



OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS AND OXFORD DIOCESAN BELL FUND

Saturday 13th March 2010

The Annual General Meeting of the Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund will be held at **The New Beaconsfield Hall, Station Road, Shipton under Wychwood, Oxfordshire. OX7 6BQ**, on Saturday, 13th March 2010, starting at 2.30 pm. A Meeting of the General Committee of the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers will follow immediately afterwards. All Members of the General Committee are eligible to attend both Meetings and are so invited.

There is very restricted parking by the church so we ask everybody to park at the hall -- there is parking for 50 cars within the gates. There is usually some space for extra parking on Meadow Lane.

<http://www.multimap.com/s/1h7jxDD7>

Directions from Burford A40 roundabout -- turn right into Burford and straight down the High Street, crossing the bridge, through traffic lights, and over the river. In 75yds from the bridge turn right at mini-roundabout on to the A361 towards Chipping Norton. Stay on this road till you reach Shipton-under-Wychwood in about 3 miles.

In Shipton follow the A361, past the village green on your right, until the main road takes a sharp right-angle bend to the right. The Red Horse pub is on the corner. Take the A361 round the bend for about 100yds, when you will find the entrance to the New Beaconsfield Hall and car park on your left.

Directions from the north, coming from Chipping Norton, -- follow the A361 to Shipton. As you approach the village you will cross the railway bridge and pass a petrol station on your left, then cross the river into the 30mph zone and in 100yds the New Beaconsfield Hall is on the right.

If the Hall car park is full you should find space in Meadow Lane -- leave the Hall carpark and turn left --towards Chipping Norton. In 75yds. take the first left into Meadow Lane.

From the Hall to the church is an easy 3 minute walk up Church Walk, opposite the Hall gates.

Shipton under Wychwood bells (8, 14-3-0) will be available from 1.30 pm to 2.25 pm and after tea.

Tea will be provided for those who notify **Anne Hoyle, East View Cottage, Meadow Lane, Fulbrook, OX18 4BS. Tel. 01993-822024. Email anne.hoyle@btopenworld.com by Monday 8th March.**

No need to order if only drinks are required.

OXFORD DIOCESAN BELL FUND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the last Meeting
3. Matters Arising
4. Report of the Managing Trustees
5. Accounts
6. Election of Officers
 - a) Chairman
 - b) Secretary
 - c) Treasurer
 - d) Additional Managing Trustees
 - e) Independent Assessor
7. Any Other Business

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS
GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING
SATURDAY 13th MARCH 2010

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the General Committee Meeting of 28th November 2009
3. Matters Arising
4. Correspondence
5. Reports from and Election of Sub-committees
 - a. Education Sub-committee
 - b. Towers and Belfries Sub-committee
 - c. Finance and General Purposes Sub-committee
2. Peal Secretary's Report
3. Public Relations Officer's Report
4. Children's Officer's Report
5. Posts Specified in Rule 9(c) & (f)(iii): Notification of Officers not willing to stand for re-election
6. Guild Annual Report
7. Accounts for the Year Ending 31 December 2009
8. Management of the Restoration Fund
9. Donations to the Bell Fund and the Restoration Fund
10. Guild Bookstall
11. Diary of Events
12. Branch Rules (*consideration of proposed changes as on document enclosed*)
13. Transfers: ratification of the transfer of Padbury and Hillesden from Central Bucks to North Bucks
14. Any Other Business

Hilarie Rogers
Honorary General Secretary

Towers and Belfries Committee Report – February 2010

Since the last report in October, the committee has only met once with attendance of ten, the January meeting having to be rescheduled to February due to the weather. Three visits/inspections have been carried out, details of which (locations and reasons) are shown below: -

Chilton (Sound control)
Fulmer (correction of “odd-struckness”)
Harwell (Sound control)

In addition to the visits to Harwell & Chilton concerning sound control, a visit was arranged to Amersham so that representatives from both towers could view the sound control installation there.

The church of St Cross, Oxford, is to be leased to Balliol College on a 999-year lease and the use to which the building is to be put, and the necessary building alterations, will preclude any further use of or access to the bells. For some time we have been liaising with the Oxford Society in an attempt to have the bells and fittings removed and re-installed elsewhere, but there have been considerable difficulties in establishing who is responsible for the fabric (and therefore the bells) in order to obtain the necessary faculty, without which the bells cannot be removed

Tower Maintenance Award Scheme

Three towers, Benson (Bronze), Hungerford (Silver), and Sonning (Silver) gained awards as against six (Chalfont St Giles, Chalfont St Peter, Cookham, Tadmarton, Thame, and Purley) whose awards expired. Since most of the expiries were on 31st January, it is to be hoped that this is merely a temporary “glitch” and that the numbers will recover. The number of towers expressing participating or expressing an interest is now at fifty nine, which is about thirteen per cent of the towers listed in the annual report last year. There have now been fifty-three inspections (of which fifteen were preliminaries), resulting in thirty-three awards (thirteen Gold, eleven Silver, and nine Bronze).

Sonning, had headed the *Expired Awards* list for some time so it was very pleasing that they had applied to be re-inspected and gained an award. The awards at Benson and Hungerford were first time awards. With the lapse of awards, the EBSB branch has not only lost its leading position, but is now unrepresented; South Oxon and Banbury have also lost their representation.

Central Bucks	1	(Gold)
Chiltern	1	(Gold)
Newbury	1	(Silver)
Reading	1	(Gold, Bronze)
Sonning Deanery	2	(Gold, Silver)

Current Tower Maintenance Scheme Awards

Gold Award

Winslow (St Laurence)	Central Bucks Branch	Expires 31.10.10
Ellesborough (SS Peter & Paul)	Chiltern Branch	Expires 28.02.11

Silver Award

Reading (St Giles)	Reading Branch	Expires 31.10.10
Sonning (St Andrew)	Sonning Deanery	Expires 31.10.11
Hungerford (St Lawrence)	Newbury Branch	Expires 30.11.11

Bronze Grade

White Waltham (St Mary)	Sonning Deanery Branch	Expires 31.03.10
Benson (St Helen)	South Oxon Branch	Expires 31.10.11

John Davidge
Chairman T&B Committee

Education Sub-Committee

November – March 2009/10

We have met once since the last General Committee meeting and during this period have run one course.

A Stedman Caters Course, expertly tutored by our Master Robert Newton, was held at Aston Clinton in December. Six students enjoyed good teaching and did very well. But, there was a complaint that we helpers were not as rock solid as we might be and that not all touches came round. There's a lesson there! Do volunteer to be a helper but keep awake!

There was no snow in February this year and the training Day for Branches to discuss their challenges and successes was held at Thame and enjoyed by all. It was heartening to hear that many of our branch's problems were shared by others and that we weren't the only one having difficulties. Ideas that had worked elsewhere are worth a try. Some of the ringing designed to stretch novices stumped the experts!

Cyril Crouch has resigned from the Sub-Committee. Perhaps he's going to spend all his free time ringing on the new bells at Shiplake. We thank him for his contributions over the years.

The last meeting of the General Committee confirmed the election of Richard Stanworth to the sub-committee and we welcome him.

We thank Robert Partridge from Shiplake for allowing himself to be co-opted and look forward to his ideas.

Jon Chamberlain

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES SUB-COMMITTEE
REPORT TO THE GENERAL COMMITTEE
MARCH 2010

The Finance and General Purposes Sub-committee met on 28th January 2010, under the Chairmanship of Robert Newton, with Hilarie Rogers as Secretary.

The Branch Rules page of the Guild Rules was looked at following suggestions that came from the Branch Secretaries' Meeting for changes that would improve clarity. These will be discussed at today's meeting. Officers' expenses were also discussed, and new guidelines are being circulated to Guild and Branch Officers.

The meeting heard about preliminary arrangements for the Guild Festival on 9th July 2011: General principles for the ringing are to maximise the amount of time at each tower, and have 2 sessions at the Cathedral (before and after lunch). Lunch will be similar to last year and the Newman Rooms are being explored, as well as the WI and licensing requirements. The suggestion is that personal invitations should be reserved for significant Festivals, but that a good quality poster should be produced and sent to each tower. No official photograph will be planned, but members will be encouraged to share their own photos on a suitable website. There will be no significant catering at tea time.

Striking Competition methods for 2010 were agreed as a plain course of Yorkshire Surprise Major, and a touch of Little Bob Royal.

It was agreed not to put the list of Tower Contacts from the Annual Report on the website, even in a secure place, but to continue as before with details being sent by the Report Editor or General Secretary if requested. The information is readily available on some branch websites, where the necessary permission has been obtained.

Other items discussed were ringing for St George's Day, and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012. The possibility of hosting a Central Council Meeting will be looked at by a small group convened by the General Secretary.

On behalf of the Finance and General Purposes Sub-committee,

Hilarie Rogers, Secretary

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER

2009 saw an encouragingly increased use of the display boards. Permission is being sought to download material from the Ringing World website, which will help in offering a variety of material to display, and in keeping things up to date.

Help and advice was given to towers and branches when requested, and cross-guild communication took place about an event in a neighbouring Guild.

This brief report was written by the General Secretary, with the approval of the PRO.

Children's Officer: Report to General Committee February 2010

I was very pleased that the *procedure for dealing with inappropriate behaviour in relation to young ringers* was endorsed by the General Committee in November. I hope that we will never have to invoke it, but if we do we now have a clear way forward.

As you probably know, the government has relaxed some of the requirements of the Vetting and Barring Scheme (now run by the Independent Safeguarding Authority) in response to a groundswell of criticism. All ten recommendations made by Sir Roger Singleton's report 'Drawing the Line' were accepted. The main changes that affect us are as follows:

- The definition of *frequent* contact with children is now once or more per week (instead of once per month).
- The definition of *intensive* contact is now four days or more per month or overnight (instead of 3 days or more per month).
- An individual who visits different "schools or equivalent settings" to work with different groups of children will not need to be registered with the ISA unless their contact with the same children is frequent or intensive.
- "Mutually agreed and responsible arrangements" made between parents and friends for the care of their children will not be affected by the Vetting and Barring Scheme.

These changes should make life a bit easier! I will draft a memo to branch secretaries reminding them about arrangements for registration with the ISA as they come in to force this year, and updating them about the points above.

Ann Mayou February 2010

Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2009
General Fund

2008	Receipts	2009	2008	Payments	2009
£		£	£	Expenses	£
525.00	Banbury	648.00	91.00	Master / Deputy Master	110.28
630.00	Bicester	316.00	67.77	Secretary / Treasurer / Stewards	5.00
1,372.00	Central Bucks	748.00	259.21	Other Officers	126.36
395.50	Chiltern	460.00	488.20	Stationery and Postage	56.52
346.50	Chipping Norton	396.00	4.20	Printing	114.92
1,036.00	East Berks & South Bucks	1188.00	910.38		413.08
451.50	Newbury	508.00	97.83	Library	167.32
633.50	North Bucks	756.50	3,629.92	Insurance	4,515.16
864.50	Old North Berks	1032.00	396.35	Communication	366.05
395.50	Oxford City	520.00	1,703.97	Purchase of Guild Reports	1,738.00
763.00	Reading	856.00	1,230.00	Printing "Odd Bob"	1,340.00
591.50	Sonning Deanery	652.00	-	Central Council Affiliation Fee	120.00
423.50	South Oxon	488.00	-	Purchase of Guild Badges	0.00
248.50	Vale of the White Horse	324.00	15.00	Publicity	30.95
630.00	Witney & Woodstock	688.00	100.00	Ringling World - Donation	0.00
9,306.50		9,580.50	169.60	Ringling World - Notices Account	342.66
26.50	Non-Resident Life Subscriptions	170.00	221.95	Cost of Meetings	323.20
22.00	Sale of Reports	0.00	725.49	Share of administrative expenses of Bell Fund	540.95
25.50	Sale of Badges	37.65	600.00	Restoration Fund Donation	550.00
6.00	Sale of Guild History	9.00	600.00	ODG Bell Fund Donation	550.00
904.98	Peal Fees	1,081.90	56.40	Repair of Damage (Rule 16)	0.00
264.03	Bank Interest	7.98	111.14	Striking Competition	175.00
			10,568.03		11,172.37
10,555.51		10,887.03	-12.52	Excess of Expenditure over Income	-285.34
			10,555.51		10,887.03

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2009

General Fund	£	£	£
Balance brought forward 1 January 2009	4510.65		
Excess of income over expenses	<u>-285.34</u>		
			£ 4,225.31
Education Committee			
Balance brought forward 1 January 2009		5324.34	
Radley Course Fees	500.00		
Less expenses	<u>412.04</u>		
		87.96	
Steeple Aston Course Fees	625.00		
Less expenses	<u>483.31</u>		
		141.69	
Other Courses - Fees	340.00		
Less expenses	<u>326.95</u>		
		13.05	
Leaflet Sales	50.00		
Less Printing	<u>16.00</u>		
		<u>34.00</u>	
Balance as at 31 December 2009			5601.04
Guild Book Stall			
Accrued surplus at 1 January 2009		£ 1,557.60	
Stock at cost at 31 December 2008	£ 740.96		
Stock at cost at 31 December 2009	<u>£ 752.12</u>		
		£ 11.16	
<i>Sale price valuation £984.53</i>			
Sales	741.65		
less purchases	591.64		
less expenses	<u>2.85</u>		
		<u>147.16</u>	
Accrued surplus as at 31 December 2009			<u>1715.92</u>
			<u>11542.27</u>
Represented by			
Cash at bank		10790.15	
Cash in hand		0.00	
Stock of books at cost		<u>752.12</u>	
			<u>11542.27</u>

B J Gatward CPFA,
MBCS, CITP
Honorary Treasurer
3 February 2010

Comments on the key points from the 2009 Accounts

Subscriptions and other income. All branches paid for their active members and the overall increase reflects the new subscription level of £6 per member. There are increases in non-resident life subscriptions and peal fees and donations. There was no income from sales of reports. Sales of badges and the Guild History continue at modest levels. The reduction in bank interest received reflects the very low interest rates prevailing in 2009.

Expenses. Expenses incurred by 'Officers', together with Stationery and Postages costs have reduced. There is a modest increase in printing costs.

Library. The yearly costs have increased from last year but continue to reflect the ongoing programme of expenditure on new material and preservation as agreed by the General Committee.

Insurance. The significant increase reflects membership trends as well as the costs of the increased level of coverage for members' personal accident insurance.

Guild Reports and Odd Bob. The costs are increased from last year and reflect the competitive prices obtained for printing.

Ringing World. The Guild did not make a donation this year.

Share of administrative expenses of the Bell Fund. The payment reflects current year activity.

Donations. The Guild agreed to donate £550 to the Bell Fund and to the Restoration Fund.

Education Committee. Training events were profitable, particularly the Steeple Aston Course. Sales of leaflets delivered modest profits. The overall surplus on activities of £286.70 far exceeded the forecast.

Guild Book Stall. Sales and purchases were at higher levels than 2008 and without a reduction in stock level, the resulting profit was £147.16 for the year.

Summary. The Guild remains financially sound with an operational deficit of £285.34 for the year, lower than the budget forecast of £620. At the end of the year the total assets were £11,542.27 showing a small increase over 2008.

The General Fund account has been maintained by Stuart Gibson (Assistant General Treasurer) and our thanks are due to him for this work.

B J Gatward CPFA, MBCS, CITP
Honorary Treasurer 3 February 2010

Reserve Fund

Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2009

2008 £		2009 £
	Balance Brought Forward 1 January 2009	
568.45	Loan - Bell Restoration Fund	
	Balance Carried Forward 31 December 2009	568.45
<u>568.45</u>		<u>568.45</u>

B J Gatward CPFA, MBCS, CITP
Honorary Treasurer 30 Jan 2010

Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers Restoration Fund

(Registered Charity No. 284053)

Report of the Managing Trustees for the year ending 31 December 2009

Fund Raising

Fund raising shows a significant improvement on last year due to receipt of a legacy of £1,000 from Miss Edith Mary Clift for which we are most grateful. The Managing Trustees are pleased to note that six Branches (Banbury, Bicester, East Berks and South Bucks, Oxford City, Reading and Witney and Woodstock) have made donations from fund raising activities. The Guild donated £550 and this generosity is much appreciated. Personal donations increased to £61.64. The Managing Trustees hope that this income source will increase in the future and that donations will include a gift aid declaration to allow tax to be reclaimed for the benefit of the Fund. Tax refunded on gift aided donations amounted to £69.75. This year there was only one Tower donation (Windsor £100). The Managing Trustees hope that more towers, in particular those that have received grants, will wish to make an annual donation.

Grants

The provisional grant offered to Olney (£1020) has been paid. Payment of a grant depends upon a report confirming the satisfactory completion of the work. The Managing Trustees take this opportunity to thank members of the Towers and Belfries Committee who inspect the completed work.

A provisional grant has been offered to Padbury (£330) for urgent repairs. The work has been completed and the grant is expected to be paid early in 2010. No further grant applications were received during the year. The work at Great Brickhill (provisional grant offer of £1525 towards costs of augmentation to 8 bells) is expected to be completed in 2010.

For reference, provisional grant offers are based on the formula agreed in 1999 (a variable percentage of the approved augmentation costs depending upon the number of bells resulting from the works: for up to 6 bells - 15%, for 6 to 8 bells – 7.5% and for more than 8 bells – 5%).

The Trustees again wish to emphasise the importance of fund raising to allow them to continue to meet these targets for grants and take this opportunity to thank those who contributed during 2009.

Investments

Investment income for the year reduced to £82.77, compared with £244.70 in 2008, which reflected the dramatic reduction in interest rates. In order to minimise risks, the Trustees continue to follow an investment policy to maximise income whilst maintaining funds that are readily available to pay grants as they become due. The value of the undated stock remained constant but within the overall investment holding provided an attractive return.

Future Grants

Grant application forms are available from the Honorary Treasurer and should be returned to him when completed.

Managing Trustees:

William Butler, Barry Cowper, Derek Fowles
Brian J Gatward (Honorary Treasurer)

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS
RESTORATION FUND - Registered Charity No. 284053
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2009**

2008 £			2009 £
	Balance Brought Forward 1 January 2009		
6492.66	Investments	6289.73	
<u>568.45</u>	Loan - Reserve Fund	<u>568.45</u>	
7061.11			6858.18
600.00	Oxford Diocesan Guild	550.00	
38.21	Donations	61.64	
	Legacy - Miss Edith Mary Clift	1000.00	
80.00	Tower Donations	100.00	
98.16	Tax refunded on Gift Aided donations	69.75	
75.00	Banbury Branch Donation	75.00	
	Bicester Branch Donation	500.00	
50.00	East Berks & South Bucks	50.00	
35.00	Newbury		
128.50	Oxford City Branch Donation	74.00	
50.00	Reading Branch Donation	50.00	
182.50	South Oxon Branch Donation		
<u>100.00</u>	Witney & Woodstock Branch Donation	<u>100.00</u>	
1437.37			2630.39
	Interest on Investments		
7.16	£205.00 3.5% War Loan	7.16	
22.58	£564.97 4% Consols	22.58	
1.88	T.S.B. Savings Account	2.82	
<u>213.08</u>	Central Board of Finance Deposit	<u>50.21</u>	
244.70		82.77	
8743.18			9571.34
	Grants		
740.00	Cookham		
235.00	St Giles, Reading		
910.00	Olney	1020.00	
		<u>1020.00</u>	
<u>6858.18</u>	Balance Carried Forward 31 December 2009		<u>8551.34</u>
6289.73	Investments		7982.89
<u>568.45</u>	Loan - Reserve Fund		<u>568.45</u>
6858.18			8551.34
	Represented by:		
205.58	£205.00 3.5% War Loan		205.58
500.73	£564.97 4% Consols		500.73
2834.13	Lloyds T.S.B. Savings Account		4947.08
<u>3317.74</u>	Central Board of Finance Deposit		<u>2897.95</u>
6858.18			8551.34

B J Gatward CPFA,
MBCS,CITP
Honorary Treasurer
9 January 2010

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS



DIARY OF EVENTS

Spring General Committee Meeting 13 th March 2010	Shipton under Wychwood
Radley Course 17 th April 2010	Radley
Eight Bell Striking Competition 3 rd May 2010	Wendover
Annual Ringing Day 3 rd May 2010	Chiltern Branch
Annual General Meeting 15 th May 2010	Hungerford
Michaelmas Training Day 25 th September 2010	
Six Bell Striking Competition 2 nd October 2010	Oxford City Branch
Steeple Aston Course 30 th October 2010	Steeple Aston
Ten Bell Striking Competition 27 th November 2010	EBSB Branch
Autumn General Committee Meeting 27 th November 2010	Beaconsfield
Spring General Committee Meeting 12 th March 2011	North Bucks Branch
Radley Course	Radley
Eight Bell Striking Competition 2 nd May 2011	Old North Berks Branch
Annual Ringing Day 2 nd May 2011	Old North Berks Branch
Annual General Meeting 21 st May 2011	Bicester Branch
Festival 9 th July 2011	Oxford

Branch rules

Branch Secretaries at their meeting in October 2009 made the following suggested changes to the Branch Rules section at the end of the Guild Rules. This was mainly to clarify certain things.

Red indicates changes/additions! Red brackets are put round suggested deletions.

- A. Branch members must be voting or Associate Members of the Guild, **and the branch through which their subscription is paid is the one to which they belong**. Only voting members of the Branch may vote at Branch meetings.
- B. There shall be a Chairman, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer of each Branch (hereinafter referred to as "the Branch officers"). Every Branch shall hold an Annual General Meeting each year and the Branch officers shall be elected at such meeting from among the voting members of the Branch. They shall hold office from the end of such meeting until the end of the next following Branch Annual General Meeting. If the Branch so resolves the same person may hold **two posts** (the offices of Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer). Additional officers of the Branch may from time to time be appointed at the Branch Annual General Meeting.
- C. There shall be a committee of each Branch consisting of the Branch officers, a representative of each tower of the Branch at which there are Branch members and the Branch representatives on the **Guild** General Committee.
- D. Should a vacancy arise among the Branch officers, it shall be filled by the Branch in general meeting or by the Branch committee and the person so appointed shall hold office until the end of the next following Branch Annual General Meeting.
- E. The Annual General Meeting of the Branch shall be held each year at such time as each Branch may decide, when the Branch officers and the Branch representatives on the Guild General Committee shall be elected and general business transacted Not less than 14 days notice in writing of the date, time and place and the business to be transacted at the meeting shall be given by the Branch Honorary Secretary to the Guild General Officers* and to the correspondent of each tower of the Branch at which there are Branch members.
- F. At all General Committee Meetings of the Guild each Branch shall be entitled to be represented by its Branch Secretary and one representative for every hundred Branch members or part of one hundred Branch members (exceeding twenty five).
- G. The Branch Honorary Treasurer shall collect the subscriptions of the Branch members who are Resident Ringing Members and Associate Members and shall forward to the Honorary General Treasurer by the 1st. **March** (December) each Year such proportion of the subscriptions as shall from time to time be decided by the General Committee, the remainder of the subscriptions being retained for the use of the Branch. The Branch Honorary Treasurer shall submit an audited statement of accounts **to the end of each calendar year** at each Annual General Meeting of the Branch and shall forward a copy of such statement to the Honorary General Treasurer **by 30th April following**.
- H. Any damage to any bell or gear **caused by** (incurred through the negligence of) a ringer present at a Branch function **may** (shall) be made good at the expense of the Guild, provided that notice of any such damage shall be given as soon as possible to the Honorary General **Treasurer** (Secretary) by the Branch Honorary Secretary.
- I. Each Branch may regulate its own proceedings and make rules for the conduct of its business provided that such rules are not inconsistent with the Guild Rules and these Branch Rules. Should any such inconsistency occur, the Guild Rules and these Branch Rules shall prevail.

* defined as Master, Deputy Master, Honorary General Secretary, Honorary General Treasurer, Honorary Assistant Treasurer, Steward for that branch