



# Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers

## GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING

**SATURDAY 09 MARCH 2024 at 3.20pm approx. following ODBF AGM (3.00pm)  
Great Brickhill Parish Hall, Great Brickhill, MK17 9BA**

## AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Requests for urgent items of Any Other Business
3. Minutes of the General Committee meeting of 25 November 2023.

### INFORMATION AND REPORTS (circulated in advance where appropriate)

4. Matters arising
5. Correspondence
  - a. ART
  - b. CCCBR Code of Conduct
6. Reports from and election of sub-committees
  - a. Education (Learning & Development Workgroup)
  - b. Towers and Belfries
  - c. Finance and General Purposes
7. Reports from
  - a. Peal Secretary
  - b. Safeguarding Officer
  - c. Librarian
  - d. Website Manager
  - e. Server Manager
  - f. Report Editor
8. Diary of Events
  - a. Diary of 2024 Forthcoming Events
  - b. 15-year plan
9. Posts specified in Rule 9(c) & (f) (iii): Notification of officers not willing to stand for re-election.

### FINANCIAL MATTERS

10. Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2023
11. Donations to the Bell Fund, the Ringing World, and ART.

### DISCUSSION AND CONCLUDING ITEMS

12. Any other business, as agreed at the start.
13. Concluding vote of thanks



## **MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 2023 GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING**

Held at The Village Hall, Steeple Aston, OX25 4SF on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 2:30pm.

Attended by 39 Committee members (apologies and attendees recorded in the ODG Attendance Book).

The meeting was chaired by Catherine Lane, Master, who welcomed members to the meeting and told them that the meeting would be recorded.

A microphone and Audio capability were in operation to aid hearing the meeting.

### **1. Apologies**

18 apologies for absence were received:

Ken Darvill, Jon Chamberlain, Lindsey Barker, Brian Gatward, Hilarie Rodgers, Cris Galatanau, Kate Edgar, Richard Law, Venerable Jonathan Chaffey (Archdeacon Oxford), David Tyler (Archdeacon of Dorchester), Cheryl Watson, Rob Needham, Pauline Needham, Richard Loyd, Gill Loyd, Peter Robson, Kathryn Grant, & Katherine Stonham.

A list of members attending is recorded at the end of the minutes.

### **2. Any other urgent items of business**

None.

### **3. Minutes of the General Committee meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2023.**

Procedural errors in the minutes required correction so that the names of members elected to the Education (Learning & Development Workgroup) and Towers & Belfries Sub Committee were recorded in full.

An incorrect recording from Towers and Belfries activities was removed.

The CCCBR representatives report has been added to the 11<sup>th</sup> March 2023 papers.

The minutes were agreed with the above amendments. Proposed by Doug Beaumont, seconded by Graham Clifton.

*The minutes of 11<sup>th</sup> March 2023 were immediately amended following the meeting and the correct version is now in the official ODG record and ODG website.*

### **4. Matters arising.**

None

## 5. Correspondence

- a. ART Statement was noted.
- b. Ashmolean One World Handbells event on February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024, was a combined ODG and Oxford Society of Change Ringers Handbells band. Members to attend if they can.
- c. CCCBR correspondence will be distributed to Branch Secs by Hon Sec.

## 6. Case for Change Update:

### a) Member Communications

Jenny Bennett presented a short item on Membermojo (MM) software. She highlighted items in the short report provided in the meeting papers. The system is fully GDPR compliant and provides communication abilities. MM has been successfully implemented in Essex, Lincoln, and Birmingham ringing guilds. This endorsed ODG's decision to use MM and not another software product such as Love Admin. The MM project team was looking at how best to use MM communication features. ODG proposed to implement the first phase on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025, which creates a membership database. The financial phase will follow phase 1 implementation in 2025. The Master agreed that more than MM was required to improve communication in ODG but this was a good first step. Stuart Gibson advised that MM cost approximately £475.00 per annum for 5,000 members.

Richard Stanworth (Server Manager) advised general committee members that he was undertaking a server migration through December 2023. Savings of £150.00 will ensue plus greater storage capabilities.

### b) QR Code

The Master proposed that QR (Quick Response) codes were used on posters on church noticeboards. John Harrison endorsed as using QR codes effectively in Sonning Deanery Branch. Andrew Goldthorpe (Website Manager) also endorsed with his professional expertise. Appropriate use was required as some members concerned about safety. Implementation of QR codes where appropriate will be implemented.

## 7. Reports from sub-committees

### a. Education (Learning & Development Workgroup)

Report was noted. Members directed to the workshops and courses planned for 2024. The successful Tower Leaders workshop is to be run for 3 branches – Central Bucks, North Bucks and Chiltern.

A grant of £40.00 was awarded as part of a total cost of £120 in support of increasing to 8 photo sensors on the Bagley 8 bell Multi-Bell Interface (MBI) at Kirtlington.

### b. Towers and Belfries subcommittee

Report was noted.

New members are welcomed for the subcommittee. Members were requested to note the courses available and commend to their members.

**c. Finance and General Purposes**

Report was noted.

**8 Reports from:**

**a. CCCBR**

Report from November 2023 General Committee meeting will be added to the papers. Items to highlight to members – use of an agency ‘Yello Yoyo’ to tackle publicity and marketing. Around 10% of ringing membership had been lost during pandemic but the situation was now stabilised and membership increasing. The central library is being relocated to Loughborough Museum. Consideration to be given to creating a photographic record of peal boards. More emphasis on developing and recruiting young ringers.

To note the proposal to reduce the number of representatives sent by ringing organisations was rejected. ODG are entitled to 1 more representative (6 in total).

There was a financial surplus due to the activities around the coronation.

**b. Safeguarding Officer**

None

**9 Diary of Events & 15-year plan**

**a. 15-year plan**

The Master raised the matter of the 150 anniversary in 2031 so the guild festival will be held then. The gaps between festivals had been affected by the pandemic. It was proposed that money was put aside to enable a good celebration at the 2031 guild festival in 2031.

**FINANCIAL MATTERS**

**10 Subscriptions for 2024**

Proposal made by Stuart Gibson (Hon Treasurer) to raise subscription to £10.00 (£3.00 to branch and £7.00 to guild). Additional funds required to cover Insurance increase, IT costs, and youth development and competitions among other matters.

The proposal was approved after a short discussion by the meeting.

Proposed Stuart Gibson.

Seconded Graham Clifton.

**11 Resident Ringing Members & Associate members**

Proposal of subscription of £10 per member.

Proposed Stuart Gibson.

Seconded Patricia Newton

**12 Non-resident ringing members.**

One off payment of £10.00 per non-resident ringing member.

**13 Peal fees for 2024**

These are set at 50p per rope. For handbells 50p per person.

Proposed Stuart Gibson

Seconded John Harrison

**14 Guild Budget**

Acceptance:

Proposed Stuart Gibson.

Seconded by Robert Newton.

Approved by meeting.

**DISCUSSION AND CONCLUDING ITEMS**

**15 Any Other Business**

A replacement Odd Bob editor is needed as our current editor is standing down. The Master requested that replacement(s) were sought in the branches.

A proposal was made that ODG looked to simplify their procedures and take a more pragmatic approach.

The proposal was.

Proposed John Harrison

Seconded Robert Newton

The Master agreed to look at the ODG rules to see if a change was required.

**16 Concluding Vote of Thanks**

The Deputy Master Chris Mundy thanked Banbury branch for hosting the meeting. Especial thanks were extended for the excellent refreshments, coffees, teas, and audio capabilities. The Deputy Master also thanked the General Committee for their active participation in the meeting. It was noted that the ringing competition had been enjoyable. Media interest in the competition was high. Publicity about the ringing will be shown on Meridian TV filmed at St. Edburg's church, Bicester. Also there will be articles in the Oxford Times and Oxford Mail.

**17 Date of next meeting**

9<sup>th</sup> March 2024 Spring General Committee meeting & Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund (ODBF) AGM – North Bucks Branch

Attendees at General Committee Meeting (as signed in Attendance book) – Steeple  
Aston Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2023

*Note that some names occur more than once as the individual performs more than one role. Individuals are counted once for the purpose of attendee numbers.*

Catherine Lane (Master)  
Chris Mundy (Deputy Master)  
Karen Pile (General Secretary)  
Stuart Gibson (General Treasurer)  
Doug Beaumont (Librarian)  
John Payne (Membership Secretary)  
Ken Davenport (Peal Secretary)  
June Wells (Safeguarding Officer)  
Andrew Goldthorpe (Website Manager)  
Richard Stanworth (Server Manager)

Vice Presidents:

Robert H Newton  
Patricia M Newton  
Graham Clifton  
E J Wells

Stewards:

Tony Crabtree  
Patricia M Newton  
Stephen Rossiter  
Colin M Lee

Trustees:

Robert Newton

Central Council Representatives:

John Harrison

Banbury Branch:

Alan Griffin (Branch Rep)

Bicester Branch:

Anne Martin (Branch Rep)

Central Bucks:

Karen Pile (Deputy Branch Secretary)

Chiltern Branch:

Chris Potter (Branch Rep)

Chipping Norton Branch:  
Geoffrey Stretton (Branch Secretary)  
David Salter (Ringing Master)

East Berks & South Bucks (EBSB) Branch:  
Angela Darvill (Branch Rep)  
Patricia M Newton (Branch Secretary)  
Jan Galloway (Branch Rep)

Newbury Branch:  
Martin Rice (Branch Chair)

North Bucks Branch:  
Doug Hird (Branch Secretary)  
Ted Fawcett (Branch Rep)

Old North Berks:  
Richard Peters (Branch Rep)  
Jenny Bennett & Andrew Bennett (speakers re. Membermojo IT system)

Oxford City:  
No attendees

Reading Branch:  
Stephen A Rossiter

Sonning Deanery:  
Jan Glen (Branch Secretary)  
Sue Davenport (Branch Rep and Branch Treasurer)

South Oxon:  
Amy Herlihy (Branch Rep)  
Japh Slaney (Branch Rep)

Vale of the White Horse:  
Tony Crabtree (Ringing Master)

Witney and Woodstock:  
Andrew Goldthorpe (Branch Secretary)

## 5 Correspondence

### 5a ART

ODG received a certificate with the text below:

*Thank you for your donation to ART during 2023 and the part you play as a Sponsor in our sponsorship programme. The generous and on-going support provided is vital to the continuation of ART's mission and objectives.*

### 5b CCCBR

ODG received a poster to place in all towers with the following text:



## Code for Ringing

Every ringer, ringing leader and ringing society plays their part in creating a safe, welcoming environment and in representing ringing to both church and public.

This recommended checklist for ringing societies summarises the values of the ringing community and its expectations of all who ring, in their interactions with other ringers and when representing ringing at large.

### ALWAYS

1. Create a tower environment where all feel safe, respected, welcomed and valued.
2. Create a positive learning environment where feedback is timely and supportive
3. Respect your surroundings, the tower, church and the community where you ring.
4. Understand and observe others' personal boundaries.
5. Ring responsibly, with the well-being of your band and visitors in mind.
6. Look out for others' safety, raise concerns promptly and know what to do if you witness unacceptable behaviour.
7. Make sure all your interactions, online or in person, show empathy and courtesy.
8. Consider the impact of your words and actions on others; apologise if you're at fault.
9. Uphold the safeguarding policies of your parish and the ringing societies to which you belong.
10. Take pride in being part of the ringing community.

### NEVER

1. Engage in, trivialise or endorse any form of abuse, bullying or harassment, or let these go unreported.
2. Engage in banter or language which could make someone feel demeaned, threatened or unwelcome, whether in person, by phone, online or via social media.
3. Undermine, ridicule or intimidate a less experienced ringer.
4. Personalise disagreements; deal with the issue, not the person.
5. Allow your decisions as a ringer to be compromised, by prejudice or any other cause.
6. Act unlawfully in your role as a ringer or in a way that brings ringing into disrepute.



If you witness unacceptable behaviour and are not sure how to respond, contact your parish or association safeguarding officer. Where someone is in immediate danger or requires urgent attention, call your local authority's children's or adult social services team, or the police on 999. immediately on 999

Edition 1 – 1st January, 2024

## **Reports:**

### **6a Education (Learning and Development Workgroup)**

#### **Learning & Development Workgroup Report to General Committee 9<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

The group met via Zoom in January, with an attendance of eleven. Outcomes from the Michaelmas, Steeple Aston and Grandsire Caters courses were discussed. We are grateful to Sue McCouaig, who is now taking on the lion's share of the organisation for Steeple Aston.

There was frustration at the poor response from the three targeted branches (C Bucks, N Bucks and Chiltern) to invitations to the Tower Leadership Workshop at Long Crendon on 3<sup>rd</sup> February, and the decision was taken to open the event to other potential participants at short notice.

The work of the Oxon Ringing School ART Hub was discussed at length. We are looking at ways of closer co-operation, encouraging basic and foundation skills training in other parts of the Guild, alongside the development of teachers.

We are grateful to Colin Lee and his team for their continued work with young ringers. In view of the distances involved, Colin is encouraging four regional practices in addition to the main squad practices leading to the RWNYC. There has been further contact with groups throughout the Midlands and the squad will attend a regional event, including a contest, in the Loughborough area in March. We continue to encourage membership of the Young Change Ringers Association.

Dorothy Hall has continued to develop our area of the Guild website: we encourage everyone to make good use of this resource and to bring it to the attention of others.

Some key dates:

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March (evening), Training Officers' Meeting, via Zoom

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April, Radley Course

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September, Michaelmas Course

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October, Steeple Aston Course

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November, Grandsire Caters Course\*

\*Date subject to confirmation

Robert Newton (Secretary)

## 6b Towers and Belfries

### ODG TOWERS & BELFRIES COMMITTEE'S REPORT - March 2024 GENERAL COMMITTEE

The T&B committee last met in January 2024. We are mixing in-person meetings with Zoom so we gain the benefits of both. New members are very welcome. You don't need to be a belfry expert and you can gain a lot from the experience of the other members.

Unfortunately, we are seeing increasing instances of stretchy (often new) ropes giving the perception that the bells are "going" badly with difficulty ringing and teaching on them. In some cases, the towers don't even realise and somehow accept the new situation. Historically, many towers would "stretch" new ropes before ringing with heavy weights on them for a week or so.

Nowadays, most new ropes have a man-made "pre-stretched terylene" or "pre-stretched polyester" top end, leading to the perception that the rope won't stretch so fewer towers are now stretching their new ropes. They don't realise that much of the stretch is often in the sally and tail so the rope must still have a heavy weight hung on it for a week or so before ringing. Unfortunately, even after that, the stretch sometimes persists because you may actually have a poor quality man-made "top". We have found several such instances. Get back to your supplier sooner rather than later. If there is stretch in a man-made top it may never disappear.

Other enquiries recently have included fly infestation and belfry access. We also find "jumpy" or "wobbly" ropes, often caused by guides that are too high, too low or non-existent, maybe rope holes being out of line or maybe a need for "flapping boards". We recently visited a tower where the bad "go" of the bells was finally traced to frame movement. We had to tie the bells before watching and listening in the belfry and finally discovering the cause. We continue to visit towers to advise where sound inside or outside is too loud or soft. Sometimes, the remedy is quite straightforward. Ask us!

We continue to run several belfry and rope courses each year spread around the ODG. We ran an advanced "hands on" course at Windsor. This was definitely a spanners, oil can and boiler suit session! We ran a very successful Rope Course in Steeple Aston Hall during the vacant time in the October ringing course. This included splicing & preventive maintenance and minor improvements to reduce rope wear or improve the ringing experience. In 2023 we taught 60-70 students! 2024 will see Rope Courses at Radley on 10<sup>th</sup> February, Steeple Aston 26<sup>th</sup> October and a General Belfry Course at Church Enstone 27<sup>th</sup> April where we will make use of belfry artefacts at "ground level" for ease of teaching as well as exploring the belfry. Students will learn about sound control, clappers, odd-struckness, wheels, stays, bell frames, risk assessment, authorities & permissions, maintenance schedule and more. We plan an "introduction to steeple keeping" at Stratfield Mortimer in June. We already have an invitation for a "Hands-On" course and will publish details when known. Email [tbchair@odg.org.uk](mailto:tbchair@odg.org.uk) or [tbsecretary@odg.org.uk](mailto:tbsecretary@odg.org.uk) if you fancy attending or indeed hosting a course.

Much of the committee's work goes on between meetings and courses with inspections and advice. Our twelve members visited well over 50 towers in 2023 including Bell Fund grant inspections. Please ask if you would like a visit either for general advice, a specific problem or a Tower Maintenance Award (TMA). Towers are encouraged to ask for a TMA inspection and may get a certificate (bronze, silver or gold) besides lots of helpful advice or suggested improvements.

The T&B page of the ODG website [Towers and Belfries - Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers \(odg.org.uk\)](https://www.odg.org.uk) continues to expand with useful material. You will find contact details and the services offered by our members. If you can't find what you are looking for, please ask [tbchair@odg.org.uk](mailto:tbchair@odg.org.uk)

Tony Crabtree – Chairman – Towers & Belfries Committee.

## **6c Finance & General Purposes (F&GP) Committee**

F&GP have discussed and noted the considerable activity in developing ODG's IT, membership, and training capabilities. The committee has a standing item to review and discuss appropriate actions concerning safeguarding.

There has been good progress on IT upgrades (see item 7e below for full report) and with the membership software system project (software tool – Membermojo (MM)).

Stuart Gibson who is MM Project lead updated F&GP on the positive MemberMojo (MM) project progress. Zoom project meetings are held every 2/3 weeks.

Target dates – 1st January 2025 for the creation of a full membership database. Through 2025 and launch in January 2026 the financial subscription system will be implemented.

Highlights: Jan Glen joined the MM team and her expertise from Sonning Deanery is valuable. A Test membership form has been created by ODG Webmaster, Andrew Goldthorpe. This is being tested. Membership data is in preparation for the test system to upload and recheck. MM communications commenced at the November 2023 General Committee meeting. MM project communications continue with Zoom Branch Officers' meetings (in early February 2024), at Branch AGMs (February through to the end of March) and with milestone progress briefs. A brief describing the rationale for MM called 'Streamlining the ODG membership process' has been issued to all members.

As set out in previous Server manager report (item 7e below), work proceeded in December 2023 to make the move to using Eco Webhosting. The move was an exacting process. F&GP thanked Richard for the substantial work he had delivered. F&GP asked that a 'lessons learnt' report was written to draw upon the next time major IT work was undertaken.

F&GP reviewed the Forthcoming events 2024 dates list. The latter events list will be posted on the guild website in addition to cascade to all branches. The following events were added.

- New Ringers/members event (6th July 2024)
- Addition of 10 and 12 bell practices dates
- Addition of sponsored quarter peal ringing week 24th February to 1st March (for Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund)
- Addition of 6 bell and Raising & Lowering Competition 5th October 2024

Karen Pile – Hon Secretary.

## **7a Peal Secretary**

### **PEAL SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 2023**

A total of 167 peals was rung for the Guild in 2023 (16 more than in 2022): 71 on handbells and 96 on tower bells. The number of tower bell peals was increased by those rung for the Coronation of King Charles III. This puts the Guild third in terms of the highest ranking Guild/Association for the total number of peals rung during the year. 8 members rang their first peal, 2 members their first in hand and 2 their first as conductor. Congratulations to them, to Tim Pett on completing 3000 peals for the Guild and to Claire Roulstone on being the first lady to ring 1,000 peals on a tenor. A summary of the leading peal ringers and their personal achievements can be seen below.

There leading tower was High Wycombe with 8 peals, and the leading handbell venue was Tilehurst, 15 Lytham End with 32 peals.

Correction to 2022 report: Number handbell peal venues was 10 not 74 as published.

In 2023 footnotes recorded the following notable events:

Church:

Welcome to Revd Jeremy Parsons as the Rector of Harwell with Chilton. Farewell compliment to David & Lorraine Hodgson after David's 26 years as Rector of Wokingham All Saints. All Saints Day, the Feast of St. Nicholas.

National:

The coronation of King Charles III, The birthday of King Charles III, Commonwealth Day.

Personal:

The birthday of Cyril Crouch (90), Peter Bridle (80), Bernard Groves (80), John A Harrison (80), Dave Rose (80), Kelvin R Britton (70), June Saint (60), David Maynard (40), Mary Cross, Valerie Groves, Chris Mundy, Maggie Page, Martin Turner, Daniel J Watson, John Wells, June D Wells. The Wedding Anniversary of Keith and Beryl Wright (60) Kelvin and Pauline Britton (46), Graham and Janet John (45), Colin and Nicola Turner (25), and June and John Wells.

The retirement of David Cornwall as tower captain of Hughenden for 50 years. Dave Rose's 50 years as Tower Captain at Bampton.

Ringings:

40th anniversary of the first peal of Orion rung in Reading

The Guild remembered a number of ringers who passed away during the year or in recent years: S Kathleen M Baldwin, Roger Barnes, Stan and Jean Darmon, John Haas, Edwin Harris, Norman Leslie, Peter Martin, Sir John Smith, Norman Smith, Colin Walters, Angela Ward

**LEADING PEAL RINGERS (30 OR MORE PEALS)**

NAME	TOWER		HAND		ALL	
	Rung	Cond	Rung	Cond	Rung	Cond
Robert H Newton	19	2	34	5	53	7
Timothy G Pett	50	24	3	0	53	24
Patricia M Newton	13	1	34	0	47	1
E John Wells	11	0	35	10	46	10
June D Wells	10	0	35	3	45	3
Stuart F Gibson	35	17	0	0	35	17

**TOWERBELL TOWERS**

Tower	No of Peals
High Wycombe	8
Oxford, St. Thomas	4
Shottesbrooke	4
Tulloch (The Last Tower)	4
Wokingham (All Saints)	4
Chearsley	3
East Ilsley	3
Hughenden	3
Thatcham	3
Wokingham (St Paul)	3
9 towers each with	2

39 towers each with	1
Total number of different towers	58

## HANDBELL VENUES

Venue	No of Peals
Tilehurst, 15 Lytham End	32
Aston Rowant, The White House	15
Reading 26 Redlands Avenue	12
Wokingham, 217 Reading Road	4
1 venue with	2
6 venues each with	1
Total number of different venues	11

## FIRST PEAL CONGRATULATIONS

Frederick R M Barnes, Thomas R Groves, Gabriel Pharoah-Metcalf, James H Moynihan, James C Mundy, Becki Shuttleworth, Charley Smith and Ian E G Wilson.

## FIRST PEAL IN HAND

James C Mundy and Christopher M Mundy.

## FIRST PEAL ON TOWER BELLS

Dominic S Ellis, Adam M Turner and Martha C Hazell.

## FIRST PEAL AS CONDUCTOR

Michael J Palfrey and Richard E White.

## PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Timothy G Pett	3,000 <sup>th</sup> peal for the Guild
Beryl R Norris	2,750 <sup>th</sup> peal
Martin J Turner	2,400 <sup>th</sup> peal
Susan L Apter	2,000 <sup>th</sup> peal
Richard L Thumwood	1,900 <sup>th</sup> peal
June D Wells/E John Wells	1,600 <sup>th</sup> peal together
Timothy G Pett	1,500 <sup>th</sup> peal as conductor
Jack E Page	1,400 <sup>th</sup> peal
Janet E Menhinick	1,200 <sup>th</sup> peal
June D Wells	1,000 <sup>th</sup> handbell peal
Beryl R Norris	1,000 <sup>th</sup> peal for the Guild
June D Wells/E John Wells	900 <sup>th</sup> handbell peal together
Michael Hatchett	750 <sup>th</sup> peal for the Guild
Colin M Lee	800 <sup>th</sup> peal
Bernard F L Groves/E John Wells	500 <sup>th</sup> handbell peal together
Beryl R Norris/E John Wells	200 <sup>th</sup> peal together
Margaret H Ross/Tim R Palmer	50 <sup>th</sup> peal together
Timothy G Pett/Martin J Turner	250 <sup>th</sup> peal together

John Couperthwaite/E John Wells	150 <sup>th</sup> peal together
Joanne P Druce	150 <sup>th</sup> peal
Anna E Sherwood	150 <sup>th</sup> peal
D Giles Winter	100 <sup>th</sup> peal
Daniel J Page	100 <sup>th</sup> peal for the Guild
Beryl R Norris/Stuart F Gibson	100 <sup>th</sup> peal together
Patricia M Newton/Jack E Page	100 <sup>th</sup> peal together
Ian G Campbell/Richard L Thumwood	100 <sup>th</sup> peal together
Sally A Austin	50 <sup>th</sup> peal for the Guild

## METHODS RUNG FOR THE FIRST TIME

First peal in the method:

Maynard's Little Surprise: -56-14.56.12.56.14,18 (rung in spliced)  
Colston Surprise Maximus(Rung in hand, previously rung in spliced)

First peal in the method on handbells:

Mildmay Surprise Maximus  
Tritonian Surprise Maximus

## ANALYSIS OF PEALS RUNG IN 2023

() Denotes number rung in the method

## TOWER

**DOUBLES** **Total: 3**  
**Other:** 2-11 methods (3)

**MINOR** **Total: 23**  
**Plain:** Plain Bob (1),  
**Surprise:** Cambridge (2), 7-41 methods (17)  
**Other:** 2-7 methods (3)

**TRIPLES** **Total: 8**  
**Plain:** Plain Bob (2), Grandsire (4)  
**Principles:** Stedman (2)

**MAJOR** **Total: 47**  
**Plain:** Plain Bob (2), Double Norwich Court Bob  
**Delight:** Birthday, Burnopfield, Ian's, Londinium, King Charles III  
**Surprise:** Amsterdam, Argentum, Berkshire, Bristol, Cambridge (3),  
Dereham, Deva, Jorvik, Lessness (2), Lincolnshire, London (2), Preston, Tavistock, Yorkshire (8),  
Whalley, Wye  
**Spliced Surprise:** 2-23 methods (12)

**ROYAL** **Total: 7**  
**Surprise:** Bristol (2), Cambridge, London No. 3, Woodspring, Yorkshire  
**Spliced Surprise:** 4 methods

**CINQUES** **Total: 3**  
**Principles:** Stedman (3)

**MAXIMUS** **Total: 5**  
**Surprise:** Bristol, Cambridge (3), Orion

**Towerbell** **Total: 96**

## HANDBELL

**TRIPLES** **Total: 1**  
**Principles:** Stedman

**MAJOR** **Total: 39**  
**Plain:** Plain Bob, St Clement's  
**Treble Bob:** Kent (2)  
**Surprise:** Cambridge (5), Lessness (3), Lincolnshire (8), Pudsey (2),  
Rutland (4), Superlative (4), Turramurra, Yorkshire (4)  
**Spliced Surprise:** 3 - 7 methods (4)

**CATERS** **Total: 1**  
**Principles:** Stedman

**ROYAL** **Total: 19**  
**Spliced Plain:** 15 methods (2)  
**Treble Bob:** Kent (5)  
**Surprise:** Bristol, Cambridge (3), Fishers Pond, Lincolnshire (4),  
Yorkshire  
**Spliced Surprise:** 4 methods (2)

**CINQUES/MAXIMUS** **Total: 2**  
**Other:** 2 methods (2)

**MAXIMUS** **Total: 9**  
**Surprise:** Bristol (3), Colston, Mildmay, Tritonian  
**Spliced Surprise:** 3 - 6 methods (3)

**Handbell** **Total: 71**

**TOTAL NUMBER OF PEALS RUNG IN 2023: 167**

Ken Davenport

## 7b Safeguarding Officer

Verbal update

## 7c Librarian

### Guild Library Report for 2023

There were 16 enquiries and loan requests during 2023. This is 6 more than during 2022 and closer to the usual number of enquiries. A summary of individual queries is routinely included in the librarian's reports in OddBob.

Work on sorting through the books from the estates of William Butler and Willie Haynes, along with the book collection from Frank Hopgood, a late 19th /early 20th century Reading branch member, continued into 2023. As of the end of 2023, the books have been placed in box files and archive boxes.

Most have been catalogued, with just the Frank Hopgood books outstanding.

Further material acquired for the library during 2023 will be listed in the Guild Annual Report for 2023 when published.

The following Guild publications were added to the electronic archive during 2023: OddBobs for the years 2008 – 2012; annual reports for 1893-94, 1896, 1899, 1907-10, 1962–1969, 1973-79, 2022; a new version of the Guild membership list, updated to Oct 2022.

If anybody would like to visit the library, please let me know. Alternatively I can look up information, and items can be borrowed – just get in touch.

Doug Beaumont

### **7d Website Manager**

The ODG website has remained largely unchanged for the past year. The Server Manager has been working hard on transferring the website and various branch websites to a new, upgraded server, hosted by a more environmentally conscious ISP. There have been some teething troubles bedding in the new system, so I have postponed an upgrade to the appearance of the website until all the server-based issues have been finally resolved. I hope to be able to start work on a new look and feel later this year.”

Andrew Goldthorpe – Website Manager

### **7e Server Manager Report**

The main activity this year has been the transfer of the Guild server to Eco Web Hosting, the provider which also hosts the development domain set up in 2022. The server has been migrated to a larger server with twice the memory of the previous server and a faster CPU. As part of this transfer the Domain records for the Guild domain and its subdomains were also transferred. There were several issues relating to invalid SPF and DKIM records which caused some of the main email providers, mainly Gmail, to reject emails from our domain. These issues have now been resolved and all emails should now be delivered.

This move will eventually allow the expansion of the guild and branch websites by moving them to our web hosting package which allows us to set up an unlimited number of websites.

The email services may also be moved to the web hosting package but for now will continue on our own server until we know the impact of using MemberMojo.

During the year two branches, Banbury, and Chipping Norton, developed new websites on our development domain and the have now gone live on the production sever. Two other branches, Newbury, and South Oxon, are planning or in the process of moving their websites onto the guild server.

The server manager continues to deal with changes to email distribution lists and the forwarding addresses for the generic email addresses. These are in response to requests from branch secretaries or the webmaster of a branch where a branch has its own website hosted on the Guild server.



May I remind you that the server is run for the benefit of the whole Guild so if any branch or tower who is not already doing so, would like to use any of the services mentioned above then please contact me. Please direct any queries to [serveradmin@odg.org.uk](mailto:serveradmin@odg.org.uk).

Richard Stanworth, ODG Server Manager.

March 2024

### **7f Report Editor**

There has been Insufficient time to prepare a report as ODG 2023 Annual Report is currently being compiled.

ODG Report Editor, March 2024

## **8 Diary of Events**

### **8a Diary of 2024 Forthcoming Events**

**Forthcoming Events – 2024 dates list.** (v2 Feb 2024) to be updated in year as new events are added.

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2024 Spring General Committee meeting & Bell Fund AGM – North Bucks branch

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March 10 & 12 bell practice - Amersham (12) 3-5 pm

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March Towers & Belfries Committee meeting

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March (evening) Training Officers meeting (via Zoom)

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2024 Radley Course.

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April General Belfry Course (Enstone)

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund (ODBF) Ringing Day Oxford City Branch

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May Annual General Meeting & 8 Bell Competition

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June Abingdon (10) 10 bell practice 3-5 pm

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2024 F&GP meeting Zoom

29<sup>th</sup> June Introduction to Steeple Keeping (Stratfield Mortimer, St Mary)

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July New ODG members morning (Abingdon)

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> August Towers & Belfries committee meeting

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September 10 & 12 bell practice High Wycombe (12) 3-5 pm

Saturday 28th September 2024 Michaelmas Course.

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2024 6 bell competition & Raising & Lowering competition.

Saturday 26th October 2024 Steeple Aston Course.

Saturday 26th October Steeple Aston Rope Management & Splicing

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November Grandsire Caters course (date subject to confirmation)

Sunday 17th November 10 bell practice Bicester (10) 3-5 pm

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November General Committee Meeting (Reading branch) & 10 bell competition (venue tbc & outside Reading Branch)

## 8b 15 Year plan

### 15 Year Plan – ODG Branches hosting timetable (February 2024)

Date	Spring General Committee Mtg 2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday in March + Bell Fund AGM	Bell Fund Ringing Day 1 <sup>st</sup> Bank Holiday in May	AGM & 8 Bell Competition 3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday in May	6 Bell Competition 1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday in October	November General Committee Mtg + 10 Bell Competition 4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday in November	Guild Festival 2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday in July every 5 years
2024	North Bucks	Oxford City	EBSB	Sonning Deanery	Reading * 10 bell competition to be held outside Reading Branch	
2025	Newbury	Old North Berks	South Oxon	Oxford City	Bicester	
2026	Chipping N	Bicester	North Bucks	Central Bucks	W & W	
2027	VOWH	South Oxon	Oxford City	Reading	Newbury	
2028	Central Bucks	EBSB	Sonning Deanery	Bicester	North Bucks	
2029	South Oxon	W & W	Chipping N	Banbury	Old North Berks	
2030	EBSB	Reading	Newbury	VOWH	Chiltern	
2031	Banbury	North Bucks	Central Bucks	W & W	Chipping N	150 <sup>th</sup> anniversary Oxford City
2032	Oxford City	Newbury	VOWH	Chiltern	EBSB	
2033	Sonning Deanery	Chipping N	Banbury	Old North Berks	South Oxon	
2034	Bicester	Central Bucks	Chiltern	EBSB	Sonning Deanery	
2035	Reading	VOWH	Old North Berks	South Oxon	Oxford City	
2036	W & W	Banbury	Bicester	North Bucks	Central Bucks	Oxford City
2037	Chiltern	Sonning Deanery	Reading	Newbury	VOWH	
2038	Old North Berks	Chiltern	W & W	Chipping N	Banbury/ Bicester	