



# Central Bucks Branch

Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers

## Newsletter - March 2011

### CHAIRMAN'S CLATTER

**Hi folks!** It was lovely to see the recent AGM so well attended, there is nothing worse than asking for comments from a few disinterested people who are wishing there were enough bodies to make a disappearing act easy. I hope the ideas put forward will prove useful to the branch and all the towers, but please, if you can help in any way don't hide your light under a bushel, come forward and join in - we need you. For those who were not at the meeting and are now wondering what on earth went on, here is a little update.

*The first idea* is for a Branch Maintenance Team who can be contacted by any tower which has little or no expertise of its own and may feel a little lost when something needs attention. Andrew Haseldine has offered his services as 'head honcho' and contact point for those in need. Please let him know if you are willing to help or need help.(see contacts)

*Number two* is a Wedding/Funeral list. This will be a list of ringers who are available to ring at the ever growing number of Weddings taking place during the week when most people are at work. Please let Diana Slevin know if you are willing and able to add your name to the list.

*Thirdly*, a midweek ringing group. I know other branches do such things so why not us! The idea will be to venture out one day in the month, say a Wednesday, ring at one tower, pop into a nice hostelry for lunch and then go on to ring at either one or two other towers before returning home. I will try to arrange the first one for sometime in May, the day, date, time and venues will be advertised on the website as soon as I've got them and everyone will be welcome to come along. We will not be going too far from home!

*Lastly*, please consider the possibility of joining the committee next year. We are already short of people but time is running out for some of our number who are finding it increasingly difficult to juggle their own lives with that of the branch. I have managed to get the meeting time down to 1 hour, surely there is someone out there willing to take the up challenge to make it even shorter!!

**Jan** CBB Chairman

*(For more info on the schemes and full contact details see P6 : Ed)*

## RINGING MASTER'S REPORT

We had a pleasant afternoon for the AGM with a chance to see the newly restored and refurbished 'St Laurence Room' during our meeting. (A very successful project, with a lot of gratitude to be shown to Paul Bagni for his sterling efforts with the fundraising which have made it all possible in such a short time). We had a wonderful traditional 'ringers' tea' prepared by the Winslow ringers, and a good ring both before and afterwards. The Service was also put together locally, with some thought provoking and very ringing orientated words coming from the pulpit. A big 'thank you' to all concerned, for making what can be a rather 'dry' experience generally into an enjoyable one for everyone.

Ryan and I have been working on a rota for the Branch practices and have managed to get nearly all towers confirmed for the coming year. You will have seen a copy of the diary. The rota covers three years in fact - we have tried to include all the Branch towers, mixing them up by number of bells and location to attempt a good variety within each year.

I do hope as many of you as possible will be going to have a good day out in London to join in with the Ringing World Centenary Celebrations on 26th March. There are still a few tickets available. I believe our Branch is well represented in the Guild Young Ringer's Striking Competition team for the day. Our best wishes to them all.

It's never too early to think about the Branch Striking Competition too - June is not far off. Time to work on your handling and striking - will you be part of your tower's team this year? We had a lovely afternoon in the sunshine last year with several scratch bands. Everyone 'had a go' and gained a good experience with a social afterwards too. Remember that call changes are perfectly acceptable, and when rung well can sound a lot better than some method ringing!

As you can see, I am your Branch Ringing Master for the next year. I shall do my best to build on the last few years' progress. Ailsa has kindly 'volunteered' to help me out when needed, as my Deputy.

I look forward to seeing everyone at a Branch event very soon.

Best wishes

**Heather**  
*CBB Ringing Master*

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### INFORMATION ON BELLS IN CHURCH LEAFLETS

*Is there any mention of your bells in your church's leaflets?*

So often on visiting a new church I've found no mention of the bells. Peterborough Cathedral was my last disappointment! At a ODG recent branch secretaries meeting the idea of trying to get good information throughout ODG churches was mooted. So do have a look at your church and if there's nothing maybe offer a short supplementary handout pending the next reprint and ask for an immediate update on the website (if appropriate). I know I need to check Winslow's!

**Diana** CBB Sec

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## AGM 2011 Report

27 CBB members representing 14 towers attended the AGM in Winslow together with the ODG Secretary. Jan Robinson took the Chair and conducted a brisk meeting lasting an hour enabling post as well as pre meeting ringing.

The previous AGM *minutes* were accepted without change and reports received from the officers (copies available on request). The 2010 accounts were adopted.

16 *new members* were elected but there were no nominations for Distinguished Membership.

The elections saw the re-election of many people but Jan Vowles stood down from Deputy Ringing Master. Ryan Noble became the 2<sup>nd</sup> Branch Steward and Caroline Luxford took over from Hal as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Branch Rep. (see P 4 for list)

*New projects* were agreed in the areas : Bell maintenance expertise; Wedding & Funeral availability register; Mid week ringers group. (see Chairman's Clatter & 6 on how to take part.)

On the *Communications* front, Ryan Noble reported that he was having problems getting the ODG to establish good email lists for us. He also appealed for material for the *website*. Diana Slevin apologised for not having mastered circulation of print material, reported that the ODG annual report would be available in .pdf format and that the guild was asking for feedback on whether this could replace print versions and said that the newsletter format would be made easier to home print.

*Young Ringers & Recruitment* - with considerable progress being made in recruiting and supporting young ringers, members were invited to share some ideas. These included:

Open Days, Junior school initiatives, speaking at Family Services, working with other branches, involving parents, making it fun, forming a social group, giving a Bell tuition course as a raffle prize....

*Branch programme* ( see also Ringing Master's report)

A provisional *List of Events* for the year was circulated ( see extract P5) Towers for the traditional *Saturday Branch practices* are being chosen on a 3year cycle looking at geographic spread, numbers of bells and other considerations when planning. It was suggested that perhaps one of the practices in the winter months could be planned for the morning to mitigate against weather conditions and travel difficulties

*Guild Events* were noted on the Diary of Events sheet including the AGM 21<sup>st</sup> May in Bicester Branch.

*Striking Competitions* the 6 bell striking comp will be at North Marston on June 11<sup>th</sup> and CBB is hosting the Orchard Cup on October 8<sup>th</sup> at East Claydon. Members were urged to encourage more teams to enter. A Youth team and other scratch teams took part at Whitchurch last year which had added to the fun in addition to choosing the team for the Guild 6 bell competition. A BBQ afterwards had added to the occasion.. It is hoped to build on this success in 2011.

*September Branch outing* – Ryan offered to organise this with Kate Edgar sorting the transport.

*Christmas Dinner* - The last one had taken place in Bierton in January and had been very successful with 33 people attending. The next one will be on January 14<sup>th</sup> 2012 at a venue to be decided

*Ringing World Centenary* March 26<sup>th</sup> London. Ryan reported that this will include features such as Whitechapel Foundry open, Towers open, City Walks, Exhibitions and mini rings, Young Ringers striking competition, Westminster Abbey activities, etc and that some tickets were still available

*AOB: Grandsire Quarter Peal by Grandparent ringers* – Richard Goldson reported that Edmund Waller was seeking to set this up this year and called for volunteers.

*Meeting thanks:* from the Chair, Jan Robinson offered the meeting's thanks to all at Winslow for their hard work in enabling the AGM notably the Rector Belinda Searle-Barnes, Tower Captains Diana Slevin and Mandy Cliffe and Winslow ringers for the teas.

## CBB BRANCH OFFICERS & CONTACTS 2011/12

<b>Branch Chairman:</b>	Jan Robinson 01525 385420 <a href="mailto:chairman@cbucks.odg.org.uk">chairman@cbucks.odg.org.uk</a>
<b>Vice Chairman:</b>	vacant
<b>Secretary:</b>	Diana Slevin 01296 713903 <a href="mailto:secretary@cbucks.odg.org.uk">secretary@cbucks.odg.org.uk</a>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	John Lomas 01296 682915 <a href="mailto:treasurer@cbucks.odg.org.uk">treasurer@cbucks.odg.org.uk</a>
<b>Ringling Master:</b>	Heather Dobson 07966172130 <a href="mailto:brm@cbucks.odg.org.uk">brm@cbucks.odg.org.uk</a>
<b>Dep. Ring. Master</b>	Ailsa Knightley <a href="mailto:dbrm@cbucks.odg.org.uk">dbrm@cbucks.odg.org.uk</a>
<b>Branch Stewards:</b>	Paul Bagni 07976254430 <a href="mailto:branchsteward@cbucks.odg.org.uk">branchsteward@cbucks.odg.org.uk</a> & Ryan Noble (as below)
<b>Training Officer :</b>	Halisi Drysdale            07921 337816 <a href="mailto:training@cbucks.odg.org.uk">training@cbucks.odg.org.uk</a>
<b>Guild reps</b>	Heather( as above) &Caroline Luxford 07729624336 <a href="mailto:Branchrep2@cbucks.odg.org.uk">Branchrep2@cbucks.odg.org.uk</a>
<b>Webmaster</b>	Ryan Noble 07941 083414 <a href="mailto:webmaster@cbucks.odg.org.uk">webmaster@cbucks.odg.org.uk</a> Website <a href="http://www.bellringing.biz/cbb">www.bellringing.biz/cbb</a>
<b>Bell Maintenance Contact</b>	Andrew Haseldine <a href="mailto:ahaseldine1@btinternet.com">ahaseldine1@btinternet.com</a> 01844 208948

## ODG GUILD OFFICERS

**Hon General Secretary:** Mrs Hilarie Rogers 01865 890163 [odgsecretary@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:odgsecretary@tiscali.co.uk)  
High Street, Drayton St Leonard, Wallingford, Oxon, OX10 7BA.

**Newsletter Editor:** Rob Needham 0118 926 7724 [oddbob@odg.org.uk](mailto:oddbob@odg.org.uk)

**Guild Steward:** James Haseldine 01844 208023 [steward@ebsb.odg.org.uk](mailto:steward@ebsb.odg.org.uk)

**Children's Officer:** Mrs Ann Mayou. 01884 201 885 [children@odg.org.uk](mailto:children@odg.org.uk)

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

## BRANCH PROGRAMME MARCH TO AUGUST 2011

Note: The usual pattern of CBB practices is as follows :

8 Bell Progress 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesdays - normally Aylesbury 7.30-9pm

CBB Branch practice or event - 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturdays normally 6.30-8.30pm , decided on a rota

6 Bell Progress Practice - 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays normally Stewkley 7.30-9.00pm

8 Bell Advanced - 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays, decided on a rota normally 7-8.30pm

Please check the newsletter or [www.bellringing.biz/cbb](http://www.bellringing.biz/cbb) or contact the Ringing Master or Secretary for confirmation of details nearer the dates.

8 Bell Progress 1 <sup>st</sup> March		Aylesbury
<i>Spring General Committee Meeting</i>	12 <sup>th</sup> March	North Bucks Branch
CBB Branch practice	12 <sup>th</sup> March	Waddesdon (6- steel)
6 Bell Progress Practice	15 <sup>th</sup> March	Stewkley
8 Bell Advanced	26 <sup>th</sup> March	cancelled -in view of Ringing World Centenary celebrations in London
8 Bell Progress	5 <sup>th</sup> April	Aylesbury
CBB Branch practice	9 <sup>th</sup> April	Little Horwood
<i>Radley Course</i>	16 <sup>th</sup> April	Radley
6 Bell Progress Practice	19 <sup>th</sup> April	Stewkley
8 Bell Advanced	16 <sup>th</sup> * April (3 <sup>rd</sup> Sat)	Haddenham tbc
	*Date changed as Easter Saturday	
<i>Eight Bell Striking Competition</i>	2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Old North Berks Branch
<i>Annual Ringing Day</i>	2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Old North Berks Branch
8 Bell Progress	3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Aylesbury
CBB Branch practice	14 <sup>th</sup> May	Aston Abbots
6 Bell Progress Practice	17 <sup>th</sup> May	Stewkley
<i>Annual General Meeting</i>	21 <sup>st</sup> May	Bicester Branch
8 Bell Advanced	28 <sup>th</sup> May	Cuddington
8 Bell Progress	7 <sup>th</sup> June	Aylesbury
CBB Branch Striking Comp	11 <sup>th</sup> June	North Marston
6 Bell Progress Practice	21 <sup>st</sup> June	Stewkley
8 Bell Advanced	25 <sup>th</sup> June	Quainton tbc
8 Bell Progress	5 <sup>th</sup> July	Aylesbury
CBB Branch practice	9 <sup>th</sup> July	Haddenham tbc
<i>Festival</i>	9 <sup>th</sup> July	Oxford
6 Bell Progress Practice	19 <sup>th</sup> July	Stewkley
8 Bell Advanced	23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Stewkley
8 Bell Progress	2 <sup>nd</sup> August	Aylesbury
CBB Branch practice	13 <sup>th</sup> August	Nether Winchendon
6 Bell Progress Practice	16 <sup>th</sup> August	Stewkley
8 Bell Advanced	27 <sup>th</sup> August	Wingrave tbc

## NEW PROJECTS INFORMATION

### BELL MAINTENANCE

To offer assistance to others or ask for assistance for your tower please contact  
**Andrew Haseldine** [ahaseldine1@btinternet.com](mailto:ahaseldine1@btinternet.com) 01844 208948

Why not consider going on an ODG course to improve your basic skills? See below

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### MID WEEK RINGERS GROUP

If you are interested in this and would like to receive direct notice of events or would like to volunteer to organise a future event please send your email address to CBB Sec  
**Diana Slevin** [secretary@cbucks.odg.org.uk](mailto:secretary@cbucks.odg.org.uk) who will set up a register. Details will also be posted on the website – *Jan is organising the first one in May*

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### WEDDING & FUNERAL AVAILABILITY REGISTER

**Diana Slevin** [secretary@cbucks.odg.org.uk](mailto:secretary@cbucks.odg.org.uk) 07803 174583, 01296 713903

SHORT OF RINGERS FOR AN EVENT? Make contact for info on who might be available to help with: **your details, tower, event, date, timing** & any other requirements. Note Diana will NOT choose your ringer but send or talk you through the latest list highlighting any relevant info. If possible the list will go on the website.

e.g. Fred Clapper 01296 123456 [fredclapper@hotmail.com](mailto:fredclapper@hotmail.com) Little Claydon, Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> June, Wedding, starts 12noon ringing from 11.45-12 and 12.30-1pm approx. Anticlockwise, hoping for good grandsire ringer if poss.

WILLING TO HELP? To sign up to If you are willing to help out with weddings & funerals either mid week or weekend please let Di know your details ready to pass to anyone in need. She'll need at least your:

**Name, usual tower, phone number and/or email, typical weekly availability, whether you are happy or not to be on a list on the website**, known out of action weeks plus anything else you want to mention (e.g. bell weight limit, ringing prowess, access issues)  
e.g. Sally Clapper, Little Claydon, [sallyclapper@hotmail.com](mailto:sallyclapper@hotmail.com), 01296 123456 weekdays except Wednesday, Saturdays. On hol 1-15 August. Bells no heavier than 10cwt, not used to ringing on more than 6 bells. Own car. Ok for website

**Long Crendon SATURDAY 4<sup>th</sup> JUNE**

**10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cost £10**

**To include :-**

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

To reserve a place contact Graham Clifton, Stedman Cottage, Middle Aston, Bicester, OX25 5PZ.

[gclifton@btinternet.com](mailto:gclifton@btinternet.com) 01869 347273

Tea & coffee available, optional extra pub lunch or bring packed lunch.