



Central Bucks Branch

Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers

Newsletter - Spring 2013

BRANCH OFFICERS 2013

Chairman: Terry Wagstaff 01296 641755 chairman@cbucks.odg.org.uk

Hon Secretary: Diana Slevin 01296 713903 secretary@cbucks.odg.org.uk

Treasurer: John Lomas 01296 682915 treasurer@cbucks.odg.org.uk

Ringling Master: Janice Robinson Tel: 01525 385420 brm@cbucks.odg.org.uk

Deputy Ringling Master: Andrew Haseldine dbrm@cbucks.odg.org.uk

Branch Representatives: vacancy, Caroline Luxford 07729624336
branchrep2@cbucks.odg.org.uk

Branch Steward: Paul Bagni 07976254430 branchsteward@cbucks.odg.org.uk Caroline Luxford
(as above)

Branch Publicity: Ringling Master as above

Branch Training Officer: vacant

Central Bucks Website <http://cbucks.odg.org.uk/wordpress/> webmaster@cbucks.odg.org.uk

Webmaster Ryan Noble

Many thanks to Heather Dobson for all her hard work as Secretary then Ringling Mistress.

Volunteers are needed for vacancies please!

Central Bucks online

Ryan has set up a great new website replacing the defunct one

Website <http://cbucks.odg.org.uk/wordpress/>

In addition CBB is active on Social Networks

Facebook - www.facebook.com/odgcentralbucksbranch

Twitter – www.twitter.com/odgcentralbucks

Ryan is now looking for someone to work alongside him and take over midyear as webmaster as he is now fully occupied with his university and London ringing commitments. So if you are a adept online please contact him to find out more.

Many thanks to Ryan for all his hard work!

Tower News from St Nicholas Chearsley Augmentation Appeal

“DONG - DONG - DONG” is pretty much the sound of the three bells at St Nicholas’ Church Chearsley! With the addition of three new bells, it could be a more tuneful story.

In 2004 the existing three bells were removed, restored, and retuned. As Chearsley draws up plans for its future development and improvement, what better time to enhance and rejuvenate the village’s “ring of bells”. Three new bells to be cast by Whitechapel and hung by Whites will be added to the front of the existing three, giving a ring of six with a tenor of 9 cwt.

The total cost of the project is around £55,000 – and it is hoped that it could come to fruition during 2013 and Chearsley will enjoy a more joyful peal of bells for centuries to come.

One bell has already been sponsored thanks to the local pub ‘The Bell’ and in particular its late landlord. It will be named in his honour ‘The Oliver Bell’. A grant has also been promised from the ODG Restoration Fund, and other fund raising activities are planned.

Teaching new ringers has also started (on tied bells) on the existing three in preparation for the augmentation, with 10 new ringers so far!!

For more information contact Jeremy Pratt Jeremy@jpap.co.uk 01844 201611 or to make a donation please send it, payable to: **St Nicholas’ Church Chearsley PCC** to the treasurer:

Mrs Maureen Gillis Blake House, Cousin’s Piece, Chearsley, Bucks HP18 0EY with your name and address. Please say if you are a UK taxpayer wish it to be Gift Aided

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CBB Annual 6 Bell Striking Competition MURSLEY SATURDAY 11TH MAY

This year the venue is Mursley. As usual the draw will take place at 2:30pm ready for ringing straight after. If your team has special time constraints e.g. because of a wedding, please let me know and we will try and accommodate needs. There is unfortunately a clash with the ODG Bell Maintenance Course which is being held at three local CBB towers.

It would be really nice to get a good number of teams, as in previous years fewer and fewer towers have taken part. This is a fun afternoon, and everyone can take part. If you don’t feel confident ringing a method you can do rounds and call changes – it is not the method which is important it is the quality of the striking. It would be lovely to get some young ringers teams involved too.

As this takes the place of the monthly Branch Practice there will also be open ringing after the competition and as always I’m sure there will be the most delicious afternoon tea. Let’s face it you would pay much more for afternoon tea if you went anywhere else!! Even if you can’t enter a team from your own tower come along and support those that have and get some ringing in afterwards with different people. Rules are available.

See you there! Jan

PS the winners get to represent CBB on Oct 5th at the ODG 6 Bell Striking Comp at Monks Risborough
brm@cbucks.odg.org.uk

HELP!

Are you a keen ringer? Would you like to help your Guild? **Then read on!**
Ringing ability immaterial, though knowledge of the Guild would be helpful in some areas.

It is no longer practical for the Public Relations work of the Guild to be done by one person and so we are hoping to assemble a team of people to cover various aspects of the job. If your 'day job' involves any of these skills you might feel like bringing your know-how to the Guild team.

1. Are you good at art work/photography?
2. Can you write articles?
3. Are you an 'ideas' person?
4. Are you good at co-ordinating projects?
5. Are you a 'people' person who likes communicating with others?
6. Do you have skills in modern, technological communication?

If so, look at some of the work involved in each of these areas.

1. The Guild has two portable exhibitions made up of exhibition stands with a quantity of A4 laminates on every aspect of ringing. These exhibitions can be transported to any part of the Guild to help with Recruitment, open days in the belfry and local 'Shows' which can introduce people to bell ringing. These exhibitions have become tired and out of date and are waiting for someone with the requisite skills to make them more appropriate to the 21st century.
2. Many articles are written each year on all aspects of bell ringing and for many different occasions. A team of people could be deployed to cover them all and there might be something which appeals to you. (Details available on request.)
3. Fresh ideas are always needed to bring in recruits. Thinking 'outside the box' is a talent in itself.
4. The Guild is made up of 15 branches, most of them doing wonderful and different things for ringing. The ideas aren't always shared effectively and could do with someone who can progress this.
5. We are always looking for new ringers. Do you share your enthusiasm for your hobby with your friends and enjoy talking about it to those not in the know? We need to spread the gospel!
6. We particularly need to attract young people. Most young people communicate electronically and are very good at it. Could you promote ringing as the ideal hobby via Facebook and other new media?

This is just a sample of the work to be done in PR. Further information on all these outlines can be sought from senior Guild officers. I did the job for ten years and would be happy to talk to you about any aspect.

Bobbie May: 0118-9884172 b.may2@btinternet.com

The Guild Master, **Robert Newton**, is up to date with everything which is happening in the Guild and is anxious to get together a team as the PR post has been vacant for 4 years.

Robert Newton: 01844-352926 master@odg.org.uk

The General Secretary, would also be pleased to advise. **James Champion:** 0118-9723169 secretary@odg.org.uk (Twitter: @jameschampion3 – and on Facebook)

CBB practices 2013

- * 8 Bell Progress 1st Tuesdays - Aylesbury 7.30-9pm *For those 8 bell ringers who want help and a steady team around them.*
- * CBB Branch practice or event - 2nd Saturdays normally 7-8.30pm , decided on a rota *Everything from Bob Doubles to London, depending on who we get and what is requested!*
- * 6 Bell Progress Practice - 3rd Tuesdays Stewkley 7.30-9.00pm *Beginners to Stedman.*
- * 8 Bell Advanced - 4th Saturdays, decided on a rota normally 7-8.30pm *Depending on numbers and skills, Cambridge and Beyond (may become quarterly)*
- *The Mid week Group meets one Tues/Wed or Thursday to ring at 3 towers *Ringling depends on who we get and what is requested.*

Month	Aylesb	Stewkley	Practice/ other	Advanced
April	2 nd	16 th	13 th North Marston	27 th Cuddington
May B Hols 6 & 27	7 th	21 st	11 th Mursley Striking Comp	25 th <i>pending decision on frequency</i>
June	4 th	18 th	8 th Granborough	22 nd <i>pending decision on frequency</i>
July	2 nd	16 th	13 th Quainton	27 th <i>pending decision on frequency</i>
August	6 th	20 th	10 th Soulbury	24 th <i>pending decision on frequency</i>
September	3 rd	17 th	14 th Outing	28 th Quainton
October	1 st	15 th	12 th Whitchurch Orchard Cup	26 th Aylesbury
November	5 th	19 th	9 th Long Crendon? tba	23 rd Cuddington? tba
December	3 rd	17 th	14 th Wingrave? tba	28 th <i>pending decision on frequency</i>
2014				
January			11 th Xmas Dinner	
February			8 th AGM	

Guild Dates (more information at <http://odg.org.uk>)

April 23rd St Georges Day

The ODG Master is calling on towers to support the Ringing for England Campaign

www.ringingforengland.co.uk and join in by ringing. Ideal time is 6pm but anytime is appreciated.

Please inform him what you do

May 6th ODG Ringing Day EBSB & 8 Bell Striking Comp

May 18th ODG AGM – Ascott under Wychwood

Oct 5th ODG 6 Bell Striking Comp at Monks Risborough

Oct 12th ODG Course Steeple Aston

Nov 23rd PDG General Committee Meeting & 10 Bell Striking Comp Newbury

GEORGE EDMANS BELL FUND FAQs

At the CBB AGM 2013 it was decided to maintain and revitalise the George Edmans Bell Fund (also known as the CBB Bell Fund). It is a charity but not a Registered one. The official 'Rules' have been circulated but this is a quick guide.

What is it for?

To provide financial assistance to Churches in the Central Bucks Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers for the purpose of maintaining and improving their bell installations. Financial assistance will be limited to minor works including new ropes, fittings such as pulleys, wheels, sliders and stays, repairing or replacing clappers.

And what NOT?

for major work such as bell re-hanging, augmentation or new frames

Who can apply for a grant?

Any paid up ringer from a CBB tower

And how?

Write to the CBB Secretary with full details of the work and costings including other possible sources of funding. A pro forma is available. Any claim will be acknowledged within a week

Who Decides?

The Fund Managers, who are the CBB Officers, will meet asap to decide.

When does the grant get paid?

The grant will only be paid when the work is satisfactorily completed. The offer will lapse after a year.

How is it run?

The Fund has to be an Agenda item at each CBB AGM. The accounts are maintained by the CBB Treasurer and audited with the CBB accounts. Amendments to the Rules can only be made at an AGM with the change having been circulated at least a month beforehand

How can we keep it going?

If the Fund is to thrive, not only do grants need to be made but CBB ringers need to Fundraise to keep the balance buoyant. One simple method is to ask all members to add a small donation to their annual subscription another for a collection at CBB practices... *can you think of other ideas?*

So if your tower has no money but has grotty ropes, sloppy sliders and clunky clappers why not work out what you need and how much it will cost and apply.

Phone or email Diana Slevin the CBB Secretary for a form 01296 713903

secretary@cbucks.odg.org.uk (it will also be available soon via the website)

and please remember to send donations to CBB Treasurer John Lomas
treasurer@cbucks.odg.org.uk

***30 Church Street, Wing
Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire, LU7 0NY***

Wedding Ringers Register

*Are you a competent ringer who enjoys ringing in other towers and for weddings? Or
Are you a Tower Captain with too many weddings and too few ringers to cope?*

Don't forget the Wedding Ringers Register that seeks to help match supply and demand
Send your details or request through to Diana Slevin 01296 713903 secretary@cbucks.odg.org.uk

Remember remuneration rates may vary!

Brief Notes on Safeguarding

(Devised from a circular by Katie Lane ODG Childrens' Officer 15/02/13 children@odg.org.uk)

- It is essential that our ringers, towers and branches buy in to good practice
- Bell ringers who teach or train children must be checked
- Where under 18yr olds are present, a register should be kept
- It is good practice never to allow a child to be alone with an adult
- Ensure that a child's parent has signed a permission to ring form before they attend alone
- We need to be more aware of e-safety

A new Disclosure & Barring Service (DBA) replaces the ISA & CRB. This will in due course cut red tape and the need for multiple applications

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ODG TOWERS & BELFRIES COMMITTEE BASIC BELL MAINTENANCE COURSE

Based at Whitchurch (north of Aylesbury) SATURDAY 11th MAY 2013 10 am to 4 pm Cost £10

- Hands-on practice of inspection & fault finding on real bells
- Regular maintenance
- Working safely amongst bells
- Questions answered

Contact Anthony Williamson: anthony.williamson@tiscali.co.uk
3 Church Cottages, Combe, Witney, OX29 8NS (01993 891 680)
Tea & coffee available - pub lunch or bring packed lunch

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COLIN'S CLASSES @ ASTON CLINTON RINGING CENTRE

on the fourth Saturday of every month, 10.00 am to noon at Aston Clinton
CAN HELP!

Warm welcome, plenty of experienced helpers, easy-going bells
Please ring 01296 630411 or email colin.walter@mypostoffice.co.uk
; Apr 27; May 25; Jun 22; Jul 27; Aug 24; Sep 28; Oct 26; Nov 23; Dec 14 (2nd Sat)

Requests for particular methods (Stedman, Plain & Little Bob Minor etc) welcomed.

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Editorial sign off! This is my last newsletter as Jan Robinson is kindly taking back over ! Bye from Di!