

Jan
2006



Witney and Woodstock Branch Newsletter

**Celebrating
125 years of
The ODG.**

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Peals and Quarters

Newsletter of the Witney and Woodstock Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers

From your Editor

I hope you all had a good Christmas and enjoying a well earned rest following ringings busiest time of the year. 2006 is the 125th anniversary of the Guild. The Guild was formed on the 17th January 1881 so our celebrations will start early.

Try and ring whatever you can to mark the occasion and let your parishioners know. The more publicity the better. Needless to say, ringing has come a long way in 125 years. I suspect Branch practices

were much valued in years gone by. These were occasions where ringers could get together and share their experience to advance. The formation of the Guild undoubtedly spread the art of change ringing to many remote locations in the Diocese. All the hard work put in by our predecessors should not be put to waste, we should all make the most of what the Guild has to offer and not just pay our subs each year.

Please please attend the Branch AGM at Witney. This is your chance to have your say about Branch events, meet the committee and find out what's going on. At the very least ensure at least one member of your tower attends.

Thinking further ahead, please note the Branch Outing on 6th May. I've volunteered to organise this. This year we hope to visit north Warwickshire. It will be a great day out.

Richard White

Forthcoming Events – Be There!

**Branch Practices –
7.30pm
Wed 25th Jan
8 bell practice –
Clanfield**

**Wed 8th Feb
6 bell practice –
Aston (to 20.30)**

**Sat 11th Feb –
BRANCH AGM –
Witney 6pm**

**Tues 21st Feb –
8 bell practice –
Witney**

**Thurs 2nd March –
6 bell practice –
Ch Hanborough**

**Thur 23rd March –
8 bell practice –
Woodstock**

**Tue 6th April
6 bell practice –
Wootton**

**Wed 26th April –
8 bell practice –
South Leigh**

**Sat 6th May –
BRANCH OUTING
North Warwicks
ALL DAY**

**Further dates to be
organised.
Cards to follow.**

**Check Branch
Website.**

**Make the most of
these events and
progress!**

"I have enjoyed the last three years and have gained valuable experience in all fields of ringing.. "

From the Ringing Master — Steve Goddard

This will be my last input to the branch newsletter as my departure date gets closer. As previously mentioned I will be standing down at the Witney AGM after three years so, to a certain extent this will mirror my Ringing Master's report. Again the last year has seen a variety of practices and activities and to a degree participation in guild events. The Witney and Woodstock branch is fairly small in numbers but it is nice to see most practices are well attended. The eight bell practices have been good with people attempting new things and I would suggest that we maintain them for the coming year. This will be slightly different due to the maintenance of Bampton bells around about August. The six bell practices may need a different approach. Some have been worthwhile but the objective has not quite been achieved at some. Some ideas about next

year's programme may be welcomed by the Branch reps, please do not hesitate to contact them. One idea is to have dedicated training sessions with a nominated method at a convenient time.

Other activities have been the branch outing, covered in a previous newsletter, and the eight bell striking competition in Bucks. We put in a valiant attempt but it proved a little difficult. I believe our own striking competition was a success and this is good as it proves a good base for communication within the branch. Various quarter peals have been rung and branch personnel have been active in peals one in particular at Clanfield commemorating the centenary of a peal of Stedman; my spies tell me it was very good. The branch has also rung a quarter for the 125th anniversary of the guild at Woodstock recently. I will be compiling next year's

programme and need a volunteer for a venue for the 2007 AGM and also the striking competition in June.

It is time to thank people and with out risk of singling out particular people, I would like to thank two of our more experienced ringers, namely Bernard Coggins and Peter Coveney, for their support. I would also like to express my appreciation to all branch members and tower captains for the use of their bells and last but not least to all the branch committee for their help, in particular Lorna for all her tireless work.

I have enjoyed the last three years and have gained valuable experience in all fields of ringing and will miss my ringing time in Oxfordshire and the welcome extended by it's ringers and towers especially Bampton which has been bold enough to accept me as one of it's ringers.

Steve Goddard

**Branch Outing
Saturday 6th May
Further Details to follow
Put it in your Diaries!**

Congratulations!

**First Peal
Congratulations**
Mark Wastie (Witney).

**First Quarter
Congratulations**
Jimmy Clark (Woodstock)

Caz Woodruff (North
Leigh)

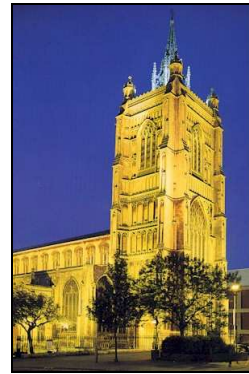
For full details see back
page.



Did You Know?

The first recorded peal was rung at St Peter Mancroft Norwich on May 2nd 1715. The method was Plain Bob Triples.

Norwich was at the forefront of change ringing. Also rung in the same tower was the first peal of Grandsire Triples in 1718 and the first peal of Stedman Triples in 1731.



St Peter Mancroft, Norwich.

The first peal in Oxfordshire was rung at Christ Church, Oxford in 1733

“We Ring The Bells On Sunday” by David Smith.

We ring the bells on
Sunday
And call all folk to
pray.
A few will heed the
message,
But more will stay
away.

God’s bells give Him
much pleasure,
And we enjoy them
too.
So when we sound
our message
What does that mean
to you?

“The bells they sound
so lovely,
We hear them all
quite near.
They’re part of our
tradition
And maybe more,
that’s clear”

The bells can speak
of Jesus
And what He came to
do.
There’s blessing
there for all of us
And for our children
too!

So when you hear our
ringing
Just offer up this
prayer: -
“Lord Jesus, please
bless me and mine
And keep us in your
care”

DJS June ‘03

BRANCH AGM

Sat 11th February 2006
6pm
St Mary’s, Witney.

**Please attend and have your
say!**

Ringling Websites Review *by Richard White*

“next time you are browsing the net, take a look at Love’s Guide to the church bells of the City of London”

If I ever find myself in Central London with a little time to explore, rather than drag myself round the shops in the West End I like to explore the city. The square mile is full of history. If you look beyond the modern office blocks you can easily find gems of interest. I have always found Wrens churches fascinating. I often wonder how these churches survive in an area where thousands work but few live. These Wren masterpieces contain many fine rings of bells

including St Mary-le- Bow and St Lawrence Jewry. Next time you are browsing the net, take a look at Love’s Guide to the church bells of The City of London. This site has been superbly created, with detailed histories of just about all the current rings of bells in the City and many that have been lost due to dereliction, redundancy or WWII bombing. One church that has fascinated me is St Dunstan in the East. Its striking spire is quite a

well known landmark. The church was badly bombed and the old bells were lost. The tower survived and was provided with a fantastic Taylor’s octave. However, because the tower moved so much they were rarely rung. The bells were sold in the early seventies. You can listen to a rare recording of the bells on the web-site. There is also a very interesting account from John Pladdys of his time ringing at the tower.

www.london.lovesguide.com

Update from the Branch Secretary –*Zoë WHITE*

I thought it was about time that I write something for our newsletter! I am just about to enter into my third year as Branch Secretary (if I am voted back in at the AGM) and try to fit the role around 3 children (with one on the way). I also sell Washable nappies if there is anyone out there who may be requiring them in the future! I try to get along to the Branch practices when I can although I haven’t felt like ringing recently due to my condition. There are 3 Guild meetings per year that I attend along with our Branch Rep. The Guild AGM is in May which I will let you know about nearer the time.

The Guild meetings are great to be able to find out what is going on and how things run. It is also a chance to have a go at ringing on some different bells and to meet some other Branch Secretaries. At the Autumn meeting, the forthcoming 125th Anniversary Guild Festival was discussed. As this will be a significant event, please keep your diaries free on July 8th. Communication within Branches was also discussed. It is so important that every member of the tower sees all correspondence to keep up to date with what is going on. Please let me know if this doesn’t happen in your tower.

Obviously now, email is much easier and cuts down on paper, so if you have an email contact for your tower and they are happy to receive the information for your tower, please do let me know. This would really help.

See you at our forthcoming AGM.

Zoë White
01993 812424
Zoe_white25@hotmail.com

“It is so important that every member of the tower sees all correspondence to keep up to date with what is going on”

Chairman's Chatter - Anthony Williamson

At the beginning of November we held a committee meeting for Branch administration and activities. Above all, there was the need to discuss Steve Goddard's replacement as Ringing Master when he leaves in May. A few Branch members have been asked but, so far, we are without a willing volunteer. We do need a Ringing Master, so for those with the required skills please can you consider the role?

Another item was training courses. Last year I was fortunate

enough to join a Banbury Branch Grandsire Doubles course. It took place on a Saturday morning, at Tadmarton, and ran for about two hours; the tuition and individual support proved invaluable. As one of the objectives of the Guild is "the promotion of the art of change ringing", I'm hoping that our Branch might organise similar courses. However I need to establish whether there is sufficient demand and will circulate a questionnaire to all Branch tower

captains to coincide with the AGM in February. And finally... Combe now has a ringing simulator. Two bells have been wired up to a computer, which uses ABEL software and it has the capability to ring methods for up to 12 bells. The greatest benefit would be for those who are just starting to ring rounds and plain hunt. I plan to run sessions on Saturday mornings, which will be open to anyone in the Branch. Please contact me for details.

Anthony Williamson

Christine Putt.
 Many ringers and friends were sorry to hear the news that Christine Putt has suffered a stroke. Christine is an active Branch member who has spent many years teaching youngsters to ring at Ducklington. I'm sure I speak on behalf of the entire Branch in sending her all our best wishes.
 Ed.

Jimmy's Junior Ringers WORDSEARCH — Jimmy Clark

Methods.

S T D O H T E M E E C K
 S A O R O U N D S S S C
 G E R A B C A C T E K A
 R R B N N A M D E T S M
 A I Y C I S T E D M S B
 A S P L A I N H U N T R
 A D L H L M E T O O D I
 N N A I P O B M E H C D
 D A A H S N I R O U K G
 S R O U N S H H A N D E
 A G T S T S A L M B B S
 I R A S G R O N D S I A

Hi junior Branch members. See if you can find the method names listed below in the grid on the left. There is also a bonus word. GOOD LUCK!
 ROUNDS
 PLAIN BOB
 GRANDSIRE
 STEDMAN
 CAMBRIDGE
 ST SIMONS
 PLAIN HUNT

**GUILD
 FESTIVAL 2006
 OXFORD**

**CELEBRATING
 125 YEARS**

SAT 8th JULY

**PUT IT IN YOUR
 DIARIES.**

**Send your articles
to**

Richard White
26 Hill Rise,
Woodstock, Oxon
OX201AB
PHONE:
01993 812424

E-MAIL:
zoe_white25@hotmail.com

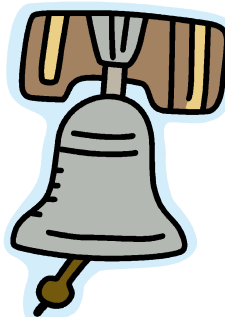
Branch website
See us at:
www.witneyandwoodstock.org.uk

Quarter Peals

Woodstock
October 15th 2005
1260 Doubles: 2 methods,
Grandsire and Plain Bob
1 – Jimmy Clark
2 – Bernard Coggins
3 – Victoria Davey-Wilson
4 – Malcolm Fairbairn
5 – Richard White ©
6 – Ian Davey-Wilson
First Quarter (age 11) – 1.
Rung with best wishes to
3 with her forthcoming
operation.

North Leigh, Oxon.
19th November 2005
1260 Reverse Canterbury
Pleasure & PB
Doubles
1 - Steve Massie (first on
treble)
2 – N. Merryweather-
Clarke (C)
3 - A. Merryweather-
Clarke (C)
4 - Mark Wastie (1st as
C)
5 - Roger Barnes (C)
6 - Caz Woodruff (1st Q)
1st RCPD: 2 & 3.
Rung to celebrate the
marriage of Melanie Tait
and David Burton .

Woodstock
21st December 2005
1260 Doubles: 2 methods,
Grandsire and Plain Bob
1 – Mary Clark-Maxwell
2 – Sarah Perrett
3 – Eleanor Williamson
4 – Malcolm Fairbairn
5 – Richard White ©
For the Mayors Carols
Round the Tree



**Quarters rung to
celebrate 125 years
of the ODG**

Eynsham
15th January 2006
1260 Doubles, 3 methods:
Reverse Canterbury, Plain
Bob and Grandsire with 5
variations
1 - Rick Taylor.
2 - Phillis Pimm
3 - Roy Jones.(cond)
4-- Charles Smith (cond)
5 - Hugh Deam (cond)
6 - Pete Butler.

Woodstock
16th January 2006
1264 Plain Bob Major
1 – Mary Clark-Maxwell
2 – Steve Goddard
3 – John Harwood
4 – Bernard Coggins
5 – Eleanor Williamson
6 – Lorna Smale
7 – Malcolm Fairbairn
8 – Richard White ©
Rung to celebrate 125
years of the Oxford
Diocesan Guild



Peal Band at Witney 17/09/05
L to R: Roy Woodruff, Lorna
Smale, Richard White, Roger
Barnes, Christine Putt, Bobbie
May, Tim Pett, Mark Wastie

Notable Peals

THE OXFORD SOCIETY

Clanfield, Oxon. St Stephen.

Saturday 13th August 2005 in 2 hours and 49 minutes

A Peal of Stedman Triples

Arranged by John Pladdys (No 1) 5040 Changes

Tenor 12-3-16 in F#

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1 – Lorna Smale | 5 – Alban D Foster |
| 2 – John Pladdys © | 6 – L Roy Woodruff |
| 3 – Charlotte Everett | 7 – John H Napper |
| 4 – Roger Barnes | 8 – Clive Holloway |

First Peal of Stedman – 1. For the centenary of the first
Peal on the bells, Stedman Triples on 14/08/1905 conducted by Rev F
E Robinson

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD

Witney, Oxon. St Mary the Virgin

Saturday 17th September 2005 in 2hours and 58 minutes

A Peal of Grandsire Triples

Composition: J J Parkers 12 part 5040 Changes

Tenor 16-3-11 in E

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1 – Christine Putt | 5 – Mark Wastie |
| 2 – Lorna Smale | 6 – Richard E White |
| 3 – Bobbie May | 7 – L Roy Woodruff © |
| 4 - Roger Barnes | 8 – Timothy G Pett |

First Peal – 5. Rung as a 40th Birthday compliment to Mark Wastie.