



Central Bucks Branch

Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers

Newsletter August 2008

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As the summer rolls on there are always people away or planning to go off to some exotic place or another, so for those who have done – I hope you had a good time, for those about to do – I hope you have a good time.

However wonderful your holidays have been or will be, please don't forget to leave some space and money for the upcoming Branch Outing. You should know by now that everything has been arranged and a coach has been booked which I am now looking to fill. It will be a long day but hopefully we should get in some really good ringing.

What else? Oh yes, please don't forget the Orchard Cup, to be held this year at Wooton Underwood. The church is in a lovely setting and if the weather is good then a picnic tea will be most enjoyable – supplied by us as usual. Let's see if we can get a really good competition going this year; we don't want to be beaten by Chiltern Branch if we can possibly help it.

Well, I am off for the weekend so I will leave the decisions up to all of you as to whether you are going to make this a good ringing summer.

Incidentally, Ryan Noble filmed the Aylesbury, Wing (A) and East Claydon teams throughout their test pieces at the 6-bell Striking Competition. If you would like to view these, just go to www.youtube.com and use the search box to type Aylesbury/Wing/East Claydon Striking Competition! You can read his account of the proceedings starting on Page 8.

Editor: Jan Robinson

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Hi Ringing Folk.

Have you ever wondered why so many of us bell ringers never set foot in the church to support our local priests when he or she holds a service? And do you think it is the right thing to do to always go out of the west door after ringing whatever is going on in the church?

Here is a question for those of us that do disappear straight after ringing. Do we expect the priest to support us when we under take tasks as ringers like help with fund raising for bell maintenance, or any major project such as augmentation of new bells? And the answer to that is 'yes we do'? So why do we not support the priest occasionally. Many of you say that you just go for the bell ringing. Just think of it this way - No church - no bell ringing.

As churches all over the country are closing at the rate of one or two a year due to no congregation or no priest, what can we do as bell ringers to make sure it does not happen to our local church? Please think of this carefully when you all finish bell ringing for a Sunday service.

Onto the Branch Six Bell Striking Contest held at Great Horwood in June; what a pleasure it was to have five teams enter. The day was great fun and I think every one who came enjoyed the day; bright sunshine, nice food and good company. What else do you need? Well done AGAIN to Mike Dodd and his team from Aylesbury who came first, and Wing A team who came second. And my thanks to the rest of the teams that entered, it was fantastic to see you all there and enjoying your selves. And a big 'thank you' to Alan Marchbank for giving up his time on a Saturday to judge the competition.

And do not forget folks the branch outing in September. It promises to be a good day out, but hurry, coach seats are going fast. Contact Jan Robinson as quickly as possible please.

That's all folks

Andrzej

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01884 – 201 885 ann.mayou@btinternet.com

Guil d Diary

2009

See odd bob for details

Don't forget to book your place on the Branch Outing.

Saturday 12th September 2009

Application forms have been sent to all tower correspondents.

Contact Jan Robinson

Deadline - 22nd August.

Hope to see you there!

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Branch Officers

Branch Chairman:	Andrzej Puchalski	01296 688849	andrzej3bob@btinternet.com
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Training Officer:	Halisi Drysdale	07921 337816	hal@hdcdevelopments.co.uk

Branch Diary

Branch Practices are from 6.30pm - 8.30pm unless otherwise stated.

2009

August 8 th	Branch Practice	Marsh Gibbon
September 12 th	Branch Outing	Suffolk
October 11 th	Orchard Cup	Wooton Underwood
November 14 th	Branch Practice	Long Crendon
December 12 th	Branch Practice	Dinton

**'Make every second Saturday of the month
a Ringling Day'**



ODG Circulars

Outline of recent mailings May-July

From the ODG AGM

Stewards:

Christine Cable: Chipping Norton, Oxford City, S Oxon.

David Joyce: Banbury, Bicester, Chiltern.

Rachel Moss: Sonning Deanery, EBSB, Newbury.

Ed Houghton: Central Bucks, North Bucks, Reading.

Lorna Smale: Witney & Woodstock, VOWH, Old North Berks.

Honorary Members / Distinguished Membership

Since the AGM, no new Honorary Ringing Members (HRMs) can be elected. Those who are currently HRMs will remain as such. In its place Distinguished Membership can be awarded to a Resident Ringing Member of the Guild who has been a member for at least 30 years and given meritorious service to the branch or Guild.

More from the AGM & Distinguished membership on the website:

http://www.odg.org.uk/reports/odg_2009_agm_review.html

Training

Advanced: **Michaelmas Training Day.**

Saturday, September 26th 2009 10.00 – 20.30

Shinfield Ringing Centre Cost £20. Limited places for late booking in.

Groups 1. Kent & Oxford Treble Bob + Little Bob Minor;

3. Grandsire & Stedman; Kent Treble Bob;

4. Little Bob & Double Norwich

6. More Advanced Surprise Major

Phone Lucy Walpole or Mike Till 01256 350718 or email Mike on: mike.mktill@gmail.com to check availability.

Basic: **Steeple Aston One Day Course**

Saturday 31st October 9.15-20.30 (close date 15th Sept) Plain Hunting to Plain Bob Major.

Further details & application forms from, steepleastoncourse@odg.org.uk
Richard Stanworth, 11 Valley Road, Buckingham, MK18 7BW. (SAE please).

Central Council Items

The Steward of the **Rolls of Honour** (ringers who died during the Great War and WWII) calls for ALL ringers to be vigilant if they are reading peal boards in towers they are visiting or anywhere else where mention might be made of ringers who died in action. The records are incomplete and he is calling for anyone who has observed a memorial like this to ringers to get in touch with him with names, and if the locals are knowledgeable, photos. This is something we could all do to help. If so, please contact the Steward on aregin@spitalfieldse1.freemove.co.uk or via the Central Council website.

Education from Claire Bell, ODG's Education Contact [I] try to provide a point of contact for you should you wish to make any enquiries about any of the CC Education courses on offer or just find out how we might be able to help you, if required. We have a website which details the courses, and we are shortly going to be compiling a newsletter with updated course information in which will be sent round to everyone. <http://www.cccbr.org.uk/education/> The website outlines the courses and various teaching books, and also contains links to various teaching materials which can be freely downloaded plus information on teaching resources and young people.

Please don't hesitate to contact me claire.bell@chch.ox.ac.uk

Keeping up to date

If you do not have an email tower contact for regular odg news why not ask a tower member to take on the role or supply a number of self addressed stamped envelopes (if A4 remember to use 'large' stamps) for a monthly catch up or visit www.odg.org.uk

Jt CBB secretary Diana Slevin secretary@cbucks.odg.org.uk
2 Redfield Cottages, Buckingham Road, Winslow, Buckingham MK18 3LZ
01296 713903

Special Practices

6 Bell Ringing

Throughout this year the Branch has been running a series of practices dedicated to developing specific areas of ringing for those who would like to make progress in their change ringing.

In addition to the regular monthly branch practices, which operate as a free for all, there is a Tuesday practice where the aim is to allow individuals the opportunity of ringing what they want to ring, with a band of competent ringers. Each touch is arranged specifically for the individual, so that other, perhaps less competent, ringers do not impede the progress of the individual whose turn it is.

At present we have perhaps 8 learners attending regularly, and they are working through from plain hunt on 5, Plain Bob Doubles, Grandsire Doubles and up to Treble Bobbing and Cambridge Minor. We can, of course, ring anything required so, if there is anything you would like to try, just come along.

Until the end of 2009 the practices are being held at Stewkley, 7.30 to 9pm. The dates, slightly irregular unfortunately, but all Tuesdays, are as follows:

15th September

13th October

10th November

8th December

8 Bell Ringing

The words “Surprise Major” are apt to strike fear into the hearts of those who do not ring such things. Of course, such fears are irrational, but there is undoubtedly an assumption that such ringing is elitist. Not so. It is there as a development of change ringing which is there for everyone, provided there are enough ringers to do it! Like anything else, it requires learning and practise.

Fortunately, in the CBB, there has been a regular practice which has been running for over 30 years, which is dedicated to providing the opportunity for ringers to progress into Surprise Major ringing. Far from being elitist, this practice welcomes interest from anyone willing to try. We do however expect newcomers to at least be change ringers - from there onwards it's just a case of helping them to acquire the different skills required and we will, where necessary, ring other 7 or 8 bell methods to help them bridge the gap.

Why not come and give it a try? You will be well looked after. After all, it is in the interests of the Surprise Major band to look after people who would like to try it - otherwise the local Surprise Major ringing may die out.

These practices are currently held on the third Thursday of the month and are usually at Haddenham or Cuddington. If you are interested, please let me know and I will add you to the email list for notifying practices. You will then at least know when and where the practices are, with no pressure to attend until you're ready.

Dates for the rest of the year are:-

20th August

17th September

15th October

19th November

17th December

10 Bell Ringing

I'm sure the Long Crendon ringers won't mind me mentioning that their weekly practice on 10 bells is held every Thursday.

For further information about any of these practices, please contact me, Ed Houghton, on 01296 688951.

Branch Striking Competition 2009

This year's striking competition was held at St James' Church, Great Horwood, where there are 6 bells, with a tenor of 16-0-10 in F. There were six teams that entered, who were, in the order that they rang:

1st - St. Mary's, Aylesbury

2nd - St. Laurence's, Winslow

3rd - All Saints, Wing (A)

4th - All Saints, Wing (B)

5th - Winslow 'Scratch' Team

6th - St. Mary's, East Claydon

So, once the ringers and the judge (+ trainee judge) were ready in their places, the first team began; the practice was two minutes of whatever the team wanted to ring, then 4 strikes (or more for some of us!!) of the treble signified to the judges that the test piece was to follow. The test piece consisted of one minute of rounds followed by either 120 changes of any method or call changes with every bell (apart from the tenor) coming down to lead.

In the order the teams rang...

1: Aylesbury

The band was:

- Anne Aylett, 1.
- Sue Gomm, 2
- Ann Pedley, 3.
- Grant Edney, 4.
- Mike Dodd, 5.
- Pam Reeve, 6.



Aylesbury rang Grandsire for their test piece.



2: Winslow

Ringers:

- Liz Watson, 1.
- Heather Dobson, 2.
- Paul Bagni, 3.
- Jo Anderson, 4.
- Ryan Noble, 5.
- David Moore, 6.

The Winslow team rang Plain Hunt.

The first comment from the judge was that the Winslow team started off at a quicker pace than Aylesbury and that it can be good to ring faster because it can cover up some of the mistakes!



3: Wing A

Ringers:

- Sue Houghton, 1.
- Ed Houghton, 2.
- Ian Greenlee, 3.
- Hal Drysdale, 4.
- Andrzej Puchalski, 5.
- Edmund Waller, 6.

The Wing A team rang
Grandsire Doubles

4: Wing B

Ringers:

- Richard Goldson, 1.
- Nicola Kimber, 2.
- Jan Robinson, 3.
- Hal Drysdale, 4.
- Ernie Weight, 5.
- John Benson, 6.

Wing B team rang rounds and
call changes for their test
piece.



5: The 'Scratch' team

Ringers:

- Heather Dobson, 1.
- Margaret Lowery, 2.
- Jan Lewis, 3.
- Paul Bagni, 4.
- Ryan Noble, 5.
- David Moore, 6.

The scratch team entered at last minute, when it was found out that we had quite a while to wait before East Claydon. So the Winslow ringers decided to have another band for the people that were doing the Teas. This team also rang rounds and call changes. The judge commented that it was good to get the some of the newer ringers into the competition.



6: East Claydon

Ringers: Jo Osborne, 1.

David Moore, 2.

Jane Shrimpton, 3.

Jeremy Gilliland, 4.

Richard Samways, 5.

Kate Edgar, 6.

So, at long last, East Claydon got to Great Horwood and rang their test piece of Grandsire.

Comments of this were that the team was going incredibly well; unfortunately there was a bit of a 'crash' and two bells swapped over!!

Overall, the official results were; 1st place: Aylesbury

2nd place: Wing (A)

3rd place: East Claydon

4th place: Winslow

5th place: Wing (B)

So, the trophy went back to Aylesbury, who have had it for the last year and it will sit in their ringing chamber once more. But, what does this mean for them?? Well, the Guild 6-bell striking competition is next – 3rd October.

The next striking competition for the Branch is the Orchard cup, which is to be held in October in our branch, so, don't forget to enter a team so that the branch can hold the cup another year from the Chiltern Branch! Also, if you didn't this year, enter a team for next year's striking competition, as can be seen from the teams that entered this year, you don't have to ring anything special, it could be plain hunt, call changes or bob doubles, whatever your tower feels confident with.

Finally, thank you to the ladies from Winslow who made the teas and cakes and also, thank you to Great Horwood tower for allowing the use of the bells for the afternoon.

Ryan Noble, North Marston



BUCKS COUNTY SHOW NEWS!



Bucks County Show Thursday 27th August

Weedon, Nr. Aylesbury, on A413. Buses from Aylesbury

Mini ring - Come and visit the 3 Deaneries stand at the Bucks show www.buckscountyshow.co.uk and have a go on the Charmborough Bells Mini ring www.bellringing.co.uk Last seen at the Winslow Youth event this is a great way for people to sample the delights of bellringing and see how the mechanics work. The Rector of Winslow, Belinda Searle Barnes, is in charge of the stand arrangements and I offered to get help with ringers on the Mini ring.

Help Required – for set up from 8-10 a.m. and throughout the day to demonstrate and also to help novices have a go. Then for breakdown at the end of the show about 6pm.

Please contact me asap if you can help.

I regret you will have to pay your show entry but, as many of you will know already, it's a great event to go to. There are age and advance booking concessions.

If the reaction at the youth event is anything to go by we should get a lot of interest. Indeed Nic Brennan at the County Council arranged for a flyer about the mini ring at the show and bell ringing in general to go to local schools. Unlike at the youth event, there is no cost to individuals, towers nor the CBB.

There will be handouts and info and we will try and gather some contact details if there are enough helpers. ***See you there!***

Contact: Diana Slevin, CBB Secretary, 01296 713903 / 07803 174583

Email: secretary@cbucks.odg.org.uk