

Look To

FEBRUARY 2025



Dates for your Diary

Saturday 8 th February	Oxon Ringing School – Teaching Course – Module 1, Teaching Bell Handling	St Mary the Virgin, Kirtlington 09.30 – 17.00
Saturday 15 th February	8 Bell Practice 16.00 - 17.30	Thame (8)
Saturday 22 nd February	Branch Practice 15.00 followed by a service at 16.00, tea, and the AGM	Benson Ringing at 3.00 pm Service at 4.00 pm AGM not before 5.00 pm
Friday 14 th March	8 Bell Practice 14.30 – 16.00	Great Milton (8)
Saturday 22 nd March	Branch Practice 16.00 – 17.30	Chinnor (6)

100 Club Winners

The winners of the January draw are :

1st Prize No 24 Mark Hunter ex Gt Milton

2nd Prize No 7 Wendy Simon, Chalgrove

AGM

Please join us at the AGM on Saturday 22nd February. This is your chance to get more involved – all offices become vacant at the AGM, and every member is eligible to stand for election. If one of the posts appeals to you, please do contact John Tchighianoff prior to the meeting.

It's also an opportunity to request help with practices, maintenance, and any other matters that your tower may have concerns about, and also to meet other branch members over a cup of tea, sandwiches and cake.

South Oxon Branch ODG - Annual General Meeting

Saturday 22nd February 2025 at St Helen's Church, Benson

Ringling at 3pm will be followed by the service at 4.00 pm
Refreshments will be served in the Canons' Room at St Helens Church after the service
The AGM will not commence before 5.00 pm

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Approval of the Minutes of the 2024 AGM and EGM held on 26th October 2024
3. Matters arising from the Minutes
4. Treasurer's Report and approval of accounts
5. Donations
6. Secretary's Report
7. 100 Club report
8. Branch Representatives' Report
9. Ringing Master's Report
10. Election of Officers :
 - a. Chairman
 - b. Vice Chairman
 - c. Secretary
 - d. Treasurer
 - e. Ringing Master
 - f. Deputy Ringing Master
 - g. Branch Representative
 - h. Branch Representative
 - i. Newsletter Editor
 - j. 100 Club
 - k. Webmaster
 - l. Independent Examiner
11. Election of New Members
12. Any Other Business
13. Date of next AGM – Saturday 28th February 2026

There will be a collection during the service for the Diocesan Bell Fund, and the suggested donation for tea is £5.00. **PLEASE NOTE – CASH ONLY!** There are no online facilities for payments within the church or Canons Room.

To help with catering, please could you let John Tchighianoff know by **Tuesday 18th February** if you will be attending. John can be contacted at :

Benson@southoxon.odg.org.uk

Telephone : 

The minutes of last year's AGM follow at the end of Look To. Please do let Jane know if there are any errors or omissions.

TOWER NEWS / RECENT QUARTERS

Aston Rowant

Tuesday 17th December 2024

1290 Doubles (300 Stedman, 510 Grandsire, 480 Plain Bob)

1 Kay Bartholomew

2 Jenny Johns

3 Robert Newton (C)

4 Patricia Newton

5 Adam Lockwood

6 Paul Smith

Specially rung as a compliment to Shirley Smith on her 90th birthday. Shirley rang a plain course of Grandsire with five of the band afterwards.

2,000th quarter peal: 4.

First quarter including Stedman: 2.

Chalgrove

Friday, 24 January 2025 in 45m (16-0-14 in F)

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

1 Mark Wasmuth

2 Christine Wasmuth

3 Geoffrey Riglar

4 Christine Bailey

5 Andrew Davis (C)

6 Christopher Devonport

First away from the Tenor - Mark Wasmuth



BRANCH WEBSITE

Our Webmaster, Benji Bateman, has spent a considerable amount of time and effort redesigning the branch website and moving it to the ODG platform. Benji has uploaded information for each Tower, including the generic contact details.

Could Tower Captains please review the tower information for their respective towers and advise Benji of any amendments that are required. It would be great if all ringers could look at the content on the website and let Benji have ideas for additional information you would like to see. If anyone would like to assist Benji with keeping the website up to date, please do contact him.

Website : <https://southoxon.odgdev.org.uk/>

Benji's email address : webmaster@southoxon.odg.org.uk



Oxford Diocesan Guild
of Church Bell Ringers

South Oxon Branch

Tower Twinning Spring 2025

The Seventh Tower Twinning round is listed below. We still have six towers taking part, there is always time for another tower to join in.

February - April 2025

Aston Rowant / Benson
Chalgrove / Shabbington
Chinnor / Dorchester

Please contact your twin tower as soon as you can and arrange a home and an away meeting

Contacts are:

Aston Rowant	Robert Newton	
Benson	John Tchighianoff	
Chinnor	Malcolm Barker	
Chalgrove	Andrew Davis	
Dorchester	Gillian Johnson	
Shabbington	Karen Pile	

I hope everyone will enjoy meeting up with and ringing with their twin tower.

Any questions please contact me

Andrew Davis

 bells@chalgrovechurch.org

South Oxon Branch ODG
For contributions to Look To, please email: secretary@southoxon.odg.org.uk

Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers

South Oxon Branch

The **Annual General Meeting** of the South Oxon Branch was held at St Mary's Church, Chalgrove, on Saturday 24th February 2024.

Chairman John Tchighianoff opened the meeting, and welcomed Katie Lane, Master of the ODG and Patricia Newton, Guild Steward. A minute's silence was observed in memory of Mr Allan Smith (Aston Rowant), Mrs Olive Lawrence (Brightwell Baldwin) Mrs Meg Way (formerly Chinnor) and Mrs Belinda Wood (formerly Aston Rowant)

Apologies for Absence were received from Chris Bailey, Sue Bailey, Maureen Bosley, Annette Cook, Raymond Fergusson, Caroline and Stuart Flockton, Nick Foreman, Wendy Hawkins, Amy Herlihy, Stephen Hoar, Gillian Johnson, Catherine Mason, Hilarie and Christopher Rogers, Wendy Simon, Christine and Mark Wasmuth.

Twenty-two members were in attendance representing twelve towers.

1. Approval of Minutes of the 2023 AGM
 - a. The Minutes of the 2023 AGM were accepted.
2. Matters Arising
 - a. None were raised.
3. Treasurer's Report and approval of accounts:

Report and Accounts recorded in the newsletter were taken as read. Acceptance was proposed by Sue Dyke and seconded by Robert Newton. The accounts were accepted nem con.

Donations

Reserves total £3151.80 which includes a surplus of £125.56 Andrew Davis proposed a donation of £100 to the Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund, seconded by Kay Tuckwell. A vote was taken, and the proposal was carried nem con.
4. Secretary's Report: Taken as read in the Newsletter. Proposed by Robert Newton and seconded by Andrew Davis. The report was accepted nem con.
5. 100 Club Report Taken as read in the Newsletter. The 100 Club report was proposed by Kay Bartholomew and seconded by John Hughes D'Aeth. John Tchighianoff commented that membership has increased to 69 for 2024. The report was accepted nem con.
6. Branch Representatives' Report Taken as read in the Newsletter. Proposed by Robert Newton and seconded by Benji Bateman. The report was accepted nem con. Robert thanked Amy and Jaff for attending Guild meetings and for their informative report, which gave a good reflection of the year's activities.
7. Ringling Master's Report Taken as read in the Newsletter. Proposed by Mark Hunter and seconded by Cathy Hughes-D'Aeth. Noted that Branch Practices and the newly introduced 8 Bell practices have been well attended.
8. Election of Officers

(Jane Willis, Branch Secretary, takes the chair for the election of Chairman)

South Oxon Branch ODG

For contributions to Look To, please email: secretary@southoxon.odg.org.uk

- Chairman: John Tchighianoff – proposed by Robert Newton, seconded by Benji Bateman. John is elected nem con.
John advised that he will be standing down at the next AGM. He has completed two stints as Chairman – 1992 – 2004 and 2016 to 2024, a total of 20 years.
(John Tchighianoff resumes the Chair)
- Vice Chairman: Andrew Davis – proposed by Sue Dyke, seconded by Mark Hunter. Andrew is elected nem con.
- Secretary: Jane Willis – proposed by John Tchighianoff, seconded by Japh Slaney. Jane is elected nem con.
- Treasurer: Kay Bartholomew – proposed by John Hughes D’Aeth, seconded by Kay Tuckwell. Kay is elected nem con.
- Ringing Masters: Andrew Davis – proposed by John Tchighianoff and John Hughes-D’Aeth, proposed by Japh Slaney. Both seconded by Robert Newton. Andrew and John are elected nem con.
- Branch Representative - 1: Amy Herlihy – proposed by Robert Newton, seconded by Benji Bateman. Amy elected nem con.
- Branch Representative - 2: Japh Slaney - proposed by Robert Newton, seconded by Benji Bateman. Japh is elected nem con.
- Newsletter Editor: Benji Bateman – proposed by Andrew Davis, seconded by David Parker. Benji is elected nem con.
- 100 Club Organizer: John Tchighianoff - proposed by Kay Bartholomew, seconded by Alan Keen. John is elected nem con.
- Webmaster: Benji Bateman – proposed by Nick Foreman, seconded by Andrew Davis. Benji is elected nem con.
- Independent Examiner: Raymond Fergusson – proposed by Cathy Hughes D’Aeth, seconded by Mark Hunter. Raymond is elected nem con.

9. Election of New Members and Presentation of Certificates

Name	Tower	Proposer
Chris Ward	Benson	John Tchighianoff
Lisa Ramsey	Benson	John Tchighianoff
Christina Bailey	Watlington	Peter Logan
Sacha Mogg	Watlington	Peter Logan
Jessica Bines	Watlington	Peter Logan
Sarah Mason	Dorchester	Nick Foreman
Megan Sadler	Dorchester	Nick Foreman
Paul Smale	Chinnor	Malcolm Barker
Julian Sears	Chinnor	Malcolm Barker
Andrew Gordon	Chinnor	Malcolm Barker
Michael Bamforth	Marsh Baldon	Japh Slaney
Stuart Flockton	Unattached	Jane Willis
Caroline Flockton	Unattached	Jane Willis

Re-Elections		
Andrew Gillard	Towersey	John Tchighianoff
Lucy Gillard	Towersey	John Tchighianoff

It was agreed to elect all new members en bloc – all in favour. Certificates will be distributed after the meeting.

Any Other Business

Katie Lane gave details of Membermojo, an electronic database system that the ODG will be rolling out to branches over the new few months. ODG is the largest Guild Association in the world, with circa 2,400 members. The system, which is GDPR compliant, will enable accurate records to be maintained, and lead to efficiencies in communicating with members, reduced workload for treasurers and branch secretaries, and hopefully a reduction in insurance premiums once an accurate membership number is calculated.

Katie advised of two vacancies within the Guild. Due to family commitments, Karen Pile is standing down as Guild Secretary and Rob Needham is retiring as editor of Odd Bob after 20 years in the post. Both have made outstanding contributions to the Guild, and replacements are urgently sought. Job Descriptions will be circulated, and anyone able to take on a role – or part of a role – is asked to contact Katie as soon as possible.

18th May 2025 - The South Oxon Branch will be hosting the ODG AGM and 8 Bell Competition. Please note the date.

Robert Newton reminded members that the Sponsored Quarter Peal Week commenced on 24th February. Aston Rowant will be ringing a Quarter Peal on Tuesday 27th February should anyone wish to sponsor them.

John Tchighianoff thanked the Father Michael Lakey for leading the service and Christopher Devonport for his excellent organ accompaniment. We are grateful to Andrew Davis for making the necessary arrangements with St Mary's Church, and Teresa Davis for providing a beautifully presented and excellent ringers' tea.

10. Date of next AGM

Saturday 22nd February 2025, venue to be advised.

South Oxon Branch ODG

Minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting

Held on Saturday 26th October 2024

At the Abbey Church of St Peter & St Paul, Dorchester

1. Election of Chair

Kay Bartholomew, Branch Treasurer chaired the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

Andrew Davis, Robert Newton, Patricia Newton, John Tchighianoff and Jane Willis

3. Election of New Members

Susan Bailey – Chinnor

Proposed by John Tchighianoff

Alison Hedges – Chalgrove

Proposed by Andrew Davis

Patricia Newton – Aston Rowant

Proposed by Robert Newton

Election to the South Oxon Branch

The nominees were seconded by Sue Dyke and all in attendance gave their agreement.

4. Any Other Business

The meeting closed at 4.10 pm and was followed by the branch practice.