



In Touch

North Bucks Branch - www.northbucksbranch.org.uk Autumn 2018

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS

NORTH BUCKS BRANCH

CHRISTMAS MEETING

SATURDAY 15TH DECEMBER 2018

The Branch Christmas Meeting will be held this year at All Saints Loughton.

Following a significant bequest from Bob Winstanley, these bells have been retuned and rehung with a new frame and tenor bell. This is a great opportunity to ring them and remember Bob.

The arrangements for the afternoon will be:-

16:00 open ringing.

17:45 short business meeting.

18:00 Tea and refreshments.

18:45 more ringing.

Tea, comprising Pizza, salad and puddings, will be provided for those who book it.

Booking for tea is essential, as the Pizzas have to be ordered in advance. Please provide names for tea to Hilary Reading (Hilary@thereadings.co.uk or 01908662483 by 13th December. **NO NAME- NO TEA!**

(Can membership nomination forms (downloaded from the website) and Items of AOB be made known to the Officers in advance of the meeting please)

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS

NORTH BUCKS BRANCH

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SATURDAY 2nd MARCH 2019

The Branch Annual General Meeting will be held at St Marys, Woughton on the Green.

The arrangements for the afternoon will be:-

14:00 open ringing.


15:30 Service


16:00 Tea and refreshments.


17:15 Annual General Meeting.

Tea will be provided for those who book it.

Please provide names for tea to Brian Baldwin (01908) 670579 or mail bmb28mk@gmail.com by 25th February 2019.

 Please Note Minutes for the previous AGM are published on the Branch website.

 Membership nomination forms can be downloaded from the Branch website

 Please make items of AOB known to the Officers in advance of the meeting

All offers of help to run the Branch are most gratefully received. In particular we need to elect a Secretary and a Guild Rep. Please speak to Graham Bartholomew if you would like to find out more.

Ringing In Memory and Celebration

<p style="text-align: center;">Oxford Diocesan Guild Bradwell, Buckinghamshire St Lawrence Wednesday, 27 June 2018 in 41m (7–2–15 in A²)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1260 Doubles (4 Methods)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Christine Abbott 2 Becky Fawcett 3 Edward Fawcett 4 Ian Green 5 David M Joyce (C) 6 Gordon Abbott <p>In Remembrance of local ringer Sapper William Glynn Bird, Died 30/06/1918 age 20. Royal Engineers 70th Field Coy. Service No.398820</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Oxford Diocesan Guild Milton Keynes, Great Linford, Buckinghamshire St Andrew Sunday, 6 May 2018 in 45 minutes (16 cwt)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1260 Doubles</p> <p style="text-align: center;">540 Grandsire and 720 Plain Bob</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Viv Hollis 2 Janice Robinson 3 Nick Read 4 Alan J Marchbank (C) 5 Barry R Eglesfield 6 Lauren Hollis <p style="text-align: center;">Remembering those affected by the Manchester Arena bombing. <i>First on treble - 1</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">All Saints, Emberton Saturday 4th August 2018 1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Harry Curtis 2 Alan Cozens 3 Roy Keeves 4 Wendy A Haslam 5 Phil M Haslam 6 Tony Gray (C) <p style="text-align: center;">In memory of Tim Wooding, who died on 21st July 2018</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Oxford Diocesan Guild On Thursday, 14 June 2018 Great Linford, Buckinghamshire St Andrew Tenor: 16–1–22 in F²</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1260 Plain Bob Doubles</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Janet Bond 2 Anne F M McIntyre 3 Liz Wagstaff 4 Gary W Reading 5 Barry Eglesfield (C) 6 Nick Read <p>Rung at the North Bucks Branch's first midweek meeting. First quarter peal - 1</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Holy Trinity Old Wolverton 16th August 2018 45 Minutes</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1260 Grandsire Doubles</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Diane P Rogers 2 Mark D Rogers 3 Harry Curtis 4 Roy Keeves 5 Michael Nimmo (c) 6 Rod Walker <p style="text-align: center;">In memory of Tim Wooding All part of the Wednesday band and friends of Tim</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Peterborough Guild St Andrew Yardley Hastings 44 minutes</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1260 Grandsire Doubles</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Rodney Walker 2 Alan Cozens 3 Michael Nimmo 4 Harry Curtis 5 Harvey Welch (C) 6 Anthony Finche <p style="text-align: center;">Rosemarie Walker would like to be associated with this In memory of Tim Wooding</p>
<p>St. John the Evangelist, Wicken 1280 5 splice surprise major - 480 Rutland, 320 Lincolnshire, 160 each superlative of Yorkshire and Cambridge Tuesday 14th August 2018 in 45mins</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jonathan G W King 2. Barbara A King 3. Ruth Stokes 4. Lesley J Belcher 5. Gary Reading 6. Nick Gray 7. Andrew J Spencer 8. Christopher C Stokes (C) <p style="text-align: center;">Rung for 17th birthday compliment to Samuel Elliott grandson of Nick Gray Remembering Tim Wooding who died recently First of 5 spliced major 5</p>		
<p>Holy Trinity Old Wolverton As a regular ringer with this band is not able to ring a quarter peal. It was decided that on Sunday 5th August to ring rounds and call changes in memory of Tim Wooding who rang with this band.</p>		

North Bucks Branch Striking Contest

Alan Shephard from Dunstable judged the 10 teams who entered the Branch striking competition which was held at Great Linford on Saturday 30th June. Over 60 branch members were in attendance and enjoyed the glorious weather and sumptuous tea provided by the Linford ringers.

Alan placed the teams in the following order and made constructive and helpful comments on each teams performance.

1st place Team 3. **Shenley & Loughton** Ringing St Martin's Doubles. Confident start and settled until a trip in the 4th lead. This was resolved and steady ringing resumed and became very good by the end. 12 faults

2nd place Team 10 **Woughton** Ringing Grandsire Doubles. Accomplished ringing with a scattering of faults. No consistent errors 28 faults.

3rd place Team 1. **Ladies Team Emmeline** Ringing Plain hunt on 5. Started hesitantly then was settled after row 70. Lacked confidence 35 faults

4th place Team 5. **Emberton** Ringing Bob Doubles.

Reasonably accomplished scattering of minor faults until a method error at 9th lead. Well done to keeping it going and bring it round. 42 faults

5th place Team 9. **Bletchley** ringing call changes. Irregular leading particularly at the changes. 55 Faults

6th place Team 8. **Newport Pagnell** Ringing bob Minor. Ringing did not settle from the off. 60 Faults



The winning team from Shenley & Loughton (L-R): Becky Fawcett, Anne McIntyre, Ted Fawcett, Robin Starr, Anne Birch and Terry Page.



The Emmeline ladies band, formed to honour Emmeline Pankhurst in this, the 100th anniversary year of women's rights to vote.

7th place Team 4. **Sherrington** ringing called changes. Leading was a bit rushed generally and bell in 2nds place was a bit rushed too. Rang too many rows but only 120 were marked. 82 faults

8th place Team 6. **Olney** ringing Grandsire Doubles. Never really settled down and in 9th lead a method error cost many faults. Well done for getting it round. 152 Faults

9th Place Team 2. **Ladies Team Christabel** . Ringing plain hunt on 5. Struggled, but carried on and finished. A good effort. 154 faults

10th place team 7. **Lillingstone Lovell** Ringing Grandsire Doubles—commiserations for not completing the test piece

Alan Marchbank

Practice Night—St. Mary's Whaddon

The regular practice at St. Mary's, Whaddon continues on the first Friday of every month. All abilities are welcome, and every effort will be made to accommodate you. Please join in this friendly practice on a fine set of six (Tenor 16 hundred weight).

Guild Six Bell Striking Competition 2018

For the second year running the Shenley & Loughton team were taken by surprise and won the branch striking competition. Once again half the team were unavailable for the final and we had to press-gang some reluctant ringers to make up the numbers.

The final was held at North Marston, but unfortunately the weather forecast was correct and it rained most of the day. As it was a ground floor ring, open to the church, the waiting bands were corralled into what was the Methodist chapel, now a warm and welcoming village hall. Sadly this meant we didn't get an opportunity to explore the inside of the church, though it was notable from the outside for its very large clerestory windows. The non-ringing catering team in the hall did a great job of providing a never-ending supply of tea, sandwiches and cake all afternoon, which was very welcome as we were only the second team to ring and had hot-footed over to North Marston after ringing for a wedding at Shenley – a useful opportunity to practise.

Despite the practice, our test piece did not go so well this time, the ropes being much longer with more stretch than we are used to in North Bucks these days. Although we couldn't hear the ringing from inside the hall, judging by the few bands we did catch on a stroll around the village, we fully expected to come last – but it was a long wait to find out. Fortunately there were some very interesting boards around the hall depicting villagers from the past, telling their stories and giving general information about livelihoods and so on.

The story which inspired us to take a look around the village, despite the rain, was that of John Schorne, who came to the village as rector in 1282. One summer, presumably much like the one we've just had, the village suffered a drought. The rector struck the ground with his staff and a spring of water gushed out. The spring became a holy well and, by the 1400s, a pilgrimage to North Marston was the third most popular destination in England, bringing in the equivalent of £2.5 million a year. Even King Henry VIII visited twice to seek a cure for his gout. The information board didn't say whether that was because it did or didn't work the first time! As gout was known as 'the devil in the boot' the holy well has a child-frightener/pleaser beside it. The trough has a boot in the corner and as you fill the trough by pumping the handle, the devil gradually rises out of the top of the boot. While the younger children are no doubt terrified by it, there were a couple of older ones that wet Saturday who found it entertaining (no names).

Judging time arrived and we were told that Jill Austin and Sue Marshall from Kineton and Sharon Mills from Shefford, Notts had been listening to us while tucked up in a cosy cottage. As last year, there were ten bands and once again we came ninth (thanks to a band failing to finish), but North Bucks was represented. There are fifteen branches in the Guild, so there were actually six branches below us.

The judges gave two faults for a clip, one for a disturbance in the rhythm.

For those who like statistics, the bands who rang and final results were:

- 1st. High Wycombe (Grandsire) with 17 faults
- 2th. Wallingford (Grandsire) 19 faults
- 3th. Drayton St Leonard (Grandsire) 24 faults
- 4th. Tilehurst (Bob Doubles) 31 faults
- 5th. Wokingham All Saints (Grandsire) 33 faults
- 6th. Thatcham 34 faults
- =7th . Stewkley (minor) 42 faults
- =7th. Old Marston (Grandsire) 42 faults
- 9th. Shenley & Loughton (St Martins) 49 faults
- 10th. Faringdon (Grandsire) Tenth

Your North Bucks representatives were Linda Maycroft, Becky Fawcett, Gary Reading, John Brookman, Ted Fawcett and Robin Starr.

Becky Fawcett

Midweek Ringing

Just a reminder that the next meeting of the Midweek Ringing Group will be on Thursday 8th November 2018, 11.00am to 12.30pm at St Mary's, Dudley Hill, Shenley Church End, Milton Keynes MK5 6LL from 11.00am to 12.30pm, followed by an opportunity to go for lunch (if you wish) at The Talbot, 33 London Road, Loughton, MK5 8AB.

Do come along if you are able, all abilities are welcome. If you need any more information please feel free to email me on read887@btinternet.com

Nick Read

Youth Striking Competition

On Saturday 7th July the National Youth Competition was held in London.

This has become so popular that there are now heats to determine who rings in the final.

This year saw a new trophy introduced by the Ringing World to be awarded to the highest placed change-ringing band. The overall winners win the Whitechapel Trophy and if that is won by a call change band the winning method team take RW trophy and vice versa.

Sussex won the Whitechapel Trophy with an A and the ODG with an A- took 'the RW trophy as the winning method team.

The ODG Band are pictured below and North Bucks provided 2 of the ringers!



They rang in their heat and listened to Hilarie Rodgers feedback and rang significantly better in the final. They will get some written feedback but contemporaneous notes say they rang 'with purpose, good structure and it was an enthusiastic piece of ringing'.

Jenny Page from Reading said "It was great to see them enjoying each others company and chatting to ringers from other teams they are beginning to get to know and ring with on other occasions."

We all should feel very proud of them representing the ODG in this National Event and being the highest placed change-Ringing team. Well done to you all and especial congratulations to the 2 from North Bucks. You've done very well and we are all very proud of you.

Alan Marchbank

Young Ringers Practice

I am sure you will be aware the ODG Young Ringers take part in Ringing World National Youth Competition. This year the squad of 10 young ringers who went to the competition came from 6 branches across the Guild. The squad is chosen from a larger group who meet monthly to practice, have fun and eat cake.

Do you have any young ringers in your branch who you think would like to join the practices? To get the most out of the practice they should be able to plain hunt on 7.

They also need to be under 19 on 31st August 2019 - so basically still at school or college.

Practices are monthly - we move around the branches to try to even up the travelling required.

If any one is interested I can be contacted via jenny.page@btinternet.com

Jenny Page

ODG Youth Team win the RWNYC Trophy for Excellence

Many congratulations to our youth team who won the method ringing category at the RWNYC on Saturday 7th July and were presented with the Trophy for Excellence.

Sussex Young ringers won the Whitechapel Award ringing call changes.

This is a fantastic achievement. The young ringers meet once a month at a practice somewhere in the guild and this year supplemented this, once the team was known with a quarter peal of Plain Bob Triples at Thatcham with Hilarie Rogers taking Dougie Vale's place. An evening quarter peal in Thatcham when you are in the North Bucks branch is a tall order! Indeed the size of the guild and the travelling involved for many of the young ringers to get to practices is worth noting and thanking parents and tower captains.

The squad of 10 ringers, 8 plus 2 reserves came from 6 branches across the Guild, Reading, Old North Berks, North Bucks, Central Bucks, Newbury and South Oxon.

This year's competition took place in London. With 21 teams from across the country taking part it was the largest gathering of young ringers to date.

Bucks and Berks entered a team in their own right for the first time.

Whilst the focus of the day is the competition there are handbell workshops, a treasure hunt, other towers to ring at and an opportunity to meet with other young ringers. As soon as we arrived to register the team at Hart Street Jake was chatting to ringers he knew from Essex and Daniel joined the handbell workshop.

Having all travelled into London from different directions we met at Cornhill. Coloured wrist bands and programmes distributed the team disappeared up the tower with great enthusiasm.

Our heat, at noon, was at Cubitt Town we needed all the time we had allowed to get there on the DLR. Then off to Magnus the Martyr to ring, eat lunch and wait for the results. Luckily other teams had picked up the 8.00 email saying results would be by email not text and their cheers alerted us to the fact we were through to the final.

The team decided the one thing they wanted to do was ring at Bow and would not dash off to ring at the other open towers. Four of them can add ringing the tenor there to their accomplishments.

A walk then to Garlickhythe for the final, we were the last team to ring at 16.10. Doug Hird kept everyone up to date with the football results so we knew England were doing well. A quick team talk from Hilarie with feedback from the ringing at the heat and off they went.

After the final they remembered there was a photographic competition for a team picture. Here it is, the team having fun working together as they had when ringing.

Back Row - Thomas Sherwood (3) Cory Gibson (R) Anna Sherwood (7 C) Middle Row - Sophie Martin (6) Adam Hird (R) Izzy Anderson-Besant (1) Front Row - Daniel Page (2) Jake Reid (8) Dougie Vale (4) Josh Ball (5)

Then back to Bow for the comments, 'rang with purpose, good structure and an enthusiastic piece of ringing'

Look out for the team's picture in the RW, Anna Sherwood collecting the cup surrounded by the team.

It is a fascinating competition, at some point you become too old so the bands continually change. There were 4 ringers in this year's team ringing in the competition for the first time. That also means we need to say goodbye to ringers as well. Anna has been the team's conductor for the last 3 years and will not be able to compete with us next year. We wish her well at university and hope to see her return as a judge.

*Catherine M A Lane
Master, Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers*

Message from the Master

It is a little over a month since the AGM and my election as Master of the ODG. I must thank Hilarie Rogers for her dedication, and sterling work for the Guild, during her tenure as Master, and to everyone who served with her during that time. The Guild will certainly miss Hilarie's excellent knowledge and understanding of all ringing matters and procedures; it will be a difficult task for me to match her skills.

It is very much the Guild's loss that we have had to say farewell to our PRO, Elva Ainsworth. Just when it seemed we had a hugely efficient and energetic addition to the officers' team, she decided to head North, to York, where I am sure she will again be quickly recruited, and her skills appreciated as much as they have been in the ODG.

I must admit that it is with some relief that the role of Safeguarding Officer has been taken over by June Wells; I am very confident that she will manage whatever is asked of her. After all, her years in education will have prepared her for any eventuality!

I would like to thank you all for having enough faith to give me the opportunity to be Guild Master. It is not a position that I ever anticipated holding, and certainly have not taken on lightly. On the Sunday morning that I looked up at the ringers on the balcony at Waltham- St-Lawrence in the early 1980s, and said to Anne Yates, the tower captain, 'Can anyone do that?' no one present would have guessed what a difference learning to ring was going to make to the rest of my life. It was the sound of bells on summer evenings that first stirred my interest; I never cease to be inspired, whether it is a small village 6 or a grand cathedral 12, it is glorious. I continue to feel very strongly that we are church workers, we call Christians to worship and our bells remind others of the presence of faith in our communities.

I recognise that this role is for the faint-hearted; there is so much history, and many august previous Masters, to live up to; it involves responsibility to all the ringers in the Guild, and a considerable amount of work and commitment; I will endeavour to do the best I can for you all and I hope for a little patience and tolerance while I get my head around the job.

It will be a pleasure to learn more about our Guild; I look forward to meeting many more ringers. Please do not hesitate to contact me, especially if there is an event or celebration that you would like me to attend; I'll do my best to be there!

*Katie
Catherine M. A. Lane
master@odg.org.uk*

Next edition...

Please ensure that you send all submissions to newslettereditor@northbucksbranch.org.uk no later than **Friday 15th February 2019** to be included in the next edition of In Touch.

Whilst endeavours will be made to send out reminders, your support in keeping to this deadline is appreciated.

Ringers of Lillingstone Lovell commended in the House of Commons!

The ringers of Lillingstone Lovell were commended by the Speaker of the House of Commons on 7th June 2018. Below is the extract from 'Hansard - 07 June 2018 - Volume 642' :-

Mr Philip Hollobone (Kettering) (Con)

To ask the right hon. Member for Meriden, representing the Church Commissioners, what steps the Church of England is taking to promote bell ringing. [905693]

Dame Caroline Spelman

Mr Speaker, in case you are looking for a new hobby that will build on your already excellent level of fitness and mental alertness, you need look no further than bell ringing. Churches are always looking for new volunteers to whom they can show the ropes.

Mr Speaker

*I am most grateful to the right hon. Lady for her advice. I have been to the church in **Lillingstone Lovell**—to mention just one location in my splendid constituency—where there are some very enthusiastic and capable bell ringers. Maybe other invitations will be forthcoming.'*

Nick Read

Project Resound - St Michael's Blewbury

Some of you will have seen the recent article in The Ringing World describing a new stained glass window with reflective banners to be installed in the large west window of St Michael's church Blewbury, Oxfordshire. I attach the article if you have missed it in the Ringing World. This contemporary art will be stunning, with the heart of the design being a celebration of bells and bell ringing. It is a rare and unique opportunity to create a beautiful and everlasting statement of our own art in the 21st Century. Blewbury village and local ringers have enthusiastically embraced the project and we are already almost a third of the way to reaching our target funding.

If you feel you would like to play a part in this exciting opportunity, or remember someone near and dear to you, you are most welcome to support the fund by going to Just Giving and searching for Resound. We would like the project to recognise and welcome the wider ringing community as well as that of the village itself:

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/Resound>

One of our planned fund raising events is a Saxophone Concert to be held in the church on 24th November. I also attach a poster for this concert, which will showcase a wide range of musical genres. All proceeds will go to the project. If you would like tickets please let me know.

Thank you very much for your support.

*Richard Loyd
Tower Captain St Michael's Blewbury*

The Mayor of Milton Keynes' Challenge

From the middle of May I will have the honour of being Mayor of Milton Keynes. One thing mayors are expected to do is raise money for their charity.

I have decided to combine this duty with my activities as a bell-ringer, and have challenged myself (for my charity) to ring a quarter-peal at every tower in Milton Keynes Council's area during my year of office – there are 26 towers by my reckoning. If you're not sure of the boundaries of Milton Keynes, this means every tower in the branch from Calverton eastwards, and Fenny Stratford/Bletchley northwards.

To make the challenge both more difficult for me, and more challenging for other ringers, I intend that every quarter should include as many local ringers as possible, and at least one first of some sort.

Obviously I can't do this on my own – I need your help. Please contact me (on martinpetchey49@gmail.com or 07712 485255) if you want to be involved, or if as a tower you can organise a quarter for me at your tower.

Use this as an opportunity to challenge yourself, too – to ring a new method, or on higher numbers than usual; I look forward to hearing from you

Martin Petchey

Equal Rights for Women - Anniversaries

There are some key anniversaries coming up which may be of interest and worth special ringing - maybe a ladies band touch/quarter/peal?:

- * Sunday 21st October is the 60th anniversary of the first lady peer entering the House of Lords;
- * Wednesday 21st November is the centenary of the Parliament (Qualification of Women) Act allowing women to stand for Parliament;
- * Friday 14th December is the centenary of the first general election in which women in the UK were eligible to vote

Elva Ainsworth-Guild PR Officer

Stantonbury Parish Pilgrimage

On Saturday 12th May the Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership churches joined together to walk between the churches. It's the second year this has been organised and this year as they were starting from Cross and Stable Downs Barn we were able to send them on their way with ringing.

Ringers from the 3 towers with ringable bells (Bradwell, Linford and Downs Barn) with some help from Newport Pagnell are seen below. Willen have 3 bells which can only be chimed now.



Thanks to all for an early start on a Saturday morning and some nice ringing.

Furthest left and going anti clockwise
2, John Marchbank; Treble Tine Marchbank; Tenor Keith Wagstaff; 7, Ian Green; 6, Viv Hollis; (5 is hidden by tenor ringer, but Steve Thomason was there); 4, Graham Bartholomew; (3, hidden by Treble ringer Liz Wagstaff)

Alan Marchbank

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir,

In the last edition of In Touch, the editor Mr Phillip Starr hit the right notes in his article, asking why so few turn up to branch events.

So why don't people turn up to branch events? Here are some ideas from my own observations.

Being a scout leader on their first course in the 1970's, the team introduced themselves; one a squadron leader, one a flight controller, and the other a road sweeper who said he was just as much part of the team.

So, my point is that every tower that I have anything to do with relies on ringers who can only ring rounds and call changes, or plain bob, and these ringers turn up every Sunday, and are very valuable; an asset to every tower, and we should treat them as such, not to have a go at them because that is all they can ring.

Having spent 13 years on the scout training team, training leaders you get to see different types of people, ringing is just the same.

There are people who will help anyone no matter how good they are, or at what stage the person they are helping is at. I would like to think I am one of these people.

You have then got the person whose child is with you, and a parent turns up to help, they will sometimes only stay as long as their child, we have had three of these.

You then have the tick box person, as long as it is done, and the person can move on, it does not matter how good or bad they have done it.

You then get the elite people, these only do what they want even if it breaks the rules, in ringing these people will not lower themselves to ring with learners at any stage and will sometimes only ring surprise methods.

Moving on from this, I was asked why you don't get involved with the guild by turning up to ringing days.

Firstly, I was on the committee that organised the Big Ring pull, and turned up to teach people. Even then people singled me out saying I was ringing the wrong way because I was ringing left handed. This was not the professional approach we intended.

After teaching or helping over 100 people I cannot be doing much wrong.

Let's look at how the branch highlighted the rounds and call changes in Odd Bob

1st The branch did not want this event,

2nd Only one branch officer attended at the beginning,

3rd Since moving this to Whaddon 3 years ago, only one member of the branch officers committee has attended, who lives in Whaddon.

This is how much they are interested in this event. They only want to publish this in Odd Bob.

Now let's look at Phillip's other comment about branch officers visiting towers. I look after 27 scout troops with a 5 leader team, between us we visit every single scout troop twice a year. I also have a county meeting, 4 district leader meetings and a monthly meeting. I still find time to ring 3 or 4 nights a week helping learners improve. If branch officers did turn up it would be to say HELLO and ring with out for that night (SO THEY HAVE LOST A NIGHTS RINGING). I am sure most towers would be glad of their experience.

So, to you branch officers let's see if you can visit every ringing tower in the 2 years, then we will have a true record of how the branch stands.

To all you people who only want to ring surprise methods, and to all you ringers who moan about ringing bob doubles, somebody had to teach you to ring these methods so get off your backsides and help to keep the bells ringing. The purpose of ringing is to call people to Church. If we do not help the learners to improve there will be more silent towers.

Then perhaps people will turn up to branch events.

Yours Sincerely,
Mick Nimmo
Old Wolverton

Guild Website

The last 6 months has seen a lot of work go into the development of a new Guild Website. The aim is to create more dynamic, up-to-date and user-friendly website to serve the needs of the Guild's members.

The "development" version of the site can be viewed at <http://www.odg-dev.timsawers.com/> Please be mindful that this is a development site, and there are still tweaks and changes before it goes live; the intention is to go live with the new site as soon as possible, however any feedback would be gladly received.

There are also some new social media profiles.

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/Oxford-Diocesan-Guild-of-Church-Bell-Ringers-2062157157396367/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ODGCBR>

Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoL-6oUPifXYzKTEI8_LUw

Please do like, follow, favourite etc if you use any of these platforms. Naturally, these are a little sparse at the moment, however should you have some content (such as video), I would be more than happy to post these on your behalf. The hope is that some of these channels can help improve (NOT replace) communication between the guild and it's members.

I'd like to thank in particular Elva Ainsworth for driving the development of the new site, and Doug Beaumont for his wisdom and advice. Also to Tim Sawers, who has put many long hours into development.

If you would like to pass on any comments, please do get in touch at webmaster@odg.org.uk

*Tim Hayward
Guild Webmaster*