

Officers' Reports for 2009 - Webmaster

The aim behind the domain odg.org.uk on which Sonning Deanery Branch set up its first very simple Branch website in 2002 was that the domain would be taken over by the whole Guild. This has begun to happen, though slowly. The Guild main website has been greatly improved over the past two years, and uses the domain name to the full. I agreed with Chris Johnson that we will lead in keeping our branch site in the same look-and-feel style as the Guild main website. My aim was to do this by the end of 2008, but various unavoidable distractions have caused delays.

As in previous years, the Branch offers to provide towers with their own email list, so they can circulate information to their members. Four towers have taken up this offer, which is provided free. The Guild can also provide a basic web site for towers, but they must edit it themselves. I am hoping to simplify this by making Joomla - a leading Open Source Content Management System - available for this.

The website also includes the Branch Diary (including Branch Practices) and the Towers Directory, which includes a clickable map. Further enhancements in the Towers information were planned for 2008 and are still in the pipeline.

Please use the website. It is there for your benefit. The URI is <http://sdb.odg.org.uk/>

Please also let me know what other information you would like to find there, or if you have any ideas for further Branch website developments.

I hope that as my distractions are expected to reduce in 2010, I may be able to make more progress, but if anybody else is willing to take on the job, please say!

PS: Tower correspondents should inform the Branch Secretary of changes to their members' details as they occur (for example, leavers can then be removed from the email distribution list so that they are no longer sent emails that do not apply to them).

Aidan Hopkins

Branch Webmaster (and Guild Server Manager)

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