

Oxon Ringing School (ORS) – AGM – 15 March 2026

Chairman's Report

Over the past year, Oxon Ringing School has continued to provide weekly Handling and Foundation sessions across three terms at our Ringing Centres in Abingdon, Dorchester and Kirtlington. This follows the closure of Witney as a Centre in March 2025. Despite operating at a slightly reduced capacity—largely due to students graduating or moving on at the end of 2024—we have still delivered around 255 hours of teaching, offered either as one-to-one or in small groups of two to four learners.

A key focus of ORS is the support and development of new teachers. Through ART courses and ongoing mentoring, we are helping our teachers gain in confidence and skill in delivering consistent, high-quality handling and foundation training.

We are currently operating at a sustainable and steady level, thanks to the dedication of our teachers, the tremendous work of our administration team and committee, and the efficiency brought by the Spond system. New student registrations continue to be received each month, and ORS maintains a strong reputation among both learners and teachers for the quality and consistency of its training.

I would like to express my **sincere thanks** to every student, teacher and member of the administration team. Your enthusiasm, patience and commitment are what make ORS such a positive and successful learning environment.

Achievements

This year, 20 students have taken part in one-to-one or group instruction. Of these, seven achieved their ART Level 1 *Learning the Ropes* certificates and eight achieved Level 2. These are significant milestones, and we warmly congratulate all who reached them.

We are also deeply grateful to the 31 teachers who each contributed at least four hours of teaching during the year. ORS relies on the generosity and expertise of its volunteer teachers, and their contribution remains at the heart of everything we do.

Student Profile

At the start of the year, most of our learners were Foundation students, with the *Ring for the King* cohort having progressed through Level 1. As a result, we offered more Foundation sessions than in previous years.

By the end of the year, however, the picture had shifted. With several students achieving Level 2 and eight new registrations, we now have a higher proportion of Handling students. In response, we will be increasing the number of Handling places available in the coming term to ensure we continue to meet demand.

ART Teaching Courses and ART Membership

ORS continues to operate as an ART Hub, following ART policies and delivering consistent, high-quality training through the *Learning the Ropes* scheme.

Two one-day ART courses were organised and run by ORS in 2025:

- an M1 course (handling) at Kirtlington in February

- an M2F course (Foundation) at Abingdon in November

Both were very well attended and contributed to the development of new and existing teachers.

We also provide mentoring for teachers consolidating their skills after attending an ART day-course. This year, three teachers achieved full ART accreditation, and we warmly congratulate them on this achievement.

Finance and Administration

ORS continues to operate with very low overheads (while noting the introduction of bank charges during the year). This year, we increased the proportion of student session fees passed to Ringing Centre bell funds to £4 of the £6 session fee.

Thanks to a healthy surplus—supported by income from ART courses—we were able to increase our donations to the PCCs of each Ringing Centre to £375, an increase of £200 on the previous year. These contributions have been gratefully received. We also made £100 donations to both the Oxford Diocesan Guild and the Association of Ringing Teachers.

Looking Ahead

ORS is in a strong position: demand for training remains steady, our teaching community is growing, and our Centres continue to provide a supportive environment for learners and teachers at all stages. Over the coming year, we will ensure our teaching capacity best supports our students' needs, nurture new teachers, and ensure that ORS remains a welcoming and effective place for ringers to develop their skills.

Thank you once again to everyone who has contributed to the success of Oxon Ringing School this year. Together, we are building a vibrant future for ringing across Oxfordshire.

Susan Read

Chairman, Oxon Ringing School