



Central Bucks Branch

Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers

Newsletter MARCH 2010

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Dear Ringers

Here is a round up of the latest news – more on www.bellringing.biz/cbb

The next newsletter 'Summer' will be published by 1st week July so copy date 2nd week of June and includes: striking comp results; outing info and booking form; Orchard cup information

New Feature – Tower profiles – if you would like to feature please send a brief paragraph about you and your ringers.

Future Distribution: Newsletters will be sent by email to all towers where I have an email contact and be posted on the website. E contacts are requested to print the newsletter and any posters etc out and take them to their tower. At least one print copy will be sent by post to all other towers. (The number will depend on weight) Print copies will also be available at practices.

ODG SUBSCRIPTIONS 2010 £6 NOW OVERDUE

Well done to all those towers who managed to collect and send the 2010 Guild subs to me by the new ODG deadline. I have collected from 25 of the 31 towers on my list. We currently have 159 paid up members of which 9 were elected at the AGM. Although the subs had to be paid to ODG by 1st March, I am hopeful that they will accept any further payments this year so that members are able to maintain their guild membership.

I have asked but not yet had a reply. So if there are any members out there that wish to pay their subs, could you please send a cheque (£6 per member) as soon as possible to John Lomas, 30 Church Street, Wing, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 0NY made payable to ODG Central Bucks Branch.

CBB TREASURER

Editor: DIANA SLEVIN T- 01296 713903 E- secretary@cbucks.odg.org.uk

A reason to be confident.

Recently I have been speaking to some of our old colleagues from Linslade who now attend the Luton District Branch Practices. I am supposed to go too but feel a little bit out of place, I suppose because I don't know the ringers in the same way that I know you. They feel the same but understand that if they don't participate then they will never get to know anybody in their new area. Practices are run in the same way as ours, maybe because there is no other way to do it, but they seem to ring more 6 bell methods than I have ever heard of; a little off putting for those ringers who like me would rather stick to the few methods in which they feel confident.

Confidence, maybe that's what I lack and I wonder how many other people are in the same boat. Where is my confidence to meet other people? Where does it go when I am asked to ring something new and don't because I'm afraid of doing it wrong? Where is it on practice night when it doesn't matter if I go wrong anyway? We have lots of young people now who seem to go into everything with such enthusiasm; I used to be one of them, now I'm just plain scared, but if I always feel like this when will I ever learn anything new? There must be others out there who feel like me so maybe we should change our outlook and not only launch ourselves into new things with confidence but be really bold and not worry about going wrong, after all, someone has to and it may not always be us!

Ok then, I'm ready when you are. Bring it on!!!

(And don't you dare shout at me.)

Jan

JAN IS ORGANISING THE **SEPTEMBER BRANCH OUTING SATURDAY 11TH**
PLEASE CONTACT HER WITH YOUR IDEAS ASAP

AGM 2010 REPORT

The meeting was held on Saturday 13th February in Church of the Holy Cross and St Mary Quainton and was attended by 25 CBB members representing 12 branches and the ODG Deputy Master, North Bucks Branch Chairman and 2 NBB visitors (list available on request)

Jan Robinson took the Chair. She reported on the deaths of four well known and respected ringers during the year. Bill Thatcher- long term tower captain of Padbury and honorary ODG member; Maurice Jamieson – founder member of the branch and tower captain of Gt Horwood; Reg Darvill – branch vice president and ODG honorary member; Katrina Dalton of Quainton.

New members: 10 people were nominated viz Stewkley: 5 , Wingrave: 1,, Winslow: 2, Aylesbury: 1, Gt Horwood 1 (re-election)

Distinguished Member nomination – under the new rules the meeting supported Chairman Jan Robinson's nomination of Terry Wagstaff (Whitchurch) for consideration by the ODG

Written reports were received from all officers – copies are available on request
Committee – your new committee was elected (see P6 &4) there are 2 vacancies: Deputy Chairman and Branch Steward. (If you are interested please let the sec know)

Transfer of towers to N Bucks Branch

It was resolved to recommend to the ODG General Committee that Padbury and Hillesden be transferred from the remit of the Central Bucks Branch to the North Bucks Branch. This will take effect from the date of the ODG General Committee at which it is accepted

Bits & Bobs – Hal reported on the new **website** (see Poster), Diana agreed to take on the **cbb newsletter** and to look at our current ways of circulating things; We talked about **Recruitment** and later on how we might increase the branch's donation to **The ODG Bell Fund** as we are currently net benefactors. *'The Swindle'* will be run by Phil Roberts & Jane Vowles. One idea was to make it easy for members to add to their subs Monies received at the AGM would be donated.(More on P8)

Branch Activities (see P5) There was a provisional list of Saturday branch practices together with the progress and advanced practice dates. It was agreed to try some different timings etc for the Saturday ones to see if that helped improve attendance. Outing ideas included a family day in June from Hal and Jan agreed to organise the September one but called for ideas

A vote of thanks was recorded to Hal & Heather for their work round the towers

Meeting thanks: from the Chair, Jan Robinson offered the meeting's thanks to all at Quainton for their hard work in enabling the AGM notably the Vicar Rev Phillip Mears, Organist June Hanson, Tower Captains Jane Vowles and Phil Roberts

Next AGM – will be held on February 12th 2011 at Winslow (venue tbc)

This a brief report – for a copy of the minutes or reports contact Secretary Diana Slevin)

ringing master report

Well...what should I say?? I do feel I'm occupying the position of Ringing Master rather fraudulently as my credentials are certainly not on a par with those who have preceded me! All I can say is: *'I will do my best'*, to continue the good work that's been done in the Branch recently, with the help of all of you members out there.

The calendar for the Branch Practices is out and it would be great to see a growing number of people attending. The April practice will be at Mursley, in the morning at 10.00, so perhaps that might suit some of you better than the traditional early evening? Suggestions welcome for future practices...

We had a good **Improver's practice** at Stewkley in February organised by Hal – this is a great opportunity for the less experienced to meet others and get a buzz from trying something new! I'm pretty sure that if you asked anyone who came to this they'd recommend it to you. It's very relaxed but focussed too – what more could you need for an enjoyable evening (plus the pub afterwards too of course, for those that want to!)

I hope everyone's visited the **new website** to see what's been happening in the Branch recently. Watch out for other events being planned for the coming months...

On that note, may I remind everyone that June 12th is the date of the 6-bell Striking Competition, and it's not too early to start thinking about who is going to be in your band. More details will be sent around nearer the time, and we'll need names by the end of May. Remember, it's about encouraging us all to work on our striking, while also enjoying the social occasion on the day. You don't have to be able to ring complicated methods; you've just as good a chance of winning if your band is doing call-changes as if you're doing Surprise Minor. It's how you ring that counts!

Here are the Guidelines:

Membership of Teams.

A Tower Band shall consist of members who normally ring together at the same tower for Sunday Services, whether or not they ring at more than one tower and shall be chosen by the Tower in any way it thinks fit. One substitute member shall be permitted who shall be a member of the Branch in which the tower is located.

Six Bell Competition

The test piece will consist of at least one minute's rounds followed by 240 changes of any method of Doubles (6 plain courses) or Minor (4 plain courses) or 240 rows of call changes. If a method is rung then plain courses will be acceptable. If call changes are rung then at least 30 changes must be called and at least the front 5 different bells brought down to lead.

Any questions, please contact me, or Hal...

Happy ringing!

Heather

Branch Diary 2010

Branch 2nd Saturday Events (Branch Practices 6.30pm - 8.30pm unless shown)

April 10 th	Mursley practice <i>morning</i> 10-12am
May 8 th	North Marston practice
June 12 th	6 Bell Striking Comp
June 26 th	Hal's family steam train outing nr Cheltenham
July 10 th	Branch Practice Wingrave tbc
August 14 th	Little Horwood practice tbc
September 11 th	Branch Outing

Special Practices 2010

6-Bell Progress Practices on Tuesdays

(normally 3rd), 7.30pm, at Stewkley. Great progress has been made with rounds and call changes up to Plain Bob doubles and Stedman doubles in the 6-bell practice. I hope to push on further with this and maybe more minor will be rung in future sessions. Let Heather or Hal know what you would like to move onto/ improve

March 23rd April 20th May 18th

8-Bell Progress on Tuesdays

(normally 1st) 7.30 Aylesbury Come along and have a go at rounds, call changes, plain hunt and methods like Grandsire, Plain Bob major and Stedman Triples, which ever you're looking to try and improve at.

April 6th May 4th

8-Bell Advanced Practice usually on the Third Thursday of the Month, from 7:30.

March 18th tower TBA

Hal writes: Don't forget to come prepared, you'll get even more out of these practices in a shorter time frame if you do - try and have a good look at the methods you want to try before-hand. Give me a call, email, text or forum message, if you have any questions related to what you're learning to ring. I'll be more than happy to answer any that I can, the rest I can find out for you. Any time outside the ringing room spent learning will greatly increase our ringing potential in the room - this can be as little as 5 minutes a day looking at your current method, so make yourself a tea and get those diagrams out. Hal Drysdale or Heather Dobson or check on website

(see P6 for details)

NB, the above dates are proposed and subject to confirmation with regard to both date and Tower.Ed

Guil d Officers

Hon General Secretary: Mrs Hilarie Rogers
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Newsletter Editor: Rob Needham
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Children's Officer: Mrs Ann Mayou.
01884 – 201 885 ann.mayou@btinternet.com

Guil d Diary 2010 -.

Ringling day & 8 bell striking competition

may 3rd Chil tern branch

AGM May 15th Guil d AGM Newbury Branch tbc

Michael mas Course September 25th shiplake

See Odd Bob OR WEBSITE www.odg.org.uk for details

Branch Officers

Branch Chairman: Jan Robinson 01525 385420
jan.tednjantoo@tiscali.co.uk

Vice Chairman: vacant

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

Treasurer: John Lomas 01296 682915
cbbtreasurer@woolly.demon.co.uk

Ringling Master: *Heather Dobson 07966172130
heather_ann100@hotmail.com

Deputy Ringling Master: Jane Vowles 01296 658665
hogshawfarm@supanet.com

Branch Steward: Paul Bagni 07976254430
(1 vacancy) paulbagni@yahoo.co.uk

Training Officer : *Halisi Drysdale 07921 337816
& webmaster hal@hdcdevelopments.co.uk

Guil d reps marked *

Cbb Website www.bellringing.biz/cbb

BRANCH BITS

News from North Marston

Ryan Noble

Back in late August time, Hal and I installed the simulator that we had purchased through a bequest made to the bells, and it has been used several times on Sunday mornings after church services. The simulator is great for teaching people to listen to their striking and concentrating on ringing a method on their own, but it also enables us to have “silent practices” as we can have all the bells tied and ring them using Abel on a computer. If anyone is interested in using the simulator, I have put my contact details below. Over the Christmas period we managed to ring 6 bells for every service and we even held a practice! Paul has been working hard on the faculty for our bells to be restored - after a couple of years of the church pondering on all the paper work... it now seems to be moving faster!

For anyone who is interested coming for a ring, we ring on these Sundays: 1st Sunday 9.20-10am, 3rd and 5th Sundays 8.50-9.30am.

This is the 1st commissioned tower article – do let me have news from yours - Ed

ODG BELL FUND

More In than Out

Terry Wagstaff sums it up

Bell ringing must be one of the cheapest hobbies going. We can tower grab around the country, and to a limited extent abroad, at over 7000 plus towers; all that might be expected from us is donation, perhaps £1 or £2. As Winslow and other towers, who have had work done on the bells, have found the cost to the church is expensive. Typically re-hanging projects can cost up to £30,000. So our direct contribution to the cost of the bells we enjoy is very small.

This Branch, for the whole thirty plus years that the Bell Fund has been in existence, has on average donated around £100 per annum. Recently even our already small annual contribution has been falling. We have relied on the Branch Monthly “Swindle” Draw (*see below*). So we have benefited greatly and given little!

The purpose of this short piece is to ask Branch members to

- Give greater support to the Branch draw,
- Suggest ways to the Branch Chairman / Secretary about how we could augment our financial contribution to the Bell Fund,
- Encourage individual members to donate (with Gift Aid if you are a UK taxpayer) directly to the Bell Fund, and,
- Ask that PCCs, especially those that have received grants, consider making a small annual church contribution.

Please send ideas in to me for input to the committee. A new idea on P8!.. Ed

THE BRANCH SWINDLE

This CBB raffle is held at any occasion where bell-ringers gather - Monthly Meetings , Outings, AGM's etc. It costs 50p a ticket to enter, or an annual payment of £6 for entry in to each Monthly Meeting draw. The takings are divided as follows: 50% to the Bell Fund, 40% to the winner of the monthly draw, and 10% to the Grand Christmas Draw which takes place at the December Monthly Meeting. The Christmas Draw is open to, and free, to anyone who has purchase an annual ticket or who has bought 12 or more 50p tickets during the year. Do contact me to make an annual payment or if you would be interested in running it! –Thanks Phil Roberts Quainton 01296 655428 phil@plmbroberts.plus.com

Full article explaining why it's called The Swindle is on the website or on request – Ed

Help hold hairy hal to account



For nearly a year now, this branch has suffered from one thing that has caused many problems; the problems are not being able to hear (bad striking) not being able to see (poor ropesight, and not being able to see the blue line properly!)

Yes, you may have guessed, *the cause is Hal's hair.*

At the branch AGM we were looking for ways to fundraise for the ODG bell fund. Then eureka!! I thought of Hal cutting his hair. Every year, Hal gets his hair cut (yes, it does tend to be annual!) for a reason, normally being paid to get it done! So this year I said to him: "how about you get your hair cut short for the bell fund" and to my surprise, he said yes!

Right , so have a turnout of all your pockets and sponsor Hal with whatever you can donate, and he'll cut his hair short (we'll set a date soon - (maybe after a Branch practice)) If you want to cut his hair and have your own razor then you need to donate the highest amount.

All the money raised will be donated to the ODG bell fund as part of this branch's contribution..

... And then one day soon, we will collect!.

Ryan07941083414 ryan_noble@live.co.uk

More information on website or from Ryan Heather or Hal

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