Guild Representative Report February 2019

# The Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers

<http://odg.org.uk/>

Publications:

Odd Bob – Printed May and November - Next Issue May 2019

Annual Report

**New Guild website**

Tim Hayward reported that the new website had failed to fulfil the brief and did not meet expectations.

Due to a technical issue it cannot be up-dated efficiently.

In order to develop a website that is fit for purpose and reflects and invests in the needs of a 21st century Guild, it has been agreed that the way forward is to start again.

Investigations into using a commercial company have taken place but after consideration it has been decided that this would be an expensive and not necessarily valuable investment.

The expenditure so far of about £1000 will be written off.

The new website “New Website +1” will focus on our members and our towers, it will be easy to keep up to date and provide a wide range of information, not only to our members but other ringers who wish to use it as an information resource.

The aim is to get it up and running as soon as possible with the understanding that it will be a developing process.

Feedback will be welcomed.

**Future of the General Committee**

At the last committee meeting members discussed the future of the General Committee and how well the Guild meets its basic requirements of recruitment/retention, keeping the bells in good order and Sunday ringing.

Some points from the discussion:

* Guild is not good on recruitment and does not support branches effectively;
* The web site is getting better;
* The Annual Report is excellent;
* Top end training is very good;
* Public relations are limited and there are few shared resources. For example, the Guild has an excellent model bell, but members do not realise that it is available;
* Excellent publications on the bookstall.
* The Guild is not monitoring members.
* There used to be a communications group, maybe this should be reinstated.
* A map of the Guild is being developed visually indicating where towers are active, ring for services, train new ringers etc., as against the weaker areas.
* Membership is growing, it is greater than last year.
* How can the number of teachers in a branch can be assessed?

Tony Crabtree is heading this process, any comments to him.

**Central Council Representatives’ report**

The Central Council are to update their rules, trying to get into the modern world, but it is taking time to cover all areas.

The Dove Data system: it is being updated (by one person, Roger Baldwin, on an old DOS system). There is a lot of work to be done and no forecast date for finishing.

The “Framework for Method Ringing” project has been through a major consultation and significant refinement. The framework, with supporting examples and explanations, and a comprehensive FAQ, is available at: [**https://cccbr.github.io/method\_ringing\_framework/**](https://cccbr.github.io/method_ringing_framework/)

**Safeguarding Policy**.

The permission to ring form has been updated..

<http://odg.org.uk/main/policies/safeguarding.php>

The C2 Safeguarding course was run on 15th September 2018. It is intended to run the course annually and the trainers will be asked to make it even more relevant to the needs of bell ringers.

You are reminded that if you have a young ringer in the tower you must have a permission to ring form and keep a register.

All paperwork should be securely stored.

**Privacy and Policy Statement**

The Guild’s Privacy Policy and Statement has been revised to ensure it complies with the GDPR legislation. It is hoped the policy has been written in a way that is useful for branches and it will be published on the web-site.

## **Education Committee**

Arranges c[ourses](http://odg.org.uk/education/courses.php) catering for a wide range of needs

Basic method ringing (Radley and Steeple Aston) –

**Radley Saturday 6th April 2019**

**Steeple Aston - Saturday 26th October 2019**. Was undersubscribed last year.

More advanced method ringing

**Michaelmas- Saturday 28th September 2019**

**Ten bell ringing Saturday 2nd November 2019**

It would be appreciated if tower captains could encourage their ringers to apply for suitable courses. Sadly, not all of our course notices courses reach the intended audience

If you feel that there are any areas and topics, which are not currently being covered, or if you need help or advice in organising training activities at tower or branch level, then please get in touch with us: ([edchairman@odg.org.uk](file:///C:\Users\Anne\Documents\BELL%20RINGING\AGM%202018\edchairman@odg.org.uk) or [edsecretary@odg.org.uk](file:///C:\Users\Anne\Documents\BELL%20RINGING\AGM%202018\edsecretary@odg.org.uk)).

**Towers and Belfries**

The Towers and Belfries committee is very active with courses, grant inspections, TMA (Tower Maintenance Award) inspections, general advice and minor work.

The Committee would welcome new members; particularly in the East and especially the North East of the Guild. New members do not necessarily need to be “experienced” in belfry matters but must have a practical outlook, be keen & able to learn and be prepared to work as part of a team. Please contact Tony Crabtree if you are interested

Two maintenance courses were run last year. One at Longcot dealing with clapper

maintenance and correction of odd-struckness. The second was a major all-day affair held in October at Lower Heyford, Weston on the Green and Middleton Stoney. Several topics were offered, covering safety, rope splicing, bell maintenance, belfry & tower improvements and major projects.

Three courses are to be arranged for 2019.

Towers are asked to contact the Towers and Belfries committee if they would like a TMA inspection. Currently 80% of towers do not have an award.

**Subscriptions**

Subscriptions for 2019 will remain as last year

a) Resident ringing Members & Associate Members £8

b) Non-resident Ringing Members £8

Peal fees 50p per rope

**Restoration Fund**

Stuart Gibson thanked all the branches that have contributed to this fund. He has started to pursue merging the Bell Fund and the Restoration Fund now that the war loans have been repaid. Comments to be addressed to Stuart Gibson.

**Armistice Day Special Ringing**

The Central Council thanks all members who rang on 11th November. Hundreds of bands were augmented by new ringers for this occasion. As a result of all the posts Bellboard went into melt down.

**Diary Of Events 2019**

Members are urged to support the Guild AGM on May 18th 2019 at Great Missenden.

There is a Youth Ringing Event on April 13th 2019 and another may be organised later in the year. All under 18s will need to be escorted by a responsible adult throughout the day.

The Towers and Belfries sub-committee are to organise 3 courses which will be added to the Diary.

The diary of events for 2019 was reviewed proposing some changes to the 15 year plan to ensure hosting of events was more even between the branches

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| Spring General Committee & Bell Fund AGM | Kirtlington | Saturday 9th March |
| Radley Course | Radley | Saturday 6th April |
| Youth Ringing Event | Oxford | Saturday 13th April |
| *St George’s Day* |  | *Tuesday 23rd April* |
| Ringing Day | North Bucks Branch | Monday 6th May |
| Eight-Bell Striking Competition | North Bucks Branch | Monday 6th May |
| Annual General Meeting | Great Missenden | Saturday 18th May |
| Michaelmas Course | Eastern part of Diocese | Saturday 28th September |
| Six-Bell Striking Competition | EBSB Branch | Saturday 5th October |
| Steeple Aston Course | Steeple Aston | Saturday 26th October |
| Ten-Bell Course | ? | Saturday 2nd November |
| Ten-Bell Striking Competition | Sonning Deanery Branch | Saturday 23rd November |
| Autumn General Committee Meeting | Sonning Deanery Branch | Saturday 23rd November |

Contact email addresses for Guild officers are on the ODG website <http://odg.org.uk/officers.php>

Officers tab