

The Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers

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

Odd Bob – Printed May and November - Next Issue May 2015

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.

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

Eduaction 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 , 11th April 2015**. Although the poster advises that application must be made by 31st Jan, it may still be worth applying. (They considered cancelling the Steeple Aston course due to lack of numbers). Also, ringing criteria will be more closely defined this year as stays were broken at both the Radley and Steeple Aston courses.

- An annual [Training Meeting](#) for Branch training officers (or their equivalent), with discussion and practical session, normally in February. (Held 7th February 2015)
- 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 2013/2014. The next will run from April 2015 to March 2016.

Are you a Guild member who is less than 18 on 1st April 2015?

If so, you can enter the award scheme, which is designed to encourage and recognise young ringers' achievements. The scheme runs for a year (April to March) with the awards based on each participant's achievement and progress throughout the year, and they will be presented at the Guild AGM in May 2016.

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Diary of events – on Agenda

Special ringing occasions in 2015

800th Anniversary of the sealing of the Magna Carta (sealed 15th June 1215) (Ringing Sun 14th June, 2015)

300th Anniversary of the first recorded peal (Sat, 2nd May, 2015)

Guild Festival: This will take place on 9 July 2016 in Oxford. Cathedral service at 11:00, Newman rooms for lunch (still being negotiated), then open towers.

Subscriptions for 2015. The subscription will remain at £8.

Peal Fees for 2015. Peal fees will remain at 50p per participant

To be raised at next General meeting (March):

Issues such as knowledge of our membership, retaining ringers, running effective practices for all members and reaching out to a potential younger audience.

If you have any views, good ideas, questions or matters to be raised, please let me know, so that I can raise them at the March meeting.

Practices for the **Ringling World National Youth Striking** competition: The Master reported that practices are being held monthly for young ringers in the Guild. At present they have about 20 ringers. She asked if any branches have young ringers who would like to join them. (Competition Sat 11th July, but practices will continue after that). They need to be able to ring Triples. If the branches have anyone they should contact her before asking the young person, as they may have already been asked.