Diamond Jubilee on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2012, and I am sure that many more peals will be rung to signify this historic occasion.

In terms of handbell ringing, 13<sup>th</sup> February marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first peal of Yorkshire Surprise Maximus on handbells, and a peal was rung to commemorate this event. The peal was also rung in memory of Peter Staniforth, who passed away the previous week and was the conductor of the first peal. Likewise, a handbell peal of Bristol Surprise Maximus was rung to mark the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first peal of Bristol Maximus on handbells.

Another peal of note is the peal at Great Linford on 14<sup>th</sup> January, which was rung as a compliment to Reverend Peter Balantine, former rector of St. Andrews, who was installed as an Honorary Canon of Oxford Cathedral that day.

On a more humorous note, a band of ageing romantics celebrated Valentine's Day with a peal of Myluv Surprise Royal.

Finally, it is with great sadness that the ringing fraternity has lost some of its greatly valued members of the Exercise. Peals were rung in fond memory and in celebration of the lives of Harold Rogers, Harry Wells of Harwell, Brian Price, Joyce Cornwall, and Peggy Newman. Also, a peal at Langley remembered Andrew Brown, father of David Brown, long-time resident in Langley and worshipper at the church, five years on from his death.

Claire F. Roulstone, Peal Secretary

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**Witney &**

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# Diary of Events for 2012

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	Subject to confirmation	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 2012

Tue	1	Chipping Norton	BP	Chipping Norton (8)	7.30–9pm
Tue	1	CBB	8 Bell Practice	Aylesbury	7.30–9pm
<b>Mon</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Guild</b>	<b>SC</b>	<b>Heats TBC,</b>	
<b>Mon</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Guild</b>	<b>Annual Ringing Day</b>	<b>Final Benson</b>	
				<b>South Oxon</b>	
				<b>Branch</b>	
Thu	10	ONB	BP	Sunningwell (6)	7.30pm–9pm
Sat	12	CBB	SC (6)	Drayton Parslow	7–8.30pm
Mon	14	Banbury	BP	Bodicote	7.30pm
Tue	15	CBB	6 Bell Practice	Stewkley	7.30–9pm
Fri	18	Banbury	SP	Steeple Aston	7.30pm
<b>Sat</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>Guild</b>	<b>AGM</b>	<b>Wokingham, St.</b>	
				<b>Paul's</b>	
Fri	25	EBSB	10/12 Bell Practice	Amersham (12)	7.45pm – 9.15pm
Sat	26	Banbury	Doubles and Minor Practice	Hanwell	11am – 12.30pm
Sat	26	CBB	Advanced Practice	Quainton	7–8.30pm
Sat	26	EBSB	SP	Hughenden (8)	7pm – 9pm
<b>Sat/</b>	<b>26/</b>	<b>Guild</b>	<b>Diamond Jubilee Ringing</b>		
<b>Sun</b>	<b>27</b>				

## JUNE 2012

<b>Tue</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Guild</b>	<b>The Queen's Diamond Jubilee</b>	<b>Bank Holiday</b>	
Tue	5	CBB	8 Bell Practice	Aylesbury	7.30-9pm
Tue	5	Sonning	Practice	Binfield (6)	2pm-4pm (TBC)
Sat	9	EBSB	SC + BP	Penn (6)	5pm (SC) 7pm (BP)
Sat	9	CBB	BP	Hardwick	7-8.30pm
Mon	11	Chipping Norton	BP	Spelsbury (6)	7.30pm-9pm
Tue	12	ONB	BP	Milton (8)	7.30pm-9pm
Sat	16	SNB	BP	Shottesbrooke (6)	4.30pm-6pm (TBC)
Tue	12	CBB	6 Bell Practice	Stewkley	7.30pm-9pm
Sat	23	CBB	8 Bell Advanced	Aylesbury	7-8.30pm
Sat	23	South Oxon	BP	Berrick Salome (6)	7pm
Sat	23	EBSB	Novices Practice	Denham (8)	4pm-6.30pm
Fri	29	EBSB	BP	Marlow (8)	2.30pm- 4.30pm
Sat	30	Chiltern	8 and 10 Bell Practice	Aston Clinton	7.30pm - 9.30pm

## JULY 2012

Mon	2	Chipping Norton	BP	Wiggington (6)	7.30pm–9pm
Tue	3	Sonning	BP	Binfield (6)	2pm–4pm (TBC)
Tue	3	CBB	8 Bell Practice	Aylesbury	7.30–9pm
<b>Mon- Wed</b>	<b>9- 11</b>	<b>Guild</b>	<b>Olympic Torch Relay Ringing</b>		<b>TBA</b>
Sat	14	CBB	BP + Meeting	Wing	7pm–8.30pm
Sat	14	EBSB	SP	Hambleden (8)	7pm–9pm
Tue	17	CBB	6 Bell Practice	Stewkley	7.30pm–9pm
Sat	21	Sonning	BP	Hurst (8)	4.30pm–6pm
<b>Fri</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>Guild</b>	<b>Olympic Opening ceremony</b>		<b>ringing</b>
Sat	28	CBB Oxon	8 Bell Advanced	Cuddington	7–8.30pm
Sat	28	South Oxon	BP	Brightwell	7–8.30pm
				Baldwin (6)	
Sat	28	EBSB	SC (Novices)	Chalfont St. Peter (6)	5pm–7pm

## AUGUST 2012

Wed	1	Chipping Norton	BP	Charlbury (6)	7.30pm – 9.00pm
Sat	4	Chiltern	8 and 10 Bell Practice	Aston Clinton (10)	7.30pm – 9.30pm
Tue	7	CBB	8 Bell Practice	Aylesbury	7.30–9pm
Wed	8	ONB	BP	Childrey (8)	7.30pm–9pm
Sat	11	EBSB	10 Bell Practice	Cookham (10)	5pm–6.30pm
Sat	11	CBB	BP	Gt Horwood	7pm–8.30pm
Sat	11	EBSB	10 Bell Practice	Cookham (10)	5pm–6.30pm
Fri	17	EBSB	BP	Stoke Poges (8)	2.30pm– 4.30pm
Sat	18	CBB	6 Bell Practice	Stewkley	7.30pm–9pm
Sat	18	Sonning	BP	Binfield (6)	4.30 – 6pm
Sat	25	EBSB	Novices Practice	Clewer (6)	4pm–6.30pm
Sat	25	CBB	8 Bell Advanced	Haddenham	7pm–8.30pm

## SEPTEMBER 2012

Tue	4	CBB	8 Bell Progress	Aylesbury	7.30–9pm
Tue	4	Sonning	BP	Binfield (6)	2pm–4pm (TBC)
Fri	7	Chipping Norton	BP	Burford (8)	7.30–9pm
Sat	8	EBSB	SP	Chalfont St. Giles (8)	7pm–9pm
Sat	8	CBB	Outing	tba	
Tue	11	ONB	BP	Abingdon, St. Nicolas (6)	7.30pm–9pm
Sat	15	Sonning	BP	Wargrave (8)	4.30pm–6pm
Thu	20	CBB	6 Bell Practice	Stewkley	7.30pm–9pm
Sat	22	EBSB	Out of Branch Practice	TBA	TBA
Sat	22	CBB	8 Bell Advanced	Winslow	7–8.30pm
Sat	22	South Oxon	BP	TBA (10)	7–8.30pm
Fri	28	EBSB	10/12 Bell Practice	Amersham (12)	7.45pm – 9.15pm
<b>Sat</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>Guild</b>	<b>Michaelmas Training Day</b>	<b>TBA</b>	<b>TBA</b>
Sat	29	Chiltern	8 and 10 Bell Practice	Aston Clinton	7.30pm – 9.30pm

## OCTOBER 2012

Tue	2	CBB	8 Bell Practice	Aylesbury	7.30–9pm
Tue	2	Sonning	BP	Binfield (6)	2pm–4pm (TBC)
<b>Sat</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Guild</b>	<b>SC (Six Bell)</b>	<b>Banbury Branch</b>	
Fri	12	ONB	BP	Letcome Regis (6)	7.30pm–9pm
Sat	13	Chipping Norton	Autumn Meeting	Enstone (6)	Ringing 5.45pm, Meeting 6.30pm
Sat	13	CBB	BP	Quainton	7–8.30pm
<b>Sat</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>Guild</b>	<b>Steeple Aston Course</b>		
Sat	13	South Oxon	Mini Outing		
Sat	13	EBSB	SC + BP	Lane End (6)	SC 5pm BP 7pm
Sat	13	Chipping Norton	Autumn Meeting	Enstone	5.45pm, 6.30 Meeting, ringing after
Tue	16	CBB	6 Bell Practice	Stewkley	7.30–9pm
Sat	20	Sonning	SC (8)	Wokingham, All Saints (8)	10am–1pm
Sat	20	CBB	Chiltern Orchard Cup	Chiltern Branch	
Sat	27	South Oxon	Autumn Meeting	Benson (8)	4–5.30pm
Sat	27	EBSB	Novices Practice	Langley (8)	4pm–6.30pm
Sat	27	CBB	8 Bell Advanced	tba	7–8.30pm

## NOVEMBER 2012

Fri	2	EBSB	BP	Hughenden (8)	2.30pm– 4.30pm
Sat	3	Chiltern	8 and 10 Bell Practice	Aston Clinton	7.30pm – 9.30pm
Tue	6	Chipping Norton	BP	Churchill	7.30pm – 9.00pm
Tue	6	CBB	8 Bell Practice	Aylesbury	7.30 – 9pm
Tue	6	Sonning	BP	Binfield (6)	2pm–4pm (TBC)
Sat	10	EBSB	SP	Beaconsfield (8)	7pm–9pm
Sat	10	CBB	BP	Marsh Gibbon	7–8.30pm
Tue	13	ONB	BP	Cholsey (8)	8.0pm–9.30pm
Thu	15	CBB	6 Bell Practice	Stewkley	7.30–9pm
Sat	17	Sonning	BP + Committee Meeting	Sonning	6pm–7.30pm, 7.30pm–9pm
<b>Sat</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>Guild</b>	<b>SC (Ten Bell)</b>	<b>Central Bucks Branch</b>	<b>Long Crendon</b>
<b>Sat</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>Guild</b>	<b>Autumn General Committee Meeting</b>	<b>Central Bucks Branch</b>	<b>Long Crendon</b>
Sat	24	CBB	8 Bell Advanced	Long Crendon	tbc
Sat	24	EBSB	Novices Practice	Fulmer (6)	4pm–6.30pm

## DECEMBER 2012

<b>Sat</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Guild</b>	<b>10 Bell Training Day</b>	<b>Aston Clinton</b>	<b>TBC</b>
Sat	1	EBSB	10 Bell Practice	Cookham (10)	5pm–6.30pm
Mon	3	Chipping Norton	BP	Leaffield (6)	7.30pm – 9.00pm
Tue	4	CBB	8 Bell Practice	Aylesbury	7.30 – 9pm
Tue	4	Sonning	BP	Binfield (6)	2pm–4pm (TBC)
Sat	8	South Oxon	BP	Ewelme (6)	4–5.30pm
Sat	8	EBSB	BP + Social	TBA	TBA
Sat	8	CBB	BP	Dinton tbc	7–8.30pm
Thu	13	ONB	BP	Wallingford (10)	8.0pm – 9.30pm
Sat	15	Sonning	BP	Arborfield (6)	10.30am–12
Tue	18	CBB	6 Bell Practice	Stewkley	7.30 –9pm
Sat	22	CBB	8 Bell Advanced	tba	7 –8.30pm
Tue	27	EBSB	Outing	TBA	TBA

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF  
CHURCH BELL RINGERS**

**Education Committee**



**STEEPLE ASTON ONE-DAY COURSE**

**Saturday 13th October 2012**

**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 website

[www.odg.org.uk](http://www.odg.org.uk)

**Closing date for applications is 31<sup>st</sup> August 2012**





*Charnborough ring used at The Big Ring Pull*



*10-bell striking competition winners EBSB: L-R clockwise from the back, Alan Ainsworth - Tenor, Sheila Bruce - Treble, Katharine Firman 2, Angela Darvill 3, Patricia Newton 4, Graham Firman 5, George Whiteside 6, Ken Darvill 7, Charles Botting 8, Robert Newton 9 (C)*