

Guild Representatives' Report 2015

The Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers General Committee met twice in 2015 and North Bucks Branch was represented on both occasions. 2015 saw the addition of a discussion topic to the standing agenda. In March the discussion was centred on recruitment and retention and posed the following questions:

1. What have towers in your branch done to attract ringers, and what has worked?
2. People don't always stay – what have your towers found are the main reasons given for leaving?

Each branch was given 2 minutes to share their experience. The results of the discussion can be found on the guild website <http://odg.org.uk/forumGCMar15.php> and are a useful reference for any tower looking to recruit and retain bell ringers.

In November the discussion took a different track and was all about branches working together and sharing events / resources etc. This time the questions were:

1. What could you offer to arrange for your own branch together with another branch?
2. What would you appreciate being invited to another branch to join in with?

Again the results of this discussion can be found on the guild's website <http://odg.org.uk/pdf/DiscussionItemNov2015.pdf>. Definitely worth a look if you want to join in on a 10 bell practice or want to attend training events or even borrow some equipment.

The Guild's AGM was held on a beautiful spring day in May at Cowley in Oxford but unfortunately only 49 members were present so a number of items were carried forward to the Additional AGM held in Benson in July which was completed with relative speed having met the required quorum.

Items of interest to guild members from the North Bucks branch include:

- 1) Election of Richard Stanworth as guild Server Manager – Congratulations Richard
- 2) Election of Alan Marchbank as Central Council Representative – Congratulations Alan
- 3) Alan Marchbank gave notice he would stand down as the guild's Deputy Master in 2016
- 4) Subscriptions remain unchanged
- 5) The post of Public Relations Officer remains vacant – so if you have some time available and have the necessary skills this might be a great opportunity for you.

The duties of the PR officer are:

- Advise guild members on all aspects of Public Relations especially dealing with the media and other aspects of publicity
- Encourage good practice in communication within the guild
- Maintain a collections of display materials that can be used by members as required
- Liaise with the Diocesan Communications office.
- Endeavour to ensure that all publicity of ringing in the guild is accurate and promotes the good standing of the guild.

North Bucks branch currently has a Guild Rep vacancy so if you can spare 3 Saturdays a year to attend the guild meetings where you get to explore the guild's fabulous countryside and ring at a variety of churches in both towns and villages and attend a handful of local Sunday evening branch officers meeting at The Swan Revived Hotel, Newport Pagnell please do volunteer.