

Look To

OCTOBER 2025



Dates for your Diary

Saturday 18 th October (note changed from 2 nd Saturday)	8 Bell Practice – 16.00 – 17.30	Warborough
Saturday 25 th October	Branch Practice – 16.00 – 17.30	Shabbington
Saturday 25 th October	Autumn EGM	Shabbington, 16.00
Saturday 1 st November	Ten Bell Course on Grandsire Caters - See poster attached	St Andrews, Shrivenham, 10.00 – 3.00. Closing date for applications 15 th October.
Friday 7 th November (Note changed from 2 nd Saturday)	8 Bell Practice 14.30 – 16.00	Great Milton
Saturday 22 nd November	Art Module 2 F – From Rounds to Plain Hunt. 09.30 – 17.00	St Helens Church, Abingdon Closing date 7 th Nov. See below
Saturday 29 th November	Branch Practice 16.00 – 17.30	Great Milton (8)

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

To be held at St Mary's, Shabbington

On Saturday 25th October at 4.00 pm – prior to the Branch Practice

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for absence
2. Election of New Members
3. Metro Bank – Notification if imposition of charges
3. Any other business

Does your tower have new members who are regular ringers at Sunday Services that they wish to elect to the Guild? Please let Jane know their names asap.

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

100 CLUB WINNERS

The draw took place at the Branch Practice at Towersey. The winners are :

1st Prize No 67 Donna Convery, Watlington

2nd Prize No 6 Wendy Simon, Chalgrove

BRANCH 8 BELL PRACTICES

We have been running monthly 8 bell practices for the Branch since the start of 2024. The original idea of these practices was to offer an opportunity for Branch members to develop and/or refresh their 8 bell ringing, conscious that there were (and still are) relatively limited opportunities for method ringing on 8 bells within the Branch. We have also been pleased to welcome a few friends from outside the Branch who wish to hone their own ringing or to offer a helping hand.

We are keen to give Branch members what they want and to check that there is still demand for these practices. With that in mind, can those of you who are interested please answer the following questions:

1. Do you still think these practices are a good idea?
2. If so, are the current time slots (alternately Friday at 2.30 pm and Saturday at 4 pm) still the best available, bearing in mind that no time will be convenient for everyone? Do you have any other suggestions?
3. In terms of how the practices are run, is there anything we can or should be doing differently? (Don't be shy! - we really do want constructive feedback and criticism.)

We look forward to hearing from you. Many thanks and best wishes

John and Cathy

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Congratulations to our Branch Ringing Master John Hughes-D'Aeth, who conducted a "double peal" of Stedman Cinques at Exeter Cathedral last Saturday (27th September). Exeter are the second heaviest ring of bells hung for change ringing in the world; the tenor alone weighs over 72 cwt. The peal comprised 10001 changes, took 8 hours 12 minutes and is the longest peal ever rung on such heavy bells.

This sounds like the "Ironman" of ringing!! I'm probably asking for too much information – but just what do they do about calls of nature!?!? Do ringers of such peals wear platypus water carriers to remain hydrated? Do they have someone in the tower with them, feeding them with endurance gels? Are they perhaps a little mad? I think this calls for a talk – maybe with slides – at next year's AGM!

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TOWER TWINNING

We have eight towers partaking in the twinning programme – where towers on a rota, attend a different tower's practice night, and receive a reciprocal visit back. Held three times a year, it offers great enjoyment to ringers who get to experience towers that they have seldom, or even never, rung at. It is lovely to have so many. However, if your tower is not one of them but would like to be, we would be more than happy to include you. Please get in touch.

The schedule this time round is:

Aston Rowant ↔ Watlington

Marsh Baldon ↔ Chalgrove

Benson ↔ Chinnor

Dorchester ↔ Shabbington

Wishing you good ringing and fun.

Japhiah Slaney

TOWER NEWS – CHALGROVE



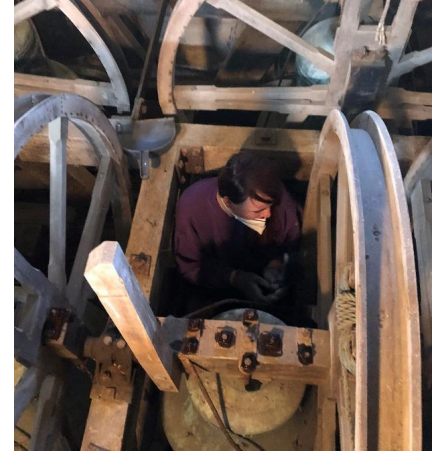
Alison Hedges receiving her Guild Membership Certificate from Tower Captain and Chair of the Branch Andrew Davis.

TETSWORTH

The major clean up has taken place! Five sacks of detritus were removed from the tower – and the bells rang out! Photographs from the day follow.....

Plans are in place to appointment a Tower Captain in the hope that regular ringing can be reinstated.

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**Tetsworth Saturday 6th September - Emily, Harry, Japhiah, Julian & Andrew tidied the belfry & ringing chamber
After not being rung for several years, fittings were checked and five sacks of twigs were collected!**



At Noon, after a thanksgiving prayer, the bells rang out across the community - Emily, John, Gordon, Julian, Harry, Japhiah & Andrew

CONFIDENTIAL

ART Module 2F: From Rounds to Plain Hunt

Saturday 22 November, 09:30 – 17:00
St Helen's Church, Abingdon

Tutors: Nick Brett & Steve Vickars



What is Module 2F?

If your new recruit can safely ring a bell and is just starting to ring rounds then this course is for you.

In some ways this stage is the hardest part of learning to ring; the excitement and rapid progress associated with (semi)-mastering bell control has passed and time on the rope can be limited if the only practice is once a week with a mixed ability band.

This is where this course helps. It introduces lots of fun exercises to help your ringer develop the foundation skills for method ringing; fine bell control, listening and ropesight. There is plenty for your new ringer to practise and measure their progress against whilst stimulating (and sometimes taxing) the rest of the band. For bands who don't aspire to method ringing, it gives lots of ideas for Service or wedding

ringing which sound good whilst keeping the band interested.

“From Twinkle, Twinkle to the Flying Dutchman – a musical masterpiece or a Module 2 course with ART?”

The Birmingham School of Bell Ringing has shown that those who spend longer consolidating foundation skills before learning methods progress more quickly later on.

Book your place on the course directly (closing date Fri 7 November 2025 at 12:00):
events.bellringing.org/en/events/courses/teaching-course-module-2f-abingdon-oxon

Contact the Training Officers for more details:

Name	Telephone	Mobile	email
Susan Read	01235 529779	07941 580468	training-officer@onb.odg.org.uk
Steve Vickars	01869 351715	07710 487223	training-officer@bicester.odg.org.uk

artonline.bellringing.org/

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OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD

TEN BELL COURSE

A One Day Course organised by the
Guild Learning & Development Workgroup

Saturday 1st November 2025

10.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.

at

St Andrew's, Shrivenham

A course on

Grandsire Caters

for Guild Members wishing to develop their 10-bell ringing.

Charge of £25.00 to cover tower donation, break-time
refreshments & buffet lunch.

Detailed joining instructions will be forwarded later.

The closing date for applications will be 15th October.

To apply for this course or to find out more about it, please
contact Tony Crabtree:

Tel: 01793 784064 or email: tony.crabtree@talktalk.net