

## The Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers

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

Odd Bob – Printed May and November - Next Issue May 2016

Guild diary events have been included on meeting Agenda.

The website includes information on the work of the various committees, library, diary dates, downloads eg for methods and tower maintenance tasks, striking competitions and more.

### **About the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers**

The ODG is a territorial society representing bell ringers in the English counties of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire, which together comprise the Diocese of Oxford.

The ODG has in excess of 2000 members, the highest total of any Society which is affiliated to the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.

### **The activities of the Guild are organised by several sub-committees.**

The Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund has produced a flyer for information. This explains how the Bell fund operates, and in particular, invites donations

### **Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund Sponsored Ringing Week**

The 2016 Leap Year Sponsored Ringing Event is almost upon us again!

The Sponsored Ringing 'Week' will be **20th to 29th February**, The Shield will be presented to the Branch raising the greatest amount per head of membership.

It's a great opportunity for ringers of all abilities to have some fun and do a bit of extra ringing to generate sponsorship for the Bell Fund. It does not have to be quarter peals and peals, all sorts of ringing at all levels of ability qualify. And where appropriate Gift Aid can be applied to the sponsorship money making sponsorship even more valuable!

The Trustees appreciate the efforts of everyone who organises and rings in this event which is a key fund-raising activity for the Bell Fund.

Sponsorship forms are available to download by following this [link](#) or can be supplied by the [Bell Fund Secretary](#).

## **Education Committee**

[Courses](#) catering for a wide range of needs

Basic method ringing (Radley and Steeple Aston),  
More advanced method ringing ( September (Michaelmas)  
Ten bell ringing                      Early December

Next course, **Radley , 9<sup>th</sup> April 2016**. Although the poster advises that application must be made by 31<sup>st</sup> Jan, it may still be worth applying. (They considered cancelling the previous courses due to lack of numbers). Ringing criteria has been more closely defined this year as stays were broken at previous courses. New ringing criteria attached at end of this report.

- An annual [Training Meeting](#) for Branch training officers (or their equivalent), with discussion and practical session, normally in February, but interest has waned this year and it is not being held.
- A [support network](#) to enable ringing teachers in the Guild to share their experience and support each other. (More details on the website)
- A **book stall**, containing popular ringing books that members can see and buy. The book stall is at all major Guild events
- Guild publications for sale: a series of 13 [leaflets](#) on a wide range of topics. (Some of which can be downloaded from the website),
- An award scheme for [young ringers](#), normally run every few years. The most recent was run in 2015/2016.

**The education committee are keen to hear of other training needs.  
Contact the Chairman or Secretary of the Education Committee**

## **Towers and Belfries Committee**

Concerned that the number of towers allowing their Tower Maintenance Award to lapse.

Last year 2 Rope Splicing courses were held in the Vale of the White Horse, and a Bell Maintenance Course at Newbury.

## **Safeguarding report Odd Bob Nov 2016**

## Diary of events - on Agenda

### Special ringing occasions in 2016

Leap Year ringing (20-29 February 2016) – sponsored for Bell Fund

<b>APR 2016</b>	<b>Thu</b>	<b>21st</b>	<b>National</b>	<b>HM Queen Elizabeth's 90th birthday</b>		
	<b>Sat</b>	<b>23rd</b>	<b>National</b>	<b>St George's Day and 400th anniversary of death of William Shakespeare</b>	<b>Newbury Branch</b>	<b>noon - 2pm</b>
<b>MAY 2016</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>Guild</b>	<b>Ringling Day and SC 8</b>		
<b>JUN 2016</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>12th</b>	<b>Guild</b>	<b>Ringling for the official birthday of HM Queen Elizabeth</b>		
<b>JUL 2016</b>	<b>Sat</b>	<b>9th</b>	<b>Guild</b>	<b>Guild Festival</b>	<b>Oxford</b>	

**Subscriptions for 2016.** The subscription will remain at £8.

**Peal Fees for 2016.** Peal fees will remain at 50p per participant

**Discussion topic, to be raised at next General meeting (March):**

Good striking and bell handling.

As a branch, what do you do to identify and tackle handling issues among your members?

What branch activities if any do you have to improve striking?

## Education Committee

### Ringling 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.