

Branch Representatives' Report

General Committee meetings were held at Shellingford in March and Long Crendon in November.

Ringling for St George's Day was again encouraged, recommended to start at 6pm.

The Guild Treasurer may propose to close the Restoration Fund if it does not receive more support.

The Central Council Bell Restoration Committee offers help and advice to anyone contemplating bell restoration: they can assist with fundraising, grants and preparation of applications; a booklet is available.

Responses to the questionnaire on Change Ringing for the Future are being collated by the Guild Secretary.

The Ringing Foundation has set up an integrated teacher-training scheme (ITTS) awarding qualifications. It was initially operated by volunteers, with £11,000 from grants and personal donations, but it now needs £25,000 over 2 years to pay for an administrative assistant. It was recommended that an ODG donation of £1000 be proposed at the Guild AGM.

White's of Appleton advertise in Guild Reports throughout the country, and theirs is the only one currently appearing in the ODG annual report. In future, other adverts (not necessarily related to ringing) may appear, clearly labelled 'Advertisement'.

The Young Ringers' Award Scheme will take place again next year and everyone is asked to encourage entries.

Bill Butler was congratulated on being awarded life membership of the Central Council.

It is planned to publish two issues of Odd Bob in 2013, with avoidance of (hitherto rife) duplication of content from the Annual Report.

The ODG subscription is one of the cheapest around, and it is not widely understood that about £2 goes on insurance. It is being increased to £8, with £5 going to the Guild and £3 to branches. Peal fees remain at 50p per rope. Research on peals in ODG Reports, complying or not with the rules at the time, allowed the valid total at the end of 2011 to be fixed at 20,857.

Rule 13, which allows financial help to impoverished ringers, is considered obsolete. It is proposed that this rule be abolished and the reserve fund be reabsorbed into Guild funds.

Six bells from Abingdon St Helen (and their fittings) are to be rehung in a new frame at Kimberley Cathedral in South Africa at a cost of £40,000; a committee was formed to seek national help in fundraising.

Andrew Elliston