

**Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers**

**Reading Branch Annual General Meeting.**

**South Stoke – Saturday 13th February 2010.**

**AGENDA**

1. Chairman's Welcome.
2. Apologies for Absence.
3. Obituary
4. Minutes of 2009 AGM
5. Matters arising from the minutes.
6. Reports :-

Accounts and Treasurer's Report.

The Treasurer's report and accounts are attached.

Secretary's Report.

This is attached

Ringling Masters' Report.

This is attached

Branch Reps Report.

This is attached.

Newsletter Editor's Report.

This is attached

Web Site Manager's Report

This is attached

7. New Members
  - a) Election of New Members.
  - b) Ratification of Members elected at Branch Practices.

8. Election of Officers.

Chairman.

Secretary.

Treasurer.

Ringling Masters.

Branch Reps.

Branch Training Officer.

Newsletter Editor.

Youth Representative.

Web Site Manager

Independent Examiners

10 Branch Web Site.

11 Branch Practices

12 Other Events.

Branch Outing.

13 A.O.B

Novices Striking Competition (please see attached)

Sulhampstead (Chiming)

Ken Baker.

Reading Branch Secretary

## **Reading Branch of Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers**

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at St.Laurence Reading on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup>. February 2009. The meeting was attended by 39 members. 2 Visitors one of which was the Honorary Guild Secretary Hilarie Rogers.

### **Item 1: Chairman's Welcome**

June Wells in the Chair opened the meeting at 5.45p.m. And welcomed all present, especially Hilarie Rogers – Guild Secretary.

### **Item 2: Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Robert Newton (Guild Master) Louise Ellis (St. Mary & St. Laurence Reading) Derek Brown, Mavis Crouch (Shiplake) Antoinette Jackson (Goring) Jenny Carter (Caversham) Susie Black (Whitchurch) Vivien Bloundele (Henley)

### **Item 3: Deceased Members since the last AGM**

Victor Roussel	Swallowfield
Daphne Howcutt	Tilehurst
Katie Jones	Burghfield
Jim Read	Whitchurch

The meeting stood in silence to pay their respect.

### **Item 4: Minutes of the last AGM**

The minutes of the last AGM held in St.John's Mortimer on 9<sup>th</sup>. February 2008 had been circulated. Some spelling mistakes were pointed out. After checking it has been discovered that a draft of the minutes had been circulated at the meeting. All corrections had been made and the correct copy is held on file, the hand written copy was also correct. Stephen Rossiter's apologies have been added.

It was proposed by John Wells that the minutes be adopted. This was seconded by Keith Vernon and approved by the meeting and the minutes were signed by June Wells.

### **Item 5: Matters arising**

The Secretary reported that Ufton Nervet is still ongoing. The sale of the church is not yet completed and until such time nothing can be decided as to the bells.

Diana McClure reported that Roger Hopkinson has now taken over the organization of the work at Mapledurham. He has been in touch with Whitechapel and an order has been placed. Work should commence in the autumn. Len Palfrey added that two quotes had been received with Whitechapel more favorable.

Item 6: **Reports**

**Accounts and Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's report and accounts had been circulated prior to the meeting. Len Palfrey proposed that the accounts be accepted, this was seconded by Peter Ellis.

**Secretary's Report**

This was circulated prior to the meeting. The Secretary was asked to add the results of the striking competitions to this report for publication in the Guild Report. John Wells proposed that this report be accepted and this was seconded by Stephen Rossiter.

**Ringing Master's Report**

This was read by Stephen Rossiter a copy is now attached. Stephen said he would like to thank Kate Davis for the work she did in running practices until she moved from Reading. Jim Diserens reported on the Monday afternoon practices. He said they were now once a month due to the decrease in numbers attending when it was fortnightly. The monthly practices have varied in numbers and Jim is intending to carry on until the summer then reconsider, whether practices should continue. He thanked all those that have attended as helpers.

This acceptance of these reports were proposed by John Wells and seconded by Peter Ellis.

**Branch Representatives Report**

This was circulated prior to the meeting. The acceptance of this report was proposed by Eunice Wark and seconded by James Milford.

**Newsletter Editor**

The newsletter editor had nothing to report.

**Branch training officers report**-at present we do not have a training officer

**Youth Representatives report**-at present we do not have a youth representative.

Item 7 **Election of New Members**

Carol Moloney (Caversham)  
Daniel Moloney (Caversham)  
Caroline Leeming (Henley)  
Peter Bennett (Reading St. Giles)  
Lucy Smith (Shiplake)  
Henry Loud (Shiplake)  
Vanessa Payne (Theale)  
Sarah Lake (Theale)

All were elected en bloc. Proposed by Len Palfrey and seconded by Ann Osborne.

There were no new members elected at Branch Practices during the year.

Item 8

There were no new honorary members to be elected.

Item 9

**Election of Branch Officers**

<b>Office</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Proposed</b>	<b>Seconded</b>
<b>Chairman</b>	June Wells	Keith Vernon	Eunice Wark
<b>Secretary</b>	Ken Baker	Stephen Rossiter	John Wells
<b>Assistant Sec</b>	Joyce Vernon	Peter Ellis	Cyril Crouch
<b>Treasurer</b>	Keith Vernon	Toni Smith	Jim Diserens
<b>Ringing Master</b>	Stephen Rossiter	Robin Middleton	Wendy Middleton
<b>Advanced Practice only</b>	Robert Partridge	Robin Middleton	Wendy Middleton
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Diana McClure	Len Palfrey	Wendy Middleton
<b>Branch Representatives</b>	Len Palfrey	Bobbie May	Stephen Rossiter
	Diana McClure	Bobbie May	Stephen Rossiter
	Keith Vernon	Joyce Vernon	Frankie Milford
<b>Independent Examiners</b>	Sarah Dixon	Helen Diserens	Eunice Wark
	Ann Osborne	Helen Diserens	Eunice Wark
<b>Training Officer</b>	Post not filled		
<b>Youth Representative</b>	Post not filled		
<b>Web Site Manager</b>	Chris Johnson	Jim Diserens	Robin Middleton

All officers were elected without opposition.

Item 10

**Branch Web Site**

Chris said that he would like as much news as possible sent to him from towers so others in the branch knew what was happening elsewhere. Peter Ellis said what a fantastic Web site it is and all members showed their appreciation.

Item 11

**Branch Practices**

These are all as published, except the May Practice which will be held between 5 and 7p.m. because of a wedding taking place.

Item 12

**Other Events**

Branch Outing June 13th .2009 there were no volunteers to organize this. If no one comes forward, it will be organized by the officers.

A Quiz night for the Shiplake Bell Fund was suggested, this will be discussed by the officers to see if it is possible.

Item 13.

**A.O.B.**

It was proposed by Keith Vernon and seconded by Peter Ellis that £50.00p. Should be donated to both the Guild Bell Fund and the Bell Restoration Fund. Everyone was in favour.

Peter Ellis said that St. Laurence were very grateful for the money they had received from the branch and suggested that members should go up after the meeting and see what had been done.

Thanks were given by members of St. Giles for the donation they had received towards the work they have had done, they added that everyone who has rung there since has seen a lot of improvement in the sound of the bells.

Item 14 . **Presentation of certificates for Branch Striking Competition.**

This competition was held at Whitchurch-on-Thames

- 1<sup>st</sup>. St. Mary Reading (this team went on to win the Guild 6 Bell Striking Competition)
- 2<sup>nd</sup>. St. Laurence Reading
- 3<sup>rd</sup>. St. Michael's Tilehurst
- 4<sup>th</sup>. St. Peter's Caversham
- 5<sup>th</sup>. Loddon Reach – Shinfield & Swallowfield
- 6<sup>th</sup>. St. Giles Reading
- 7<sup>th</sup>. St. Peter & St. Paul Shiplake
- 8<sup>th</sup>. St. James the Less Pangbourne
- 9<sup>th</sup>. St. Mary Whitchurch on Thames

The Chairman presented the certificates.

Doug. Beaumont thanked Brian Shenton for taking the service in St. Mary's Church House and Matt for playing the keyboard. Chris Russel for allowing us to use St. Laurences. He thanked the ringers for providing an excellent tea. The meeting gave a round of applause.

The meeting closed at 6.45p.m.

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## **Treasurers Report 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009**

My thanks to all Towers for paying their Subscriptions promptly, without me having to chase them.

We have not paid any training grants this year (no applicants) or any grants for work to bells.

We are due to pay a grant of £500.00 to Shiplake when the work is completed as agreed at the 2008 AGM. This should be paid early in 2010.

Donation of £50.00 was given to the Guild Bell Fund & the Guild Restoration Fund.

The Quiz evening was a success and raised £457.50 for the Shiplake Ringing Centre.

My Thanks to Ann Osborne & Sarah Dixon for examining the Accounts.

K.W.Vernon Hon Treasurer

Income	£	£	Expenditure	£	£
Guild Subscriptions 2009 (214 @£6.00)		1284.00	Guild Subscriptions 2009(214 @£4.00)		856.00
Oxford Diocesan Guild Bell Fund			Oxford Diocesan Guild Bell Fund Bell Fund		162.94
AGM Collection	29.10		Bell Fund Donation		50.00
Branch AGM Raffle	41.00		Bell Restoration Fund Donation		50.00
Collections at practices etc	50.06				
Advent Service Profit Mulled wine	12.49				
Advent Service collection (Shared with Church)	30.29				
		162.94			
Sale of Newsletters		37.00	Sale of Newsletters		78.35
			AGM Organist/Vicar		35.00
Donation		4.00	Striking Comp Judges		20.00
Quiz Night		665.00	Quiz Night Hall		52.50
			Quiz Night Food		155.00
			Shiplake Ringing Centre		457.50
Interest on Investments		33.09			
			Advent Organist/Vicar		19.96
			Advent Printing		5.00
			Secretary Expenses		87.72
			Treasurer Expenses		5.00
			Diary Cards for 2010		17.94
		2186.03			2052.91

#### STATEMENT

Balance B/Fwd 1.01.2009 2286.63  
excess of income over expenditure 133.12

Balance C/Fwd 31.12.2009 2419.75  
Represented by  
Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society 389.87  
Central Board of Finance for C of E 2029.88  
Cash in Hand 0.00  
**2419.75**

Liabilities Shiplake 500.00  
To be paid on completion as agreed at AGM  
2008

Keith Vernon -- Hon Treasurer  
Sarah Dixon -- Independent Examiner  
Ann Osborne --Independent Examiner

**NOTE THESE ACCOUNTS HAVE NOT YET BEEN INDEPENTLY CHECKED**

## **Branch Secretary's Report**

The Branch Annual General Meeting took place at Laurence's Reading on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February. Ringing took place at St Mary's Reading prior to the Service-taking place in St Mary's Hall due to a heating problem in St Mary's Church.

After the service the Tea and Meeting took place at St Laurence's with ringing following.

Thanks to the St Mary's Ringers for hosting the Annual General Meeting and providing tea.

Another good year in winning competitions again with the 6 bell at Longcot – St Mary's Reading, and the 10 bell at Long Crendon by the Branch Team.

St Mary's and St Laurence's were runners-up in the 8-bell competition at Great Tew.

In June the Branch held its annual outing, this year to Hertfordshire organized by Stephen Rossiter and June Saint.

Towers visited were South Mymms, Southgate, Enfield, Monken Hadley, Chipping Barnet and Elstree.

This Year's 6 bell striking competition took place at Streatley, on a superb warm September afternoon, Only 6 teams took place this year with a very high standard of the ringing the results were very close with only 11 faults between 1<sup>st</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>!!!

The local band from Goring was judged the winner with 16 faults and was presented with the Topper Trophy. St Mary's Reading was second with 17 faults.

Our judges this year were Ken and Angela Darvill.

A superb tea was provided by the locals in the Morrell Rooms.

It was unfortunate that due to Holidays and other commitments that Goring could not represent the Branch in the Guild 6 Bell Striking competition, so the runners represented the Branch.

Our Advent Carol service took place on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December at St Gile's Reading With Handbell Ringing by The County Border's Team and several members of the Branch supplementing the Church Choir. The usual Mince Pies and Mulled Wine followed the Service

Many Thanks to all Towers/Incumbents for the use of the bells.

During the year I have been somewhat limited to Ringing and getting around the Branch during the past year after an accident damaged my shoulder and required an operation.

Ken Baker

**Reading Branch Ringing Masters Report**  
**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2010**

Attendances at the practices have remained varied throughout the year. The standard of ringing good, with those attending, I hope, gaining experience at various levels. Ringing has ranged from Rounds and Call changes through to Surprise Major. I am not sure changing the time to 4 – 6pm has worked. I have seen no real increase in attendances and some Saturdays the time has made it difficult for me to attend. As I am not at the meeting today I cannot argue my case, but I would like to see practices revert back to evenings, how about 6 – 8pm. I will let the meeting decide.

I apologise for any practices I did not attend during the year.

The Reading branch prides itself for catering for all abilities, the re-introduction of the higher numbers have been well received, although we could do with support from our more experienced ringers. I am changing the time; from February onwards with higher numbers practice will start run from 1 – 2.30pm

As you know striking competitions are important to me and last year Reading achieved a high standard in all competitions.

Three teams entered the 8 bell in the Banbury Branch; St Mary with St Laurence made it through to the final and was narrowly beaten into second place by High Wycombe. St Mary's represented the branch at the six bell final, after Goring could not put a band together. St Mary's were placed 1<sup>st</sup> by half a mark to retain the trophy!

In the 10 bell a band of branch members travelled to Long Crendon for a tough contest. The test piece was the same as last year, Grandsire Caters, and I was delighted that Reading won by a 3% margin to last years winners Central Bucks! Reading will now represent the Guild at this years Tewkesbury Shield competition in May.

In the National Twelve Bell contest Reading came fourth in their eliminator at Sheffield Cathedral, just one place behind qualifying for the final at St Pauls. Better luck for this year!

As I do every year I must encourage everyone to attend the Saturday branch practices. They are there for everyone, please go and make use of the time to learn and practice new things. Running a practice is never easy and sometimes the more ringers there are the harder it is. Please let one of the Ringing Masters know if you are not getting the most of the practice, they are there for you and if you have learnt something special, and if there are enough, it should be rung.

Thank you to Bob Partridge for running the Thursday advance practices and to everyone else who has supported me throughout 2009

**Steve Rossiter**

## **Branch Representatives Report 31/12/09**

### **March Committee Meeting**

Discussion on the recording of Bells for the guild Webb site.

The Recording should do justice to the bells

Be a credit to the Guild

Be equivalent to a good service touch (which could be rounds/call changes)

The local band must agree to it being put on the Web site.

### **May AGM**

Brian Gatward Guild Treasurer informed the meeting that the insurance now had increased benefits and no age restrictions.

February 2010 is the 100 anniversary of the death of Rev Robinson, It was suggested that Peals, Quarters etc should be rung in the week 13<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> February 2010.details to be passed to the Guild Master (Robert Newton) by the end of February who will collate and forward to the Ringing world.

A change to the Guild Rules. There will be no new Honorary members. The Status of those already elected will stay the same.

A new category of Distinguished Member, Candidates for this must be forwarded in writing by an Officer of the branch for approval by the Guild Master, Deputy Master & General Secretary. Ordinary and Distinguished members will continue to pay subscriptions

### **November Committee Meeting**

The Cathedral in Oxford has been booked for Guild Festival on 9/7/11

Reading won the 10 Bell Striking Competition

A request had been received for Ringing on St Georges Day

The meeting finished in record time

## Newsletter Editors Report

Reading branch Newsletter – do we still need it?

The Reading branch newsletter is published three times a year. In 2009 the issues were:  
No 96 – Easter;  
No 97 – Michaelmas;  
and No 98 - Christmas.

Because there is a gap of several months between each issue, many of the reports are old when they are published. Often they have already appeared on the branch or the ODG web sites.

For example, in No 98, the Christmas issue, the reports on ODG 6-bell and 10-bell striking competitions (both by Alan Marchbank) were “lifted” from the ODG web site.

Members of the Reading teams added a comment or two, to give them a local “angle”, but the important information about the striking competitions had been on the web site for weeks before the newsletter was published.

Other reports, on outings and the Shiplake bells, and the diary items, also appeared on the web site, before they were published in the newsletter.

Website Manager Chris Johnson does an excellent job: his web sites are the obvious source for up-to-date information and the latest reports about branch and guild events.

This raises the question: Does the branch need a printed newsletter? Do members read it – or do they just look at the web site?

This matter could be raised at the Reading branch AGM, on Saturday 13th February.

Addendum: Many thanks to the contributors, who have sent in very interesting reports – which can be read in the newsletter or on the web site.

**Diana McClure**

## **Webmaster report for 2009**

The Branch website at [www.odgreadingbranch.co.uk](http://www.odgreadingbranch.co.uk) continues to be used by a good number of people on a regular basis.

Every effort has been made to maintain the website with all relevant updates in a timely manner.

Every tower is encouraged to send in their news items to share with others in the Branch and during 2009 a handful of news items have been published.

The Shiplake bell restoration and refit has been updated as the project has progressed and thanks go to Bob Partridge and Cyril Crouch for keeping me posted on this work.

Communication across the Branch to members has been improved this year by the use of a Branch email contact list. It is much easier to communicate this way for events and diary changes. However, not all members are included in the list because they don't have an email address, have not provided one to their tower representative or would rather not be included on the list at all.

All members are reminded that for the Branch Officers to communicate easily it would be beneficial to let your tower representative have your email address at least once per year and obviously if you change it at any time. You should find that the annual form that each tower rep is given for renewal of subscriptions etc has space for you to enter your email address should you wish to be included and receive emails.

Members may be aware that I am collecting recordings of all bells in the towers of the ODG and that includes the Reading Branch.

I do not yet have recordings for the following towers in the Reading Branch; Bradfield, Burghfield, Goring, Henley, Lower Basildon, Mapledurham, Nettlebed, Padworth, Reading St Giles, Reading St Laurence, Shinfield, Mortimer St John, Theale.

If members of these towers would like to let me know when they are attempting say a Q Peal or other event I will try to get along to make a recording. I only need about 5 minutes worth of good sustained ringing please. Or if you already have a recording of your own please send me a copy.

Those recordings that I do have for Reading Branch Towers can be found on the respective tower pages on the branch website. For all other ODG towers where recordings exist please visit [www.odg.org.uk/history](http://www.odg.org.uk/history) and look for the item within that page.

If there is anything that you would like to see on the Branch website please send me details to [readingbranchnews@btinternet.com](mailto:readingbranchnews@btinternet.com)

Thank you

**Chris Johnson, Branch Webmaster**

## **DRAFT**

### **Reading Branch Novice Striking Competition for the John Butler Trophy**

#### **Objective**

To encourage bands who would not normally consider themselves good enough to enter the branch competition to enter the competition for the experience and to improve their striking by benefiting from the constructive comments given by the judge(s).

#### **Definition**

A novice is defined as a ringer who may have been ringing for a number of years and, because of opportunity or aptitude, may not have progressed beyond the early stages of learning:-

- call changes and who has not yet mastered the art of making a change with consistent, accurate striking and may need assistance with identifying the bell to strike over at the change
- plain hunting and may need coaching with striking when leading and lying behind
- simple doubles methods, i.e. plain bob or grandsire, and may need coaching with dodging and place making
- to conduct simple methods

In addition, it is expected that novice ringers will have rung few, if any, quarter peals and will not have rung a peal.

#### **Rules**

1. The tower captain of entrants shall be responsible for determining if a ringer is a novice and for declaring this on the competition entry form.
2. Novice bands may comprise ringers from one or more towers.
3. Novice bands may have the help and guidance from a maximum of two experienced ringers.
4. The experienced ringers may ring as part of the band and may coach the band or may coach individual novices by “standing behind” during the ringing of the test piece.
5. An experienced ringer may conduct the test piece or may “stand behind” and coach the novice conductor.
6. Novice bands will be judged to the same standard as other competing bands and the Judge(s) will not have prior knowledge that the band is a novice band.
7. A novice band may win the Reading Branch striking competition but may not go on to represent the Branch at the Guild six bell striking competition.

8. In the event of a novice band gaining the fewest faults in the competition the next highest placed non-novice band shall go on to represent the Branch at the Guild six bell striking competition.
9. The highest placed novice band shall be awarded the John Butler Trophy.

**Len Palfrey**