Guild Representative Report March 2018

# The Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers

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

Odd Bob – Printed May and November - Next Issue May 2018

**Finance and General Purposes Sub-Committee**

**The Guild has vacancies for the office of General Secretary** and also, on the Towers and belfries Committee – see later.

Some of the tasks of the General Secretary have been shared out amongst other officers, so the General Secretary’s job has been slimmed down.

Ringing Day Chipping Norton Branch Monday 7th May

**Guild Festival**

This was the discussion question last year. The next festival is scheduled for 2021.

However, following the feedback from the discussions, it was agreed that the Festival would be discussed by F&GP closer to this date, to consider whether the frequency should be extended to mark significant anniversaries only.

**Public Relations**

**New Guild website** is being developed.

Elva Ainsworth, PRO gave a presentation of the new website at the November 2017 meeting. She is working through responses from the branches regarding the best ways to support them.

In due course, the Branch members will be required to update their entries. Training will be given

There is the intention to have the new website in good shape for the AGM 2018

Annual General Meeting Banbury Branch Saturday 12th May 2018 (note change of date, was going to be 19th May).

They are still looking for interesting video or audio clips so please look out for opportunities. **Representatives from Committees and Branches who would like to be trained (remotely) in updating the website to be submitted by the end of February. One-to-one training to be run in March/April.**

**Presentation at Amersham**

Mark Regan, Master at Worcester Cathedral, is due to run “How to talk about ringing!” for us on 21st April. - see <https://site.corsizio.com/c/59e337b4932ced07ee4b7ce8>.

## **Education Committee**

Tony Crabree has become Chairman

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

Basic method ringing (Radley and Steeple Aston) – next course **Radley 7th April 2018 – the 25th** Ringing criteria attached at end of this report.

Steeple Aston course - Saturday 27th October 2018

More advanced method ringing (Michaelmas- Saturday 29th September 2018)

Ten bell ringing focusing on Grandsire Caters Shrivenham 3rd November.2018

Applications for the Michaelmas and Steeple Aston courses were up last year. The Michaelmas course included a ‘Conducting’ course which was well received.

The committee would be grateful if a volunteer or volunteers were to come forward to help organise the volunteers, and also for booking the towers. Please contact the Education Committee if you know of anyone who might be willing to help with these essential tasks.

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](edchairman@odg.org.uk%20) or <edsecretary@odg.org.uk>).

4. **Safeguarding Policy**.

The details of the Safeguarding Policy are still being discussed.

There is an article on safeguarding in the November 2017 Odd Bob stating the latest news.

Katie Lane has had talks with the Diocesan Safeguarding officer about the difficulty of having a Children’s Officer in every tower, and has sent out a fact-finding request for each tower as to the feasibility of this. Katie will bring the findings to the next meeting. March 10th 2018

**Towers and Belfries**

Two new members, David Bardwell (Tilehurst) and Andy Slater (Mortimer) have been co-opted onto the committee, and enquiries are being made in the north of the Guild to try and identify further members to cover that area. However, it must be the right person with technical and mechanical knowledge

A maintenance course is being planned for September/October probably in the Banbury, Bicester, Chipping Norton area.

## **5 Library review**

Work on the trial electonic archive continues. - the screens are now consistent in their design and from the point of view of the application, the archive can be regarded as ready to use. Volunteers are still required to scan and photpgraph documents in the library for placing in the archive.If you are able to help, or provide feedback, please contact the Librarian (Doug Beaumont).\* .

Update March- Electronic archive: There has however been only one offer of help with the photography/scanning of library material, and unless this situation changes there can be no real progress with setting up the archive.

7. **Subscriptions**

Subscriptions for 2018 will remain as last year

a) Resident ringing Members & Associate Members £8

b) Non-resident Ringing Members £8

Peal fees 50p per rope

**Armistice Day Special Ringing**

There was discussion about the requirement to ring muffled in the morning then open in the evening with the view was that many churches have an evening service, so this would not be practical, particularly if it involved removing muffles with the bells up.

Ken Darvill has agreed to be the Guild’s point of contact for any requests from people wanting to learn to ring initiated through the ‘Ringing Remembers Project’.

A new campaign to replace the 1400 ringers lost in the first Great War - to be acknowledged with ringing at 7.05pm on 11th November 2018. Churches wishing to participate are asked to complete the form found at [www.brunopeek.co.uk<http://www.brunopeek.co.uk/>](www.brunopeek.co.uk%3chttp:/www.brunopeek.co.uk/%3e%20) no later than 31st July 2018, to ensure the Battle's Over organisers can list their involvement, and send them further information. Oxfordshire County Council has been active in encouraging all churches to participate.

**Bell Fund**

The Managing Trustees of the Bell Fund would like to thank to all those who helped to arrange the Ringing Day which was held in the Bicester Branch and raised £763

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

Officers tab

Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers

Education Committee

Ringing Criteria for the Radley Course

To ensure the safety of the students, helpers and tutors on this course a standard of ringing competence and understanding is required.

While we try to make sure that all of the bells we use are suitable for teaching, they may be much lighter or heavier than the bells in your home tower, there may be steps or ladders to access the ringing room, the length of the draught may be much longer or shorter than you are used to, and there may be any number of other peculiarities to deal with.  For this reason, we ask that you are able to ring a bell competently and confidently on your own, and you should ideally have experience of ringing a range of different bells, including bells in other towers, so that you are not impeded in your progress and can take full advantage of the tuition provided on the course.

All students must be members of the Oxford Diocesan Guild, and therefore regular Sunday service ringers.

The tower Captain or Tower ringing Tutor should fill in the ringing ability section on the application form giving their name to this.

If the student is under 18 a permission to ring form needs to be filled in and this will be forwarded on receipt of the application. A parent or an appointed responsible adult needs to be present on the course. This could be a helper.

This criteria will also help the tutor to plan the course as they will be aware that the student understands these requirements.