

The Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers

For information on the Guild, see the Guild website: <http://odg.org.uk/> The papers and minutes for the General Committee meeting of Nov 2020 (which brings together the latest topics in the Guild) are on the website. (Search for General Committee). Some of the papers are also reproduced in ODD BOB issue 103

Publications from the Guild:

Odd Bob – Printed May and November - Next Issue May 2021 – now available on Guild website

Latest at [ODD BOB Issue 103 \(odg.org.uk\)](http://odg.org.uk/)

Annual Report – next issue available March 2021

Meetings of the various committees have taken place over Zoom since March 2020.

Subscriptions 2021 – kept as previous year, £8 per ringer

Education Sub-committee

Sadly, it was not possible to run any of the Guild courses in 2020 and the Radley Course has already become a casualty for 2021. Decisions about the other courses will be made when more is known about the possibilities of a proper return to ringing.

The Young Ringers' Award. Normally, the next phase would run from April '21 - March '22 but under the current circumstances this is not realistic. However, it is proposed to run a special one-off 'lockdown' version of the Award to acknowledge the progress made by youngsters in ringing related activities during the pandemic.

The Education Sub-Committee is to be re-named the **Learning and Development Workgroup**. The change would simply update the language used to describe learning and development within the Guild and no change to the group's way of working, objectives or deliverables is envisaged. Delegated financial authority would remain as at present, as would the group's membership structure.

Terms of Reference for the **Learning and Development Workgroup** can be found in the Gen Comm papers Item 12

Work has been done on making the education section of the Guild website more user friendly and creating better links to other resources.

Towers and Belfries Sub-Committee Report

General availability of advice and website downloads. This has now widened to the material produced by CCCBR as well as ART, who are producing some excellent downloads with assistance from T&B experts. Work is now starting to update the T&B page and the material available through it.

All current Tower Maintenance Awards are to be extended by a year. The Tower Maintenance Handbook has been updated ready to be uploaded onto the new Guild website; and numerous 'return to ringing' inspections have been facilitated as towers planned to resume ringing. Sadly, all courses had been cancelled in 2020.

There is a big demand for rope splicing and T&B are happy to support local courses with tuition. They want people to come ready to learn skills they can put to good use in their local towers, whether splicing ropes or spotting preventive measures so the rope wear can be reduced and rope life **extended**.

There are many good splicing videos on YouTube (as well as some not so good...).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gb-6YwA2e2Y> is instructive.

Discussion on Date of Eight-Bell Striking Competition about moving the date of the Eight-Bell Competition from the May Day Bank Holiday to the same afternoon and at the same location as the Guild AGM. The Ringing Day would remain on the May Day Holiday. The guild is concerned that we need an activity that will attract members to the Guild AGM. The experience in recent years is that the striking competitions are a draw and provide a good social occasion. They would use this to encourage the competition participants and their groupies to stay for the AGM business meeting.

Historically the host branch has provided much of the necessary quorum for the meeting but this year is a particular concern because the host branch (ie Bicester) is small. There may also be some members who are still reluctant to mix at events and meetings because of the Covid virus.

The Guild will trial this approach in 2021 with a review and discussion at the November 2021 General Committee Meeting.

Report of Finance and General Purposes Sub-committee

A Public Relations Working Group has been set up. It is keen to get the website up to speed and is investigating updating the Guild logo to make it more dynamic and yet still identifiable as representing the Guild.

The Guild is investigating having the AGM based on combining members on Zoom with a meeting based in a hall or church. The aim would be to encourage more members to attend AGMs in either of the two ways

The Guild will review the Covid-19 situation in deciding what to do about the May Ringing Day, Guild AGM and Eight-Bell Contest.

Other Matters

The Guild Treasurer will begin to prepare an application to HMRC for the Guild as a whole to become a registered charity, pending further discussion at the AGM. (Previously it had been suggested the Youth Fund alone should become a registered charity).

The Guild Treasurer has also been considering the Guild's membership database in the light of GDPR (the General Data Protection Regulation 2018). Work on the database would be needed if charitable status for the Guild overall is sought. The Guild Treasurer invited two or three branches to contact him if they are interested in trialling an updated approach to Guild records.

Safeguarding

During lockdown, there has been some virtual ringing, chief among these being Ringing Room and Handbell Stadium. These platforms have offered an opportunity for ringers to get together

Members are reminded that, if the young and vulnerable are involved in these ‘get togethers’, it is important to remember the basic principles of safeguarding. The main rule of thumb is to be aware. Organisers should make sure that parents are kept informed and, as with What’s App or other communication groups, receive a copy of any messages or invitations to participate. Publication of photographs of young people, should only happen with the express permission of parents, especially where names are also included

Diary Of Events 2021

Face to face meeting will be unlikely before April 2021.

It is hoped that the new Covid-19 vaccination programme will enable restrictions to be eased. A number of 2021 events have therefore been left in the diary, including the AGM in May, the 8 bell competition and the Ringing Day.

There will be further discussions as the Covid situation unfolds

<i>St George’s Day</i>		<i>Friday 23rd April</i>
Ringing Day	Banbury Branch	Monday 3rd May
AGM and Eight-Bell Striking Competition	Bicester Branch	Saturday 15th May
Guild Festival	Oxford	Friday, 23 July 2021
Michaelmas Course	In east of Diocese	Saturday 25th September
Six-Bell Striking Competition	North Bucks Branch	Saturday 2nd October
Steeple Aston Course	Steeple Aston	Saturday 30th October