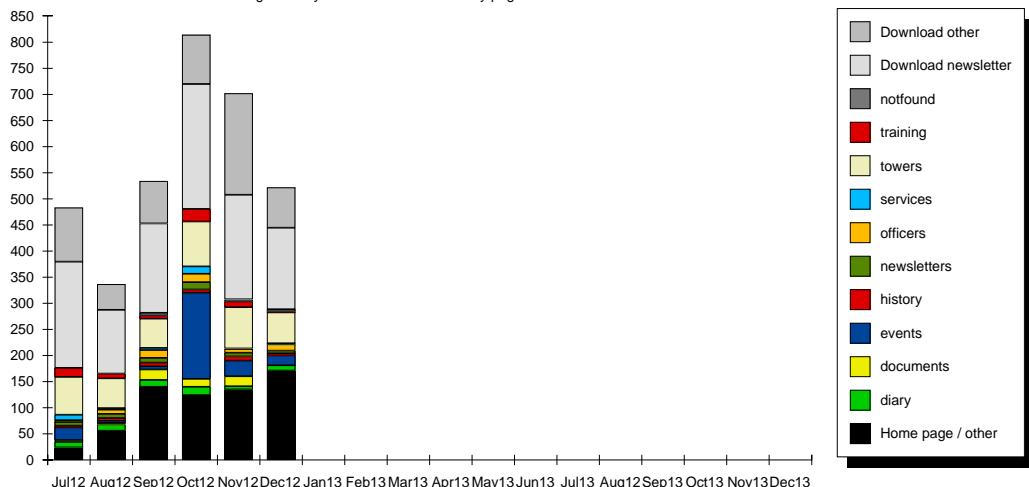


Webmaster/Postmaster Report for 2012

Website – The website has been kept up to date throughout the year, with periodic additions and minor improvements. It now traps any page address errors and gives a helpful response, rather than the default 'Error 404 - not found'. The site includes full contact details for officers, an on-line diary, contact details for towers organised by practice night, number of bells and map, details of training courses (with an application form), full list of all Branch and Guild services, copies of all newsletters since 2005, reference documents, reports and pictures of events, the history of the Branch, and a list of useful ringing links. The website is at: odg.org.uk/sdb/

I can now monitor usage of the website, and I have data from late July. During that period, there were ~1700 page hits (about a third on the home page) – an average of 9.3 per day. During the same period nearly 1700 documents were downloaded (two thirds newsletters and one third other) – an average of 9.2 per day. We have ~170 members (of which 80% are on the e-mail list), so if all the documents are downloaded by members, the average would be over two per member per month.

Sonning Deanery Branch website – Monthly page hits and downloads



E-mail lists – I manage three Branch e-mail lists (Members, Officers, Towers) and provide assistance if required for the four tower lists hosted by the Branch (Easthampstead, Twyford, Warfield and Wokingham All Saints).

I try to keep the addresses on the list up to date and complete, but I can only do so when given the information. In April I again asked tower correspondents to check that all their members were on the members e-mail list. Half of them replied, and as a result over a dozen members were added. The list currently includes 80% of members. I suspect that the number with no e-mail is fewer than 20%, so we could probably add more, if I knew about them.

Please tell me if your e-mail address changes. If you manage a tower e-mail list, please tell me when you change anyone's address – changes you make don't automatically get copied to the members' distribution list.

Member survey – I conducted another web-based survey to find out whether members were aware of the purpose of the November 'Committee meeting', and that they should be represented at it. The response was small, but suggested that many members had no idea of meeting's purpose, and that those who attend do not seem to involve or represent the views of the wider membership. Like the previous survey though, it produced many positive ideas for ways the Branch could do more to foster more effective recruitment & training (the major topic at the 2012 meeting). The survey results, and the Branch response to the recruitment & training survey are both on the website.

John Harrison, February 2013

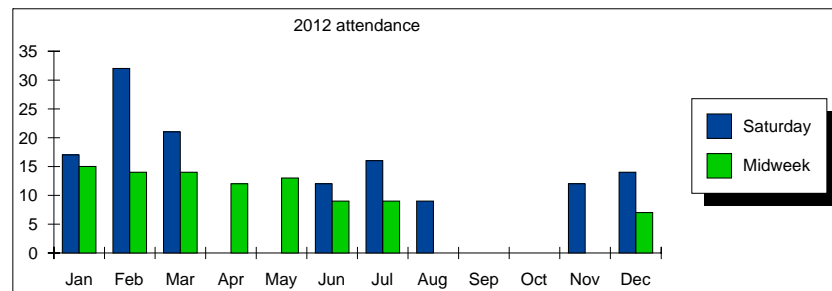
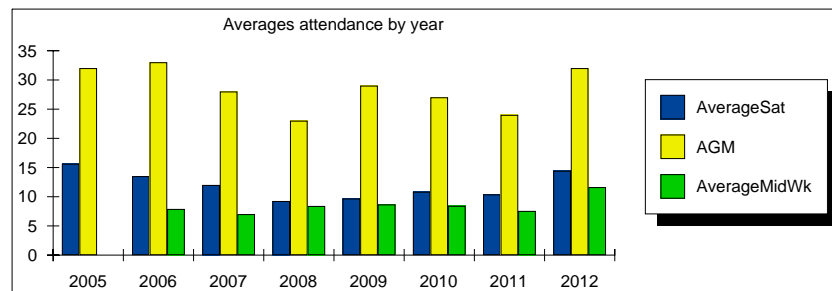
Sonning Deanery Training report for 2012

Courses – For many years, we have run several courses a year, but this year we ran none. One started being planned in the summer, but finding a date to suit all the students proved difficult, especially when one of them injured his back and had to give up ringing. Two courses currently have enough interest to run them: Leading up and down in peal, and Heavy bell handling. These will be run as soon as practical in 2013. Several other courses have one or two people waiting, but too few to run them.

Some Branch members wanting the Maintenance course were directed towards the corresponding Guild course. I received one request for courses (via the website) from someone in East Anglia! I put him in touch with his local training officer. We were asked to provide a tutor for a course in Reading Branch, which Graham Slade (Deputy Ringing Master) ran.

Details of courses offered, status reports on each, and an on-line application form are on the website at: <http://www.sdb.odg.org.uk/training/>

Practices – Average attendances for the year at both Saturday and daytime mid-week practices were up on the last few years, but this was largely due to high attendances in the spring. Later in the year attendances were lower, and several mid-week practices were cancelled for lack of support.



Note: February is the AGM. There are no Saturday figures for April & October (striking competitions) and September (no record). There was no weekday practice in August, September, October & November.

10-bell ringing – We rang two 10-bell quarter peals with mainly Branch bands, but we were not able to enter a team in the 2012 Guild competition. More 10-bell quarter peals are planned for 2013.

Teacher training – Jacquie Hazel (Shottesbrooke) became the first Branch member to complete an ITTS qualification, mentored by the Branch Training Coordinator.

Inter-tower assistance – Several Branch members are involved in helping with the tuition of ringers from other towers, either at the learner's tower or by inviting learners to sessions at their own tower.

Concerns – John Manley made a major personal contribution during his time as ringing master, and the inability to find a replacement for him when he left is an indicator of how training within the Branch is critically dependent on a very small number of people.

John Harrison (Training Coordinator)