



Central Bucks Branch

Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers

Newsletter JUNE 2010

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Dear Ringers

Here we are in June with long daylight hours so we do not stumble quite so much round graveyards of unfamiliar churches as we head to practices away from home. The peak wedding season is here and there is also an abundance of church fetes and the like so the pressure on ringers' time is great. Was this pressure the reason for so few teams in the striking competition or was it fear of defeat? Maybe there will be more entries for the Orchard Cup October 16th at Little Missenden – *go on have a go!*

This newsletter has a flavour of youth – from the latest Child Protection info through our chairman's rope burns to the Training Officer's plans and a mixed youth team at the striking comp and calls for feedback for the ODG Young Ringers award scheme.

The next edition in the autumn will have an outing report, Christmas info and the all for the 2011 AGM – that's another year gone then! Copy date mid October. *Tower news welcome.*

ODG AGM News Congratulations to Terry Wagstaff for his Distinguished Membership Award, James Haseldine on becoming an ODG steward and Hal Drysdale for taking on the Guild Website as well as being on the Towers & Belfries Committee.

Keep in Touch between newsletters by supplying an email contact to me (tower or personal) and by checking the website www.bellringing.biz/cbb where full versions of documents are published.

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Chairman's Clatter

For a few weeks now I have been helping train two youngsters to handle and ring a bell. I didn't have much to do because the person in charge had done all the hard work and they were able to ring both ends together; my bit was simply to help them keep the bell up and catch any flying ropes and missed sallies. They are 10 years old and have no fear. Catch the sally too high and legs flail in and out of ropey loops, tug the tail end too hard and bits up top bang ominously, miss the sally altogether and it doesn't matter they will simply catch it next time, ring with one hand - no problem.

I started to wonder about health and safety; not theirs, mine! The reason - I was so worried about what might happen to them that I forgot what could happen to me. I made a rash judgement as to the capability of the lad to catch a sally which seemed to have attained a life of its own and in my eagerness to help, sustained my first rope burn in about 30 years. He looked at me as though I was the last in a long line of idiots he had put up with that day. Who can blame him, I felt like the last in a long line of idiots. Oh but not only does it affect me, no, for in speaking to a very competent, long time, I will not name him, ringer, tackling the same two lads, I find out that he got his hand caught in a rope and sustained his first injury in more than 30 years. What does that tell us? Well, apart from the fact that little boys are dangerous, and little boys with bell ropes are very dangerous, when we have been ringing for so long maybe we become complacent about our own safety and our own capabilities.

In future I will not be so gung ho about how wonderfully I can handle a rope and what a capable ringer I am. Oh no! From now on I am going to take a lot more care and concentrate a lot more on what I am doing. We are never too old to learn and we are never too old to get hurt. If you're not sure where this item was going, neither am I, but then again I wasn't too sure where the rope was going either!!!

Hope to see you all at branch practices and on outings etc., etc. For the Branch outing this year on September 11th we hope will be to various towers in the North London area. Details will follow soon, keep an eye out for them.

Jan

MEMO FROM OUR RINGING MASTER!

So, what do I think about ringing in the Branch just now? Going around the towers, and at our Branch events, my impression has been that everyone is keen to progress, generally all are doing so, and, most importantly, are enjoying themselves while they are doing it!

It is lovely to be in contact with such an enthusiastic group of ringers, especially when we have such a good number of young people joining in. Also, people are visiting each other's towers more, which benefits everyone concerned. So, well done to all of us, and let's keep it up. Anyone who hasn't made it to a practice (2nd Saturday, 3rd Tuesday and 4th Saturday), you're missing out! Do come. There's always a good social afterwards too. That's when we can share ideas and just get to know each other better!

Speaking of 'missing out', anyone who didn't come to last Saturday's practice at North Marston missed the fund raising event of the year – Hal's hair cut; undertaken by Maddie and Kirsty Anya, the two youngest members of the Branch!! Money collected is going to the ODG Bell Fund, from which CBB has received generous funding in the past. So far we have raised £140 and we are still collecting. Please see Ryan Noble or myself if you would like to make a donation. Pictures of the whole event will appear on the website soon – and doesn't he look different now?? He's also due to lose the beard – Margaret from Winslow has sponsored him to take that off too!

After the ringing for St George on 23rd April, did any of you join in the Guild Ringing Day ('tower grab'!) on 3rd May? Though mainly in Chiltern Branch this year a few CBB towers were included. I was lucky enough to be looking after the ringing at Aylesbury where we had some great performances by visitors who had travelled many miles to sample the tower. A real pleasure to listen to.

Another success story I would like to share is Ryan's "Young Ringers" trip to London which took place during the Easter school holiday. Around 35 young ringers from around the country all turned up for a fantastic day out with a high standard of ringing. Well done to the organiser!

The season of tower outings is coming too, these are always a worthwhile 'day out', for non-ringers as well as ringers. In the Branch, Hal's train outing on 26th June to the Cheltenham area is fast approaching. More details soon, places are going fast!

Happy ringing!

Heather

BRANCH DIARY

Branch 2nd Saturday Events

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

2010

JUNE 26 TH	HAL'S FAMILY STEAM TRAIN OUTING NR CHELTENHAM
JULY 10 TH	BRANCH PRACTICE WINGRAVE (8)
AUGUST 14 TH	BRANCH PRACTICE GRANBOROUGH (5)
SEPTEMBER 11 TH	<i>BRANCH OUTING NORTH LONDON</i>
OCTOBER 9 TH	BRANCH PRACTICE SWANBOURNE (6)
OCTOBER 16 TH	<i>STRIKING COMP ORCHARD CUP LITTLE MISSENDEN</i>
NOVEMBER 13 TH	BRANCH PRACTICE LONG CRENDON (10)
DECEMBER 11 TH	BRANCH PRACTICE CUDDINGTON (8)

SPECIAL PRACTICES 2010

6-BELL PROGRESS PRACTICES ON TUESDAYS (NORMALLY 3RD), 7.30PM, AT STEWKLEY.

JUNE 15 TH	AUGUST 17 TH
JULY 20 TH	SEPTEMBER 21 ST

8-BELL PROGRESS 1ST TUESDAYS 7.30-9PM AYLESBURY

JULY 6 TH	AUGUST 3 RD	SEPTEMBER 7 TH
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8-BELL ADVANCED PRACTICE 4TH SATURDAYS 7-8.30PM.

JUNE 26 TH	HADDENHAM	
JULY 24 TH	AUGUST 28 TH	SEPTEMBER 25 TH

NB, the above details are subject to confirmation Any queries please contact Hal Drysdale or Heather Dobson or check on website (see P5 for details)

COLIN'S CLASSES @ ASTON CLINTON RINGING CENTRE

10.00am to 12.00pm on 2nd Saturday of each month

An opportunity to learn and practise basic ringing techniques and methods (Rounds, Call-changes, Plain Hunt, Plain Bob, Grandsire etc) on a ring of light, easy-going bells. Open to anyone with basic handling skills.

(weddings permitting!) From Sat 10th July - book now! Contact Colin Walter on 01296 630411 colin.walter@mypostoffice.co.uk .

Offers of help from experienced ringers would also be most welcome!

GUILD OFFICERS

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GUILD DIARY 2010

SEP 25TH MICHAELMAS TRAINING DAY SHIPLAKE
OCT 2ND OXFORD CITY BRANCH STRINKING COMP (6)
OCT 30TH STEEPLE ASTON TRAINING DAY

SEE ODD BOB OR WEBSITE WWW.ODG.ORG.UK FOR DETAILS

BRANCH OFFICERS

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WEBMASTER Ryan Noble webmaster@cbucks.odg.org.uk

CBB WEBSITE www.bellringing.biz/cbb

RINGING WITH CHILDREN

UPDATE JUNE 2010

You may have seen in the press that the new coalition government has made some preliminary changes to arrangements for checking the suitability of those who work or volunteer to work with children.

- ISA registration has now been **halted** and the whole system is to be remodelled.
- However, CRB checks **are still required** (as before) for tower captains and all those who teach or train children. Please note that 'standing behind' or giving advice does **not** count as teaching or training. It is face to face instruction that counts.
- **New CRB application forms** will be in use from 28th June. 'Old' style forms can only be used if they are received by Diocesan Church House by 12 July. Ruth Reavley, the Diocesan CRB administrator has stocks of the new forms and can supply them.
ruth.reavly@oxford.anglican.org

As soon as there is any further information about the remodelled system I will up-date you.

Please pass on this information to your tower captains. Do contact me if you have any queries. children@odg.org.uk

ANN MAYOU

ODG CHILDRENS OFFICER

21st June 2010

children@odg.org.uk

STOP PRESS - This notice replaced the planned article explaining changes with respect to the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) ED

TOWER NEWS

RINGING – A FRENCH PERSPECTIVE FROM WINGRAVE

My name is Carline, I am 25 years old and I am French.

I went to visit the tower in Wingrave with my family in October, we all had a go at ringing and Geoff Aldridge encouraged me to join the bell ringing group on Wednesday evenings.

I mentioned my nationality because as many of you know we do not ring in France as you do in England! So when I saw that for the first time, I realized that my child's dream which had been broken when I was 5 years old was still true, I was so happy to see the traditional bell ringing, to be involved in it!

Anyway so since end of November I am ringing in Wingrave and the 8th May we had a ringing outing. We went to ring in 7 churches: Berkhamsted; Flamstead, Sandridge plus a few more towards St Albans. I enjoyed it, it was great to ring in different towers even though since March I have been ringing in other churches with Hal who takes me everywhere (Thanks Hal). Just as a note in two months I rang in 17 different churches, I am proud of myself! That is not much compared to other ringers but I enjoy a lot, this is my new orchestra as I am a musical person and I could not join a proper orchestra I am really happy to continue to do my hobby a different one but very interesting.

Back to the outing, how different are the churches, towers and bells: ringing in a small/big tower or at the entrance of the church (ground floor), long/short droughts heavy/light bells, different ringing with different handling. Everything was fine until I broke a stay in the 6th church! Wow! Very surprising and scary sometimes. Everyone shouted to let go but maybe I am stubborn and I do not like losing I wanted to control that bell so I held it until it stops. The rope went gently to the ceiling, I could hold it. I just hurt my little finger which bled for 30 minutes.

It happened so quickly but slowly at the same time that I did not really know what happened. I did not hear and did not feel the bell banging against the stay so I thought that it was the rope which came out of the wheel because the rope did not flight up to the ceiling. But we had to stop ringing and ring the bells down to check. Result; I broke the stay! But

apparently, it was what was told me but is it true or is it just to reassure me, the stay was already cracked.

I felt bad afterwards: “why me?” My body shook.

I thought about it for the rest of the day. They told me to ring straight away that it is like riding a horse if we do not fall a number of times we are not a good rider so apparently in bell ringing until we have broken a stay we are not a good ringer.

In the last church I was afraid, a bit stressed that the same thing happens but it was ok. The next day we had to ring in the church of the village for the Sunday service and Geoff told me the night before: “I am looking forward to seeing you tomorrow, it will be easier”. I did not have much choice but at the same time I did not want to leave myself behind just because of a bell. I am going to continue ringing to learn more and become a better ringer, I love it!

Out of ringing but part of the outing, we had tea scones with cream. Wow it was delicious! We do not have that in France.

Ed – Thanks to Wingrave for this tower contribution!

WINSLOW PEAL

Another few pints and some more crisps to share...

...as we sat in the pub, “the Bell” opposite the market square in Winslow, for our ‘debrief’. It reminded me of one reason for ringing – the social times had in the company of other Ringers after a practice, QP or Peal. Discussion ranged from history to the future, with everything in between and a small time spent on the events of just a little while before. We had just finished the first Peal on the refitted bells at St Lawrence, Winslow.

The band covered three generations and included a few from the last peal rang on the bells. Roy Woodruff (Aston Clinton) remembered the moment he had asked his foreman for a day off while working in Wingrave. This was an unlikely chance as he explained to me but was granted it! This day off work was for a trip to Loughborough to see the casting of the bells which would become the two new trebles at Winslow. He later rang in the first Peal on the new eight.

The Peal started at 10am on the morning of Saturday 29th May and took 3h05min to ring. We rang Lincolnshire conducted by James Haseldine (Long Crendon) to celebrate the re-hanging of the bells. This refit also marked the first bell-hanging project managed and undertaken by James as the project leader, and a fine job he did too! James' employer, Whites of Appleton bell-hangers, completed the job approximately 2 years ago to this date, so the Peal marked the 2nd anniversary of ringing on the ring. We had a few minor trips, ie. 'I' made a few trips and was soon put back into place very quickly, the rest of the team were spotless. As a result a number of people commented on how lovely the bells sounded, so we can't have done too bad a job. Another achievement was getting to the Pub in a record 15 minutes after the bells were lowered.

The details of the Peal are as follows:

Oxford Diocesan Guild Winslow, Buckinghamshire, St Laurence
Saturday, 29 May 2010 in 3:05 (17-1-9)

5088 Lincolnshire Surprise Major Composed by: W Barton

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Raymond A Vickers | 5 L Roy Woodruff |
| 2 Julie A Haseldine | 6 Christopher C Stokes |
| 3 Ryan S Noble | 7 James A Haseldine (C) |
| 4 Halisi Drysdale | 8 Andrew Haseldine |

First peal on the bells since re-hanging.



The Peal would not have been possible without the support of the Winslow tower captains and Ringers who helped so much in arranging the event. Thank you.

Hal

Training Officer's Report

The level of ringing has been fantastic in the past three months since the last news letter, with many more of our Branch ringers venturing out now to support each others' practices and Sunday services - an encouraging sign of things to come I hope.

Our young Ringers are all moving forward so quickly that its about time they had a get together for ringing and to meet each other(!) I'm also thinking of a days cycle tour and barbecue in the summer holiday – If you have ideas or can help, then please get in contact asap... before we know it the time will have passed once more and another opportunity to help progress the future Ringers will be missed.

The branch practices still have a great attendance with all achieving their individual purposes and have now settled comfortably into a weekly event, one different focus for each week: in each calendar month, the 1st Tuesday is our 8-bell improvers; the 3rd Tuesday is the 6-bell improvers. The 2nd Saturday is our main Monthly Branch Practice, while the 4th Saturday now holds our more 'advanced' 8-bell ringing.

Please don't be put off by words like 'improvers' or 'advanced', we all start to learn ringing from the same level, its through the small steps we first learn to ring – handling and rounds. Later we need to take slightly larger strides to reach the other levels. The advanced practice is attended by those wishing to ring slightly more interesting things. These same ringers are also there to help all to progress – they are after all tower captains and ringers who spend much of their time teaching others... they want to help you to move on. If you can handle a bell in rounds or more, then pop along to the improvers' practices. If you can ring Plain Bob Minor or Grandsire Triples, etc, drop along to our next advanced practice to move to the next stage :)

Don't forget to give me or Heather a ring or an email if you are unsure but would like to attend any of these practices.

Hal: (tel) 07921337816 (email) mouthisi@gmail.com;

Heather: (tel) 07966172130 (email) heather_ann100@hotmail.com.

Look forward to hearing from you, Hal

ODG BELL FUNDRAISING



HAL'S HAIR CUT Raised a great £140 for the ODG Bell Fund (not too late to give but it is growing back fast!)

WINSLOW have decided to add on to their annual subs

WHAT'S YOUR IDEA?? Would you support some local CBB bell ringing memorabilia – T Towels , Xmas cards etc? Do let me know – Diana

STRIKING COMPETITION JUNE 12TH WHITCHURCH



I think our Striking Competition was quite unique this year! Only 3 CBB teams but 3 more scratch bands including a team of visitors from Linslade (Now in Beds Assoc) A big thank you to the 'extras' for coming as they contributed greatly to the afternoon.

The sun shone and our two amiable judges, Alan Bentley from Aston Clinton and Simon Lockwood from Leighton Buzzard, settled themselves comfortably to await events! First up were Aylesbury then Winslow - who had to dash back for a 2nd wedding- then Wing, and then 'scratch' teams including young ringers and one with ringers from 6 towers!

Teas were served non stop by the Whitchurch ringers (thank you) who joined in the open ringing held while the judges deliberated. Then the results:

CBB teams : Wing 1st, Aylesbury 2nd, Winslow 3rd

Including the 3 other scratch teams, Linslade would have won and the young ringers come 4th .

Wing will therefore go on to represent the Branch at the Guild competition, so good luck to them, and congratulations too for taking the CBB 'crown'.

Then to the Swan Pub for a BBQ laid on for us with chat, games and origami. A very enjoyable end to a most satisfying afternoon.

Very many thanks to our judges, Whitchurch for hospitality, towers who entered and visitors who participated. Without you we would not have had the 'good' afternoon that we did. See you next year!

Heather

(Ringing Master) – *pictured above with a competitor prostrate at her feet!*

Ed – there were many fetes & weddings etc on this June Saturday which limited entries. Should be change to a different month? Your thoughts please.

Oh yes - Thanks to Heather for organising!

ODG CONSULTATION YOUNG RINGERS AWARD SCHEME

Purpose: to encourage and recognise younger members of the Guild.

Profile: The scheme has attracted high quality but relatively few entries

Problem, Is it merely recognising a tiny minority of our younger members

Question? Can we improve the scheme and attract more CBB under 18s to take part

The key features of the scheme as it stands are:

- **Non-competitive** – 3 grades of awarded on individual merit but with a shield presented to ,the Young Ringer of the Year
- **Recognises many aspects of ringing** - Service ringing and practices, progress in practical ringing.
- **Recognises broad interest** - Including tower/church/Branch/Guild activities, knowledge of bells, basic maintenance, genera knowledge
- **Level playing field** - Assessors allow for the local context in which entrants ring, and their level of development.

Views sought from you including form youngsters on

- **Awareness** - How aware are you/ CBB young ringers? Is it was adequately promoted? How could this be improved?
- **Perception** - Do CBB young ringers consider the award scheme relevant to them? If not, why not, and what could be done to change it?
- **Barriers** - Why don't more young people in CBB consider applying for the award?
- **Precursor event** – Would this help encourage entrants?

The consultation is being lead by John Harrison edchairman@odg.org.uk ODG Education Subcommittee Chairman through branch committees. John is very keen to get responses from young people too.

NEXT ACTION: Please respond to members of the CBB committee so we can collate ideas into a response. **By end of July please**

You are also welcome to respond direct and also offer suggestions about how the Guild could more effectively support its young members.

Note = this is an abridged text. Full version on website Ed