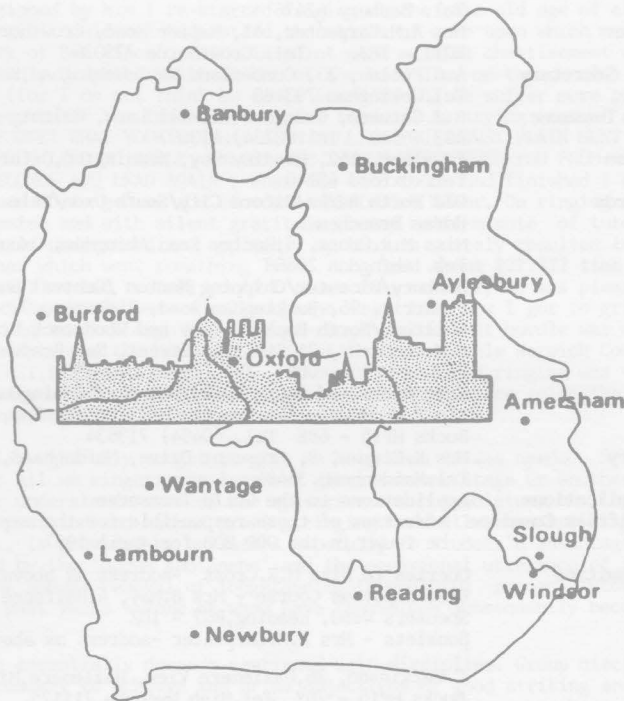


**ODD BOB**  
**Newsletter**  
**of the**  
**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD**



## ODD BOB - OXFORD DIOCESE; Berks, Oxon, Bucks

You will notice that this edition of ODD BOB contains more articles and news and that (in the need for cost cutting) some of the routine material has been omitted. May I thank all those who have contributed this time and have made it much more of a Guild effort. The Branch Secretaries - some of whom tell me that they had their arms twisted at the A.G.M. - by their reports or by sending News Letters do much to dispel the situation which the Diocesan Pilgrimage is trying to correct - where the North does not know the South nor the East the West; and few know the Centre. I suspect that the Guild is one of the few Diocesan organisations where more rank and file members know people from all over the Diocese than in any other group.

We welcome Anne Carpenter on her election to Deputy Master and wish her a successful time in office. If it is not so it will not be due to lack of hard work or time given to the Guild on her part. Two new Stewards have also been elected - Alan Marchbanks and Pat Newton - and in both cases it will bring East closer to West. They are both well known for the work they have put into their own Branches.

M.R.C.

### USEFUL ADDRESSES

<b>The Master</b>	R.A.Thorne, 3, Broad Gap, Banbury, Oxon OX15 - 4DE Tel. Banbury 62476
<b>Deputy Master</b>	Mrs A.M.Carpenter, 41, Napier Road, Crowthorne, Berks RG11 - 7EJ. Tel. Crowthorne 775036
<b>Hon.General Secretary</b>	A.G.Pullan, 23, Cumberland Way, Wokingham, Berks RG11-9AY Tel. Wokingham 793488
<b>Hon.General Treasurer</b>	B.J.Gatward, Grange Wood, Mill Lane, Calcot, Reading, RG3 - 5RS Tel. (0734) 413097
<b>Hon.Librarian</b>	P.Walker, 152, Headley Way, Headington, Oxford OX3 - 7SZ Tel. Oxford 65140
<b>Guild Stewards</b>	<b>Old North Berks/Oxford City/South Oxon/Vale of White Horse Branches</b> Miss M.R.Cross, 6, Radley Road, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 - 3PQ Tel. Abingdon 20868 <b>Banbury/Bicester/Chipping Norton /Central Bucks Branches</b> J.Harris, 95, Buckingham Road, Bicester, Oxon OX6 - 7ES <b>Chiltern/North Bucks/Witney and Woodstock Branches</b> A.Marchbanks, 31, St Giles Street, New Bradwell, Milton Keynes MK13 - OBE. Tel (0908) 322549 <b>East Berks and South Bucks/Newbury/Sonning Deanery Branches</b> Mrs P.M. Newton, 44, Georges Hill, Widmer End, High Wycombe Bucks HP15 - 6BE Tel. (0494) 713834 Mrs K.Firman, 8, Crescent Drive, Maidenhead, Berks. SL6 -6AQ Tel. Maidenhead 36484
<b>Peal Secretary</b>	Applications to the Guild Treasurer
<b>Bell Fund Applications</b>	Addresses of those responsible for the various Branches
<b>Towers and Belfries Committee</b>	be found in the ODD BOB for April 1987
<b>Education Committee</b>	Queries to Miss M.R.Cross -address as above Easthampstead Course - Mrs B.May, 4, Halfacre Close, Spensers Wood, Reading, RG7 - 1DZ Booklets - Mrs A.M.Carpenter -address as above.
<b>Report Editor</b>	C.Parkinson, 26, Hazlemere View, Hazlemere, High Wycombe, Bucks HP15 - 7BY Tel. High Wycombe 711125

THE EASTHAMPSTEAD RINGING COURSE  
A TUTOR'S VIEW POINT

'WHY WE BOTHER'

A question posed by Marie Cross at the 1986 Course - 'WHY DO THE MAJORITY OF THE TUTORS AND HELPERS KEEP SUPPORTING THE COURSE YEAR AFTER YEAR?' - is deserving of a valid reply. As one who has regularly attended as such since its conception and also having instructed on the Central Council, Grantley and Essex Courses, it seemed I may be qualified to sensibly respond.

I learned to ring during the 1939 - 1945 War (on silenced bells) at the age of seven. (I packed it up when I was eight years old - much to the chagrin of my Father who taught me, having reached the dizzy heights of 'Churchyard Bob'!) Somehow I just could not grasp the fundamentals of the dodges in Plain Bob Minor despite physical and tearful chastisement! I therefore rapidly became disillusioned and quite properly decided that ringing was just not worth it. On informing my father (with much fear and trembling, for I knew the likely outcome - and, at least, in that I was correct), it can be imagined by the reader what ensued. It was a hard school of learning in those days. However my piano practice benefitted as a direct result!

It was not ere long before I realised that my brother, who had started ringing at the same time as myself, was by now ringing Cambridge Surprise Minor. Not wishing to be outstripped by him I re-started ringing at the wise old age of eight years, although I still could not understand the 'slices of cake upon which were etched the lead-end work of Bob Minor'. (At this point more painful chastisement was to ensue!) However a kindly disposed Welsh member of the band drew me to one side after several more months (for I do not think he could stand seeing me suffer more punishment) and gave me a very brief but immensely helpful tutorial by saying (out of earshot of my father) 'FORGET WHAT YOUR DAD HAS BEEN TELLING YOU - JUST PLAIN HUNT AND WHEN YOU HEAR THE TREBLE LEADING, DODGE, UNLESS THE TREBLE HAS TURNED YOU FROM LEAD, IN WHICH CASE MAKE SECONDS AND LEAD AGAIN'. When the next touch had finished I asked if I could have one more 'go' on the second to Plain Bob Minor. On ringing the course (without blemish and with silent gratitude for my half-minute of tutorial which I had instantly understood and applied), my labours merely resulted in a muttering from my father which went something like ..... 'and about ??????? time to after all the times I've had to tell you!' I think that secretly he was pleased (and/or relieved). I certainly was - although he never knew how I got to grips with it! That was my big breakthrough into change-ringing. The next hurdle was my abject failure to comprehend the historic means of learning Double Norwich Court Bob Major by 'FIRST, LAST, NEAR, FULL FAR'. I thought how stupid ringing was - but after all, I was only eight years old and the air-raided sirens were going, the guns firing and bombs dropping. However that is another story.

Someone had thoughtfully sought to give me help when it was needed. So it is, being mindful that all we ringers are learners albeit at one stage or another, that to help another understand some of the mysteries and nomenclature of ringing, improve handling, composition and method proving, ringing handbells, rope splicing, bell maintenance etc., is provided by us Tutors hopefully to Student's advantage. Our reward is signalled by the 'oohs and aaahs' and the occasional utterance of the metaphorical 'EUREKA', the annual renewal of longstanding friendships amongst Tutors (and indeed Students of past years - some of whom have themselves subsequently become helpers or Tutors).

Bell-ringing essentially demands continued self discipline. Group discipline is likewise necessary to achieve the prime objectives of good striking and attainment. Above all it should be enjoyable to those without, as well as by those within the belfry despite the differences that may otherwise exist, by the nature of things, between ringers. This is evidenced at the Easthampstead Courses by both the Saturday evening handbell tune ringing and the inevitable lusty and harmonious singing that ensues wherein everyone takes part. After all, it does enhance the bar takings somewhat...../

This et al is 'WHY WE BOTHER'.

Frank C. Price - A tutor

## OXFORD GUILD A.G.M., SERVICE AND RINGING

The Guild AGM on Saturday 16th May took place at Bucklebury on what must have been one of the most brilliantly sunny AGM days for many years! Ringing concentrated in the Lambourne Valley, was followed by a brief Service, tea and meeting.

There is something uniquely English about abandoning the family at the crack of dawn, taking the car and pointing it at a collection of remote villages and churches in which one has previously not set foot in order to partake of the bells whose reputations will range from "a beautiful ring" to "begga'th"! It is also uniquely campanological that this should occur on Cup-Final Day without a singular reference to it 'en route.

I had the motorway and the lanes almost entirely to myself for a large part of the day, (the rest of the world were warming up their tellies) and although they were relatively local, I stood to claim six new towers. East Ilsley were the first of the day - a delightful light 8 - I wouldn't mind a peal there when they have sorted out their sound proofing! Here Little Bob was called for, and David Struckett kept on popping up during the day, and demanding same until I got it right! On to Farnborough, a doubtful little five with wispy sallies and obstacles at large to catch your elbows, where we managed some Grandsire Doubles. A quick look at the map indicated that the next tower, Brightwalton, was in the next village. I approached this from a school playground: everyone else seemed to find the conventional way in; - a pleasant ring - and David Struckett and Little Bob - Minor this time!

Owing to slow horse-boxes and deplorable navigation technique (I have a lousy sense of direction) I missed the magnificent sounding 8 at Lambourne, arriving just as they were ringing the last two down. However! it was all too obvious I would need my strength for the next ones - Doddy bells by reputation. East Garston itself is a delightful village, which I discovered at length after several circuits of the Diversion, and frightfully up-market though the pub was exceedingly basic. The bells themselves (a 17cwt six) have received a bad press and so chuffed was I with my ability to ring them in Rounds without excessive aggravation, that I proceeded to make long 4ths in Grandsire Doubles!

The day was warming up and the Spring zephyr carried with it that all-pervading fragrance of horse - if like that kind of thing, which you presumably do if you live in the Lambourne Valley.

I dashed to Chieveley and rounded up a few stragglers, only to find that I had already rung there. Here one of the Saddleton brothers called some very interesting Stedman Doubles on the back six. My final tower was Hampstead Norreys, which I have been after for some time. No one wasterribly impressed and all were anxious to get on to Bucklebury, so we satisfied ourselves with two courses of Original. So on to tea, Service and AGM.

It was pleasant to socialise and remake old acquaintances in the May sunshine with an hour's ringing prior to the Service. Joan Marshall, Tower Captain, ran efficient car-parking service, while one of the parishoners showed interested ringers round the historic church - a pleasant touch that, Joan, thank you for organising it!

The brief Service consisted of intercessions, response, and two lusty hymns, "Thine be the glory" and "Unchanging God". The singing of the gentlemen ringers was of sufficient calibre to bring forth warm praise from the Rev. Tony Holmes whose apposite address must have endeared him to all present. The lesson was read by the Deputy Master, Henry Lawrenson and the banner carried by the Guild General Secretary.

Tea was served in the Victory Rooms, a short walk from the church, where the local ringers did a splendid job of catering for the 48 members who booked tea, plus all those who did not!

The AGM got underway five minutes early with the Master ,Mr Ron Thorne in the Chair, asking members to stand in silence as a mark of respect for those who had passed on in the last twelve months.

The Guild Treasurer,Mr Brian Gatward presented the accounts and explained at some length the additional insurance cover he had obtained through the E.I.O. Part of the Group Personal Accident Cover Premium would be covered by the 25p increase of subscription for 1987. However the remainder of the premium, 30p, would be financed from the General Account. The General Committee would have to consider this at their meeting in November when reviewing subscriptions.

It was at this point the meeting considered the usual donation to the Ringing World. Members agreed on a figure of £75.00 for 1987.

In recent years the election of officers has caused embarrassment with not all of the posts being filled. Only one office was left vacant this year in order for the General Committee to discuss its terms of reference.

The following officers were elected:-

Master	Ron Thorne
Deputy Master	Anne Carpenter
General Secretary	Tony Pullan
General Treasurer	Brian Gatward
Guild Stewards	Marie Cross
	Pat Newton
	John Harris
	Godfrey Foat
Librarian	Philip Walker
Report Editor	Chris Parkinson
Peal Secretary	Katharine Firman

Henry Lawrenson had been Deputy Master for 4 years and because of ill health was not seeking re-election. Anne Carpenter was duly elected to the office having previously been Guild Steward for two years, Ringing Master for the Sonning Deanery Branch and is currently joint Easthampstead Course organiser.

In addition the following were elected as the six

Six Elected Committee Members :- Daphne Pollard, Willie Haynes, Bobbie May, David Struckett, David Phillotson, Ken Davenport.

A very popular nomination of a Vice-Presidency was conferred on Henry Lawrenson by Marie Cross, who, on the lighter side, regaled us with tales of Henry in short pants. For once Henry was speechless, but none the less delighted, as was the membership.

Details of the forthcoming Guild Festival at High Wycombe were given. It was to be on 4th July and would be as a prelude to their 900th Centenary Celebrations. There would be a service, luncheon and a Barn Dance to end the day. (Details elsewhere in this issue). High Wycombe Parish Church is a big one. Can the Guild fill it?

Details were also given of the Diocesan Pilgrim Festival in Oxford on 12 - 13 September (FULL DETAILS ELSEWHERE IN THIS ISSUE).

The Bell Fund Chairman, Mr Henry Lawrenson, reported a total capital of £58,052.00 at the end of 1986. New money raised was £6,164.00 and grants totalling £8,950.00 were paid to ten towers including £2,250.00 to both Deddington and Dorchester.

After the vote of thanks, the meeting ended and local towers were available for more ringing.

Thank you Newbury Branch for a pleasant day.

This report is the splicing of two reports one from Bobbie May and the other from Tony Pullan. The composition by M.R.C. No prizes for guessing who wrote what!

## DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE - SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 and SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 13

When Bishop Patrick considered the concept of a Diocesan Pilgrimage, he encouraged the proposal even though it would be his successor taking part in it.

Like some bellringers he was aware that people living 40 - 50 miles away, treated Oxford as a distant place. He was also aware that to achieve unity in such a large Diocese as ours takes much hard work.

The Bishop of Oxford thought it was time for the Cathedral and City parishes to put themselves at the service of the three counties, and make Oxford the centre of an event not just of tourism, or a shopping visit, but of a Christian Pilgrimage and celebration.

The Festival would be over two days, Saturday and Sunday 12 and 13 September and would have a dual role. On the one hand there would be Bible Study, Prayer and Worship, whilst on the other, there would be drama, events for choirs and events for the young.

And so, with that background, the Rev. Bernard Brown, the Festival Arts Convener, contacted the Guild and asked how the Bellringers of the Diocese would contribute to the Pilgrim Festival.

I then had several meetings with Roy Goodwin, Oxford Branch Secretary and Dave Woodward, Oxford Society Secretary to discuss what the possibilities were. Our original plans were for a Ringing Day in Oxford on the Saturday with as many city and college towers open as possible, ending with ringing at Christ Church Cathedral for the Festival Evening. On the Sunday we thought it would be unique to invite each Branch to send a band to Oxford to ring a quarter peal prior to the Festival Mass.

### **On paper the plans looked good.**

I relayed the arrangements back to Diocesan Church House for approval and that was when the problems started. Towers became unavailable because of other Festival events, in or adjacent to, churches. It was when the Cathedral bells became unavailable for Evensong ringing, we realised that plans for the Saturday had been torn to ribbons.

Regretfully, on the Saturday there will be no ringing. What few towers had been obtained, have been cancelled.

However, on the Sunday, the plans for fifteen quarter peal attempts are looking good. The changing of the venue of the 3.00 p.m. Festival Mass from Oxford Football Ground to Oxford City Football Ground, to between St. Giles and St. Mary Magdalen Churches and finally to Broad Street has not affected us yet!

Fifteen towers have been booked for the quarter peals starting at 1.30 p.m. and both Roy and Dave agree that all our efforts should be channelled into the Sunday ringing. I will be writing to Branch Secretaries shortly with details of their allocated towers.

Tony Pullan.

### Education Leaflets

The following leaflets have now been completed and are on sale at 20p each.

Bibliography  
Bob Calling for Beginners  
Handbells

Also recommended is:-

Teaching from Rounds to Bob Doubles by Wilfrid Moreton.  
This can be obtained from Central Council Publications, The Ringing World, Penmark House, Woodbridge Fields, Guildford. price 80 p

M.R.C

## O B I T U A R Y

### IVOR D. HARRIS.

Ivor D. Harris died on 4th April aged 80 years at his home in Chipping Norton after a short illness.

He learned to ring at Enstone at the age of 12 years, became a member of the Oxford Diocesan Guild in 1926 and joined the Four Shires Guild in 1975.

After moving to Chipping Norton he rang at the local parish church, Great Tew and Churchill and became Captain at St. Mary's in 1970. In Ivor's younger days he was known to cycle to practices in the Banbury area. Although keeping no record of his peals, he rang many in the locality.

Gardening was his other great love and in particular growing large prize-winning onions.

For over 30 years Ivor delivered bread around the town, in earlier days by horse and van. The respect with which he was held in the town, church and ringing circles was shown by the large congregation at St Mary's Church on 9th April for his funeral service, when some of his favourite hymns, "The Lord's My Shepherd", "Unchanging God" and "Abide with Me" were sung.

The bells were rung half-muffled before and after the service and a quarter peal was rung in the evening by a local band. Two other quarter peals were rung; one at Bicester on April 4th; the other at Chipping Campden on the 14th April where his name was associated with that of George Hart (Jethro Larkin of "The Archers")

when his name was associated with that of George Hart (Jethro Larkin of 'The Archers'), who had been a former Campden ringer.

### FRED MAISEY.

Everyone who knew him was shocked and saddened by the sudden death on April 21st of Fred Maisey of Bladon. Fred had been a member of the Guild for over 30 years, and for many of those years Tower Captain at Bladon, where his quiet encouragement inspired confidence in learners and real affection in all who came to know him. He ran the village shop and Post Office, and will be greatly missed by the village of Bladon as well as by ringers from many towers in the Witney and Woodstock Branch. A half-muffled peal was rung by members of the Branch in his memory on May 5th at Bladon.

### WILLIAM WOODFORD

The villagers of Cuddington were saddened by the sudden death of 'Will' on 8th February 1987 at the age of 70.

Born in Cuddington, Will learnt to ring when his voice broke and he left the choir and has been a dedicated regular ringer and Tower Captain for many years. A member of the Oxford Diocesan Guild, he was happy to help out at neighbouring towers when he could.

"Will was a central figure of village life, on the allotments committee, the scouts, football and cricket clubs as well as an active church worker. Consequently the village church was packed for his funeral on Thursday 12th February.

The same day a quarter peal of Bob Minor was rung by members of the local Branch in his memory.

### E. DENNIS POOLE

Sadly we have to report the loss of E. Dennis Poole, one of our most loyal and long serving members of the belfry for over forty years.

Dennis was born in Coalbrookdale, Shropshire in 1913, and affectionately known in ringing circles as THE SHROPSHIRE LAD, first took up ringing at the age of 19 years. Moving to the Thames Valley in the early 40's, he settled at Marlow in 1946



while working for the Air Ministry as a draughtsman. In 1947 he married Pat, and following the arrival of his son Bernard and daughter Valerie, was a devoted family man, and upon the arrival of Valerie's son Mark, a very proud grandfather.

Dennis worked tirelessly to encourage and foster anybody who showed an interest in bellringing, visiting many towers in the Guild. In the early days by bicycle, motorcycle, and latterly by car. Ringing in numerous peals throughout the Branchy and various other parts of the country.

Dennis was appointed Branch Ringing Master for the Oxford Guild East Berks and South Bucks Branch in the 1960's, a post he held for three successive years.

Dennis was Secretary/Treasurer of Marlow Ringers since 1958 and all our ringing tours to various parts of the country were the success of the hard work he put in to make everybody's day enjoyable, whether a ringer or, as Dennis would say, A RINGERS'SUPPORTER.

A past member of the P.C.C. and fully committed to All Saints'activities. He will be missed by us all.

Eric Silvey.

(From All SaintsMarlow Parish Magazine)

#### PETER SLACK

Haseley lost a well-liked and respected friend when Peter Slack died on Thursday 18 September.

Peter was originally from the Nottingham area - he and Betty came to live in Haseley in 1963. They were both founder members of Haseley's re-formed band of church bellringers in 1969, a follow-on from a pleasant series of Monday evening handbell practices in The Plough. Peter became Tower Captain and remained an active ringer until his illness forced him to ease up, but he always retained an interest and willingly joined in for special ringing occasions.

He was a popular Parish Councillor for six years, and his bellringing interest prompted him to represent the ringers as a member of the Parochial Church Council, later becoming Churchwarden. He also served as a sidesman for the last twelve years.

However his great passion in the village must surely have been for the Church-yard, where he spent untold hours keeping the very extensive area of grass under control, and struggling to keep the mowers in good order for the gallant few who helped him. His only reward was the pleasure it gave to all who wandered through the Churchyard.

Peter was a Vehicle Examiner for the Department of the Environment and was highly regarded among local transport operators and garages, where the mention of his name commanded the best attention.

In June 1983 he took on the job of retirement, a pastime which he enthusiastically recommended and which he and Betty thoroughly enjoyed in spite of the onset of his illness. But it was for all too short a time and he will be sadly missed.

On the evening of his funeral, his favourite bellringing 'method', Grandsire, was rung half-muffled for a quarter peal in his memory.

From the Haseley Parish Magazine.  
(This should have been printed earlier).

#### EIGHT BELL STRIKING COMPETITION

The number of entries for this year's competition on Monday, 4 May, the May Day Bank Holiday, caused the organisers a few headaches. Whether it was the set test piece of 237 Grandsire Triples or the attraction of the bells at St Mary's Reading, twelve teams from the Guild rang on the day. This was the first year that heats had been arranged for this competition and were necessary to accommodate the large entry. The results of the heats held in the morning were:-



SONNING (Marks out of 120)

1=	All Saints, Wokingham	108
1=	North Bucks Branch	108
3.	East Berks and South Bucks Branch	106
4.	Newbury	104
5.	Thatcham	94
6.	Caversham	86

Judges: Harold and Olive Rogers

WARGRAVE (No. of faults)

1.	Beaconsfield	40
2.	High Wycombe	53
3.	Abingdon	54
4.	Chiltern Branch	55
5.	St. Mary's Reading	64
6.	Bicester Branch	110

Judges: Barry and Heather Peachey

So the first three teams from each heat proceeded on to the final at St. Mary's Reading. Some of the teams who qualified did not expect to do so, and perhaps wish their lunch-time visit to the pub had been shorter.

Stephanie Pattenden and Jim Belshaw judged the final and were grateful for the chance to ring on the bells before the final started. Unfortunately the East Berks and South Bucks Branch were disqualified. During their test piece the tenor slipped wheel and in the confusion that followed, the second and third bells swapped over, and subsequently the touch did not come round even though the tenor recovered.

The final results were:-

1.	All Saints', Wokingham	15 faults
2.	High Wycombe	22 "
3.	North Bucks Branch	26 "
4.	Beaconsfield	34 "
5.	Abingdon	48 "
6.	East Berks and South Bucks	Disqualified

A.G. Pullan

**THE TEWKSBURY SHIELD COMPETITION: Being an Account of the Day's Events and a Note on the Perils of letting the Attention Wander.**

On the Second day of May, the day being somewhat Blustery but bright, the Bellringers of our company set out to represent the Oxford Diocesan Guild in the famous Tewksbury Shield Competition for Accuracy of Striking upon Ten Bells. For the purpose of some practice we first congregated at the Church of St. John the Baptist at Cirencester, where we performed our Test Piece without error. Myself being entrusted with the Treble Bell, I had some cause for unease when instructed to 'Go Straight Down'; but began to do so with care, keeping strict note of the Second and pulling before that Bell, which I judged would be in the correct place. When down, I turned to the lady Ringer of that Bell, to explain this; whereupon she informed me that for her part she merely followed my Lead; it being so, it is miraculous that the Bells came down in reasonable time, and that we are not still there, neither Up nor Down.

After this, we repaired to the historic Town of Tewksbury, and met with the Ringers there, being from far and wide, many well known among them. At length we ascended the tower and rang our Test Piece, wherein the striking was most Accurate and Pleasing, and I being intent on **Listening to my Bell** and placing ~~the same with~~ **Precision**, suddenly came to the realisation that I had no notion of whether to proceed to the **Back or the Front**, and did feel the **fear strike cold within me**, as I heard my bell clash, and was in great **anxiety** that all would end in **Firing and Oaths**.

However being put in my place again by the Conductor of the piece I rang without further mishap until the Course came to its close. The Results eventually being given out after Evensong, it came to our notice that we had been placed **Fourth**; with, in First place, the Coventry Guild; in Second place, the Chester Ringers; and in Third place, those from the Gloucester and Bristol Association.

The standard of our Test Piece was, I judged, of sufficient good merit; but I reflected during the journey home that I should pay better attention in future; recalling Rule 5 of the Oxford Guild, which states that if any Member shall by word or action have brought **Discredit** to the Guild, the General Committee may, by Resolution, him (sic) to be no longer a member of the Guild; therefore should Mr. T. Pett make a selection of Ringers next year to include myself, I must ring with **Circumspection, or risk Expulsion and Disgrace**.

B.H.P.

## ANNUAL GUILD FESTIVAL SATURDAY 4 JULY 1987

9.00 - 10.00    Wooburn  
9.30 - 10.30    West Wycombe  
9.30 - 10.30    Hughenden  
9.45 - 10.45    High Wycombe

11.00            **FESTIVAL SERVICE** at All Saints' Church High Wycombe  
Preacher: The Vicar of All Saints', Rev. Michael Roberts

12.30 for 1.00    **FESTIVAL BUFFET LUNCHEON:** Oakley Hall, High Wycombe

2.30 -	3.30	Cookham	Long Crendon
3.15 -	4.15	Beaconsfield	Tetsworth
4.15 -	5.15	Amersham	Aston Rowant
5.15 -	6.15	Little Missenden	Bledlow

6.30 - 10.30    **BARN DANCE & SUPPER**  
Princes Risborough Community Centre  
(Near church with spire    Car Park opposite centre)  
Dancing to Alan E. Coracic                      Licensed Bar

**TICKETS :**            Luncheon :    Adults £3.00    Children £1.50  
                         Barn Dance :    £2.50

**FROM :**              Mrs Patricia M. Newton, 44 George's Hill, Widmer End,  
High Wycombe, Bucks., HP15 6BE  
(Cheques made payable to Mrs P.M. Newton)  
(S.A.E. Please)

**QUERIES TO :**    Pat Newton, High Wycombe (0494) 713834

## MAY DAY RINGING DAY 1987

At half past nine on the sunny May Bank Holiday morning we set off for the first tower of the day - Beenham. Previously I had only rung at two other towers so this day was going to be quite an experience for me. When we arrived there we bought our tickets and then queued up to ring. The six bells were on the ground floor. Our next destination was the tower of Englefield in a very picturesque setting. Photos were rather difficult at this church because the spire rose to such a great height. As we stood in the ringing chamber the music we made did not quite match the beauty of the surrounding countryside. In fact our attempts at Rounds were disastrous.

Hoping that we would be more successful at the next tower we made our way to Burghfield. This church has an octagonal tower. A Volvo estate parked beside us and two BMXs were unloaded from the boot. Then two small boys appeared and began cycling round and round the churchyard while we were ringing. The fat sallyies felt good to hold but it was quite a challenge to ring the bells.

Next stop - Savacentre for a drink and then on to the unique tower of Ufton Nervet which has four bells. Here the Treble was nearly sent into orbit. After we had made a noise here we drove to Padworth and walked down a country lane to the attractive church. I enjoyed ringing these bells because they were easy to handle and sounded good. We managed to ring Cambridge here.

Our last visit before lunch was to Mortimer St. John. A vertical ladder had to be tackled in order to reach the ringing chamber. This six bell tower had a comfortable belfry but Tara, who was ringing the Treble, looked rather apprehensive as she stood on the trap door with a draught blowing up her skirt.

We drove down the road to Mortimer St. Mary where we ate our lunch listening to the commanding sound of the bells ringing a major method. After ringing we went to Swallowfield. This church is the centre-piece of a vivid scene which includes a gently flowing river. The six bells had a ground floor chamber.

The ninth tower of the day was Arborfield, only a short way from Swallowfield. The Volvo arrived again. When ringing one of the six bells in this tower you begin to feel slightly sea-sick because the tower actually rocks slowly. Next we went to Finchampstead which has six bells that are quite pleasant to ring. When we came to Wokingham we firstly rang at St. Paul's and then at All Saints'. The latter had silencers on the bells and they were so effective that they were not even audible from one hundred metres away. All Saints is an eight bell tower and the vast chamber is a balcony from which can be seen the whole church. Our thirteenth stop of the day was at Binfield and then finally Twyford. When we had rung here we made our way home. The day had been great fun.

Jane Weller (aged 14)

## CALLED HOME

Here is the tower; in the small market town  
The bell notes drop like snow across the square,  
The grey spire pointing heavenward above  
The lighted spiral of the belfry stair.  
As if they heard my step outside the door  
The bells fall silent for my journey's end,  
And here within the panelled ringing room  
The voices raised in welcome are my friends'.  
Look to! The rough ropes ready in our grasp,  
The sallyies plunge, and leaping out of sight  
Swing out in rounds the ancient bells above  
And fling the glad sound wide into the night.

Barbara H. Payne

### FACTS AND FIGURES

**CAT IN BELFRY.** - From the South Oxon Branch News Letter.

**EWELME** - The repair work to our bells was completed in good time for Christmas. In fact, once started, it took considerably less time to finish the job than had been expected.

A quarter peal of Bob Minor was rung to celebrate - although the attempt was almost sabotaged by the efforts of a cat who frequents the church. Flying Cat was a distinct possibility as it seemed to think that the ropes were moving up and down for it to play with. Another (unexpected) disadvantage of an open plan ringing area.

N.J. Diserens says that he and his father, Albert Diserens, rang well over 100 peals for the Guild. More information later.

The peal of Cambridge S. Maximus at All Saints, High Wycombe was the 250th on the bells.

Congratulations to Robert Newton on ringing his 850th peal. He also rang his first peals in hand of both Lincolnshire and Yorkshire S. Maximus. Kevin Lucas joined him in doing so.

A peal of Plain Bob Major was rung at Warfield on March 28th to celebrate the Golden Wedding of Mr. and Mrs. C. Murrell. Mrs. Murrell has been a member of the local band since 1953.

Geoffrey K. Dodd has now rung peals of Newbury Surprise, Delight and Treble Bob.

The first peal of Maximus by a local band was rung at St. Laurence, Reading on Sunday, March 8, 1987. It was 5088 Kent T.B. Maximus.

Alan Ainsworth called the first peal of Vigo S. Major at Shorditch on 10th April and Bernard Groves the first peal of Vigo S. Royal at Thatcham on **26th** March.

The 25th peal on Shottesbrook bells was rung on 28th March. - Cambridge S. Minor.

By ringing the Treble to a peal of Yorkshire Royal on 3rd April Bill Butler has circled Thatcham Tower 10 times!

A peal of Superlative Royal (No2) was rung at Thatcham on 13th March. It was a in the method by all the band.

Kelvin R. Britton conducted a peal of Cambridge S. Major at Hungerford on 12th Feb. It was his first in the method.

Five of the Stonesfield Band rang in a Quarter Peal of Doubles (2) on 11th Jan.

On 27th Jan. the Langley Marish Band rang a Quarter Peal of P.B. Doubles. It is believed to be the first by a local band.

Bernard Masterman, who is blind, rang in a Quarter Peal of Spliced Surprise (2m) Major on 16th Feb. and another of Belfast S. Major on 9th March.

The local band at Iffley rang a Quarter Peal of Doubles (3) conducted by R. Goodwin on 10th March.

The Abingdon based Handbell band rang its first Quarter Peal of Bob Royal on 15th March. Was this a result of the Guild Handbell Day?

The Handbell band based on Wokingham seems to be going from strength to strength with peals of minor in increasing number of methods.

**First time in over 60 years:-** A Quarter Peal of Doubles was rung at Bradfield on 26th Jan. The Tower Captain, J. Butler, who has held the office for over 60 years, rang the Tenor. He had previously rung inside -often conducting- but this was the first time he had rung the Tenor!

**Kidlington Ringer Honoured:-** Congratulations to Margaret Edmonds, a ringer at Kidlington, on receiving the B.E.M. for services to the St. John's Ambulance Brigade. A Quarter Peal was rung at Kidlington for this.

Members of the North Bucks Branch rang a quarter peal of Glasgow S. Major at Buckingham in memory of A.A. Armstrong.

On 5th April at Woodstock a quarter peal of 1260 Reverse Canterbury Pleasure Bob was rung for Evensong. This was a first in the method by all the band.

### NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

#### BICESTER BRANCH

The Branch A.G.M was well attended by members and visitors who rang the Bicester bells during the open ringing prior to the service held at St. Edburg's, Bicester on Saturday, 21st February 1987. The Service was conducted by the Rev. John Nixon who had been bravely prompted by a Branch member (who shall be nameless) on the type of sermon sometimes given to ringers by the clergy. He chose to make the sermon more appropriate to ringers by reading a poem of John Betjeman's on Oxford Bells. Kate Brice read a thought provoking lesson. A most enjoyable Service. Prior to the start of the meeting Branch members stood in silence in remembrance of Harry Hatfield, a Bicester Branch member for 64 years who had died on the 10th January 1987 at the age of 82. Ten new members were elected included the Rev. John Nixon who was also elected Vice -President and Ringing Master. The Branch Secretary announced that the Half Yearly Meeting would be on 26th September and that a Jumble Sale would be held in Bicester later in the year in aid of Branch Funds.

A dedication Service was held at St. Mary The Virgin, Ludgershall, on 17th March, of the new John Wesley Room, Vestry and Ringing Chamber. The Chairman of the Methodist District, the Rev. Dennis Williams performed the dedication of the John Wesley Room. The new and beautiful Ringing Chamber made of elm with balustrades decorated with ornamental ironwork from the original Methodist Chapel and situated directly above the delightful John Wesley Room and Vestry was dedicated by the Archdeacon of Buckingham, the Ven. John Bone, with the following words:-

When e're the sweet church bell  
Peals over hill and dell  
May Jesus Christ be praised.  
Oh hark to what it sings  
As joyously it rings  
May Jesus Christ be praised.

Any ringer wishing to try out the new Ringing Chamber will be more than welcome. Friday night practice - 7.30 p.m. 1st, 3rd and 5th.

Jill Ward.

## BANBURY BRANCH

The Branch A.G.M. was held at Steeple Aston on Saturday, 25th April. The Rev. H. Colchester of Great Tew, our Vice-Chairman retired as he will be leaving later in the year; Barry Davis stood down as News Letter Editor and Anne Thorne was elected to that post. Sue Burchell of Great Tew was elected Deputy Ringing Master. All the other officers were re-elected.

The Branch Funds were presented showing that a profit of £79.07 was made in 1986. It was agreed to sponsor those attending Easthampstead with £15 each and to donate £25.00 to the Bell Fund as a raffle prize.

A new band has been started at Adderbury under the direction of Chris Holmes after an article in the local paper.

A very successful one day course was held in the Spring, it is hoped to hold a follow on course later in the year.

Over the Spring Bank Holiday week-end about 20 ringers from the Branch will be travelling to the Wakefield area for our annual ringing week-end.

On Saturday 9th May the two new trebles for Steeple Aston were collected from Whites and will be hung as soon as a faculty can be obtained.

Graham Clifton.

## BANBURY'S RINGING DAY - SAT. 21st MARCH 1987

Two groups were organised for rounds/plain hunt and Bob Doubles/Minor. Yours truly signed up for the latter and our Branch Rep. came along as a much needed helper.

We found ourselves at Bodicote Church Hall for coffee and playing bell ringing computer games, 'Guaranteed to ruin any Guild meeting,' says Ron Thorne, the Master.

Our first ringing session at Mollington's delightful very light six, rehung in 1982, really tested our bell control. Lots of Bob Doubles and Plain Hunt, moving round to each bell. More helpers would have given Graham Clifton, Banbury Branch Secretary, an easier time but he patiently persevered putting us all right when need be and explaining the importance of coursing bells.

Steeple Aston's recently rehung six were lovely to ring although I didn't do justice to them as I flapped my way through Bob Minor but thanks to Graham, I managed to call a touch of Bob Doubles, calling myself observation, which had the powerful effect of leaving my legs feeling hollow!

We were joined by the other group earlier than expected as their tower had been inadvertently double booked which put Steeple Aston Bells to full use. All the treble ringers were given very thorough tuition by Ron Thorne, whilst the second group and helpers took inside positions.

The sun was still shining through the windows as the bells were brought down and finished off in titums. Ringers swapped experiences over coffee and left the church feeling more confident and pleased with their efforts.

## CENTRAL BUCKS BRANCH

For Central Bucks, May is one round of AGMs as both the Branch and Guild meetings are on consecutive Saturdays. We were pleased to welcome the Guild Master, Ron Thorne, and the Guild Steward, John Harris to the Branch AGM. At face value, an outsider may have thought that enthusiasm in the Branch is at a very low ebb, even though the membership is at a record high. The high membership is certainly due to Brian Gatward's efforts in securing insurance cover.

However, following the lengthy discussion at the Annual General Meeting, John Evans has agreed to act as 'Branch Steward' for several towers. His role, at Branch level, will mirror the wider one of Guild Steward. We are hoping that by making personal contact, the Branch Officers will have a better idea of members' needs and interests. Any member is encouraged to contact John (Aylesbury 681240) or me for further information about Branch activities or if they have ideas for improving the Branch.

Both the Ringing Master, Mike Dodd, the Deputy Ringing Master, Diane Evans, and one Branch Representative stood down at the AGM. The meeting recorded a vote of thanks to them. A veteran, in length of ringing, Dick Lee, accepted the post of Ringing Master. It will be his second term in this post. He will be ably supported by Richard Samways as Deputy Ringing Master. Another member who has given great support to the Branch over the years, Reg Darvill, was elected as a Branch Representative. Will the next Guild General Committee Meeting see the meeting of the ways offather andson?

I think that the frank discussion at our AGM will pay dividends. There is now an air of wanting to make the Branch a success. The critical test will come next May Day when, in spite of the 15 year plan, the Branch will host the Ringing Day and Eight Bell Striking Competition.

Terry Wagstaff

#### **CHILTERN BRANCH**

The 1987 Annual General Meeting of the Chiltern Branch was held on Saturday 25th April at Cheddington. Tony Pullan and Anne Carpenter were present from the Guild. Roy Woodruff expressed his wish to stand down as Secretary, and John White was subsequently elected to take his place. Roy is to be congratulated for his hard work over the years, as is his wife Judy, who has been his able and willing assistant. They have certainly provided me with a hard act to follow. Roy's retirement is to be an active one, however, as he was elected as Branch Representative. Donald Wheeler, Chairman; Innes White, Treasurer; and Val Willard and Jonathan King were all re-elected to their respective posts.

The gift of a brand new set of ropes to Aston Clinton tower allows me to offer for sale to the Guild our old set, which are in good condition. The ropes for the back two bells (tenor 13½ cwt) are barely three years old, whilst those for the front six, about 12 years old, have had new top ends machine-spliced on which are also only three years old. The overall length of each rope is approximately 45 feet (35 feet above the sally). I will be glad to supply any further details or consider any offers.

John White, 4 Twitchell Lane, Aston Clinton, Aylesbury.  
Tel. Aylesbury 630109

#### **CHIPPING NORTON BRANCH**

At the Branch AGM at Shipton-under-Wychwood on 9th May all officers were re-elected. On a lovely sunny afternoon a full choral Evensong was held followed by the business meeting and ringing.

Our second skittles evening at Hook Norton proved another success with the winning team having now got a new caters method on paper in their tower with a lot eight and nine dodging. The wooden spoonist thought they had the right coursing order and good striking, but the scorers disagreed!

Bob Datson attended this year's Hereford Ringing Course and had an excellent weekend.

We send our good wishes to Mrs Pat Stratford of Hook Norton who is in hospital at Banbury.

Ken Wakefield

#### **EAST BERKS AND SOUTH BUCKS BRANCH**

The first round of the Lorna Newton Cup Knockout Striking Contest has been completed with 23 teams (20 towers) taking part.

Restoration work on the 6 at Chalfont St Peter has been carried out during the last couple of months, including new gudgeons and pulleys and an overhaul of the fittings. A service of re-dedication will take place on Sunday 7th June.



The Branch AGM at Marlow on 25th April was attended by about 60 members. The meeting paid tribute to Dennis Poole, ringer at Marlow for 41 years, who died 3 weeks before the meeting. 24 new members were elected, including 5 from Chesham, 4 from Horton, and 3 from Chalfont St Peter. John Martin was elected to be the new Social Secretary, replacing Mike Cole; all other officers remain as before.

Also on 25 April was the wedding of two Slough ringers - Mike Cole and Louise Clements - at All Saints', Wokingham. (Some people will do anything to avoid going to their Branch AGM!)

Katharine Firman

#### NEWBURY BRANCH

The Newbury Branch News Letter Editor is asking for suggestions for the cover of the News Letter. At one time it had some good pen and ink drawings of local towers which were much admired by the rest of us.

Midgham are contemplating major work on their bells. \*\* We wish them all success in their efforts.

The outing arranged to London on 14th March by Howard Egglestone was most successful and those who went thank him for doing it.

At the Branch AGM in 1986 Tony Woodville and Mike Till were given an action to do a survey to find out what interest there was in the Branch in Monthly Practices. A questionnaire was sent out to all towers in the Branch in January. Of these 15 were returned (a 79% response).

No conclusions were drawn from the answers in the News Letter as they would best be discussed at a General Meeting of the Branch.

At Hungerford Neale Marney, Dave and Pam Rolls are to be congratulated on ringing their first Quarter Peal. At Kintbury they have several promising beginners. They are also looking forward to the return of their Tower Captain after the "happy event" in June, when hopefully she will again take a very active and helpful role in shepherding them along the campanological path.

(From the Newbury Branch News Letter)

\*\* Never have certain well known members of the Guild been seen to work so hard as they did on the third at Midgham on the Guild AGM Day!

#### NORTH BUCKS BRANCH

The two standing Sub-Committees of the Branch (Towers and Belfries and Education) have met to discuss their various needs around the Branch. They have both set up short and long term objectives.

##### Towers and Belfries

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Short Term: - 1) | To obtain authoritative statements on the condition of the installations and structures of the unringable towers in the Branch.                   |
|                  | 2) To obtain costed feasibility statements for the installation of sound control at Weston Underwood and Shenley.                                 |
| Long Term 1)     | To establish the existence, condition and details of all bells installed in churches within the Branch and establish maintainable Branch records. |

##### Education

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| Short Term 1) | To rerun the 6 bell course in 1987.   |
|               | 2) To establish an 8 bell course as a follow on to the 1986 6 bell course, and run this in 1987.                                    |
| Long Term 1)  | To identify the educational needs of the Branch and using the Branch, Guild or Central Council assistance and expertise, meet them. |

- 2) To encourage the participation in educational events organised by other bodies, and to recommend the sponsorship of suitable members in such courses.

Emberton There had been no local band for some twenty five years or so, when a couple of years ago a keen young band of learners was formed. We were just getting going with Sunday Service ringing each week, when cracks were noticed in the tower, and we were banned! We felt it important to keep the learners together, so we became nomadic ringers - enjoying the hospitality of many other Branch towers on Tuesday nights. St Mary's, Clifton Reynes has become our temporary home at the moment. - we are most grateful to Mike Davies and his P.C.C.

However all is not lost at Emberton. The Church Architect and Structural Engineer consider the state of the tower to be so bad that immediate repairs must be effected to prevent partial collapse of the structure, so the P.C.C. have decided to go ahead with the repair in the next few weeks - at a cost of some £7,500.

Hopefully, if all goes well, we shall be ringing there again in the summer. .... Obviously a lot of fund raising has to be done to pay off the necessary loans the P.C.C. have to negotiate for the work. We are planning many events, including a Sponsored Peal. Brace yourselves for yet another Sponsorship form. Sheila Watts.

DOWN'S BARN PROJECT: An offer of £3,000 for the bells or £3,200 for the bells and their frame has been made to the P.C.C. of Kingston, Hereford. A faculty, to remove the bells from the redundant church, has been applied for but until it has been granted the Kingston P.C.C. members are not prepared to commit themselves.

#### 8 BELL STRIKING COMPETITION:

The Branch Band (all current or former officers of the Branch) were tied First with Wokingham in the semi-final and came Third in the Final. "We very much enjoyed our day and are looking forward to knocking Wokingham from the top spot in 1978".

From Branch News Letter  
From Branch News Letter.

#### VALE OF WHITE HORSE BRANCH

Only one change of officer at the AGM this year when Nicola Jones took on the job of Treasurer, thus relieving the pressure on her harassed mother! We would like to thank Anne Carpenter for covering as Steward at our AGM when Marie Cross was away.

We have got a Branch 6 Bell Striking Competition Contest organised for August and hope to have more entries than last year's two.

Anne Jones

Having attended several of the Branch practices since my return I must say that the turn out has been a very high proportion of the Branch membership. There seems to be no dearth of beginners - all of whom were well catered for by the Branch Ringing Master.

M.R.C.

#### WITNEY AND WOODSTOCK BRANCH

Although there is no report from this Branch - "There should be some events to report on for the next issue, I hope" - there seems to be plenty of activity in the way of quarter peal ringing which has ranged from Bob Doubles through several Doubles methods, Minor, a variety of Triples methods to Spliced Surprise Major as reported in the Ringing World. It is notable that in nearly every case there were several 'firsts in method'. Jane Schofield is to be congratulated on her rapid advance in method ringing.

### OLD NORTH BERKS BRANCH

The Branch A.G.M. was held at Brightwell on Saturday, 9th May. About 60 members attended. All of the Branch officials were re-elected.

Our proposed visit and inspection of bells in churches where they are seldom rung has not yet started, but we are now making the necessary arrangements. We elected 13 new members to the Guild and 2 lapsed members have restarted ringing.

Numbers of members attending Branch Practices have been getting fewer each month, last month we arranged for three towers to be available for 45 minutes each, and it took a whole afternoon and proved very popular. 36 ringers attended so this may be the answer to our ~~problem~~.

Work on hanging the two new Trebles to be added to the six at Sutton Courtney is due to start in late June, and we look forward to another ring of 7 bells in the Branch.

L.F.Cox

### OXFORD CITY BRANCH

On 14th March the Branch held its 'first ever' Barn Dance and this proved to be a great success. In fact it proved to be so popular that there is already talk of making it an annual event. The Barn Dance was very much the initiative of the ringers from St.Gile's together with Len Porter and Hugh Deam and they are all to be congratulated on a very successful evening.

Ever since the Branch agreed to appoint a social Secretary (Hugh Deam) there has certainly been a marked increase in activities. On 11th April there was a ringing outing to Barcombe, Brighton and Lewes in Sussex. In spite of my reservations about the Branch's ability to cope with 10-bell towers, I have to confess that my fears were unwarranted. Both the method ringing and the call changes were of a reasonably high standard and even I embarked on my first attempt at Stedman Caters.

The luxury coach for the tour provided video entertainment for relatively long journey and there were abundant refreshments to satisfy everyone. It was a memorable day for all concerned.

Also in April, Harry Badger from St.Andrews, Old Headington, celebrated 70 years as a ringer. What an incredible record and what enormous loyalty and service to the branch and the Guild! I hope that later this year the Branch will be able to arrange ringing to mark this special occasion.

In May the Branch organised a local afternoon and evening ringing tour to the Cotswolds. Regretably this tour was not too well supported and the weather did not help when it turned cold with rain and hail. Those who went on this trip agreed that in spite of the weather it was good to be ringing in the Cotswolds again.

It has become rather traditional for a non-ringing visitor, Stephen Wyatt, to join us on our outings. He enjoys exploring and photographing old churches and ringing trips provide an opportunity to indulge in his hobby. We, the ringers, benefit from this in so far that we are always provided with an excellent report on the history etc. of the churches on the itinerary.

Finally the Branch 6-Bell Striking Competition. This was held at Garsington on Saturday 9th May. Tony Pullan, the Guild Secretary, kindly offered to judge the competition and in spite of the unfortunately noisy environment (tractors and people talking) was able to give an extremely clear and useful assessment of the team performances.

This year only four teams entered the competition and the results were as follows:-  
1st. Kidlington 2nd. Iffley 3rd. North Hinksey 4th. St Aldate's

Once again we congratulate Kidlington and wish them well in the October Finals. All those who took part in the competition are to be praised for their fine efforts but what a pity that more teams did not enter. I long ago learnt that one of the best recipes for success is support.

Roy Goodwin.

### SONNING DEANERY BRANCH

The entry for the Branch 6 Bell Striking Competition was 12 teams. These included four teams from All Saints' Wokingham and two from Easthampstead. Once again All Saints 'A' were first with Easthampstead 'A' second and Warfield third. There will also be a Six Bell Knock-out Competition this year.

ST PAULS, WOKINGHAM BELL FUND: This now stands at £1349.58.

At the Branch A.G.M. it was agreed to support the grant application and that as a Branch would support it by giving £750 towards the cost .

FUND RAISING EVENTS : At the same meeting many ways were suggested for raising money and ideas were exchanged between the towers. Some were putting their wedding fees and others were hoping to have Barn Dances, Social Evenings etc.

A Social Evening was held at Waltham St Lawrence. It was a great success with each tower bringing a game with them. There was a raffle and a profit of £140 was made to go towards St.Paul's.

The bells of St Paul's will be lowered over the August Bank Holiday W/E.

From Branch News Letter

### SOUTH OXON BRANCH

At the A.G.M. we elected a new Chairman, Eric Harmsworth; Deputy Chairman, Jim Goodman; and Branch Representative Noel Bartlett. The remaining officers were re-elected.

The work on Dorchester's bells is progressing well and a number of the locals are invited to White's a little nearer completion to view the transformation. It is hoped that the work may be completed by the end of June.

A visiting band from the Guild rang a peal of 5040 Surprise Minor at Brightwell Baldwin on 6th March. The first peal of Surprise on the bells and the first peal since 1974.

Cyril Lawrence

Drayton St. Leonard now has four local ringers as Ron Jones has returned to active ringing. Hilary has found that the tenor rope, suitably tied up....and the bell down.....a fairly effective baby bouncer during some of the longer sermons, and at other times when the congregation don't want to hear "dad dad dad" for the umpteenth time.'

Chinnor who rang Old Doubles to ring out 1986 are proosing to ring 1988 in with New Doubles. They also rang St Valentine's Doubles for a wedding on Feb 14.

The bells at Thame will not be available to parties of ringers, as the PCC are debating what steps to take on restoration work.

### DORCHESTER ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE

The Old North Berks Branch hope that it will be possible to ring at all the towers on the Pilgrim Route to welcome and cheer the Pilgrims on their way as they walk from the Downs to Dorchester Abbey.

### DEDICATION OF PEAL BOARD COMMEMORATING BILL BIRMINGHAM'S 42 YEARS AS TOWER CAPTAIN AT SLOUGH

Sunday 12 July at Slough      5.00pm Open Ringing  
6.30pm Service and Dedication of Peal Board  
Followed by refreshments

Everybody very welcome! Please send name if likely to attend to Jeff Birt, 18 St. Bernard's Road, Slough Tel , Slough 21195

June					
6	Chipping Norton	BP	Churchill	7.00 pm	
	N.Bucks	$\frac{1}{2}$ ly	Buckingham		
13	Oxford	$\frac{1}{2}$ ly	Marsh Balden		
	C.Bucks	BP	Bierton	6.30 pm	
	EBSB	SC	Winkfield		
	ONB		Social Evening Abingdon		
	W&W	BP	Woodstock	10.30 am	
19	N.Bucks	BP	Gt.Brickhill		
20	Sonning	BP	Hurst	7.00 pm	
	Chiltern	BP	Bledlow	6.30 pm	
	Banbury	BP	(Wroxton	7.00 pm	
			(Shennington	8.00 pm	
27	S.Oxon	BP	Warborough	6.30 - 8.30 pm	
	EBSB	BP	Slough	6.30 pm	
30	VWH	BP	Coleshill	7.30 pm	
July					
3	N.Bucks	BP	Newton Longville		
4	GUILD ANNUAL FESTIVAL		HIGH WYCOMBE		
	GUILD BARN DANCE		PRINCES RISBOROUGH		
	C.Norton	BP	Leafield	7.30 pm	
	W&W	BP	(Brize Norton	6.30 pm	
			(Clanfield	7.45 pm	
11	C.Bucks	BP	Cuddington	7.00 pm	
	ONB	BP	Blewbury	7.00 pm	
17	N.Bucks	BP	Shalstone		
18	Sonning	BP	Wokingham All SS	7.00 pm	
	Chiltern	BP	Ellesborough	6.30 pm	
	Banbury	BP	Gt.Tew	7.30 pm	
	W&W	SC			
19	Banbury v Bicester Cricket Match at Bloxham				
25	S.Oxon	BP	Shabbington	6.30 - 8.30 pm	
	EBSB	BP	Windsor	6.30	
28	VWH	BP	Stanford in the Vale	7.30 pm	
Aug.					
1	C.Norton	BP	Kingham	7.30 pm	
	W&W	BP	(Tackley	9.30 am	
			(Wootton	10.45 am	
7	N.Bucks	BP	Bletchley		
8	C.Bucks	BP	Whitchurch	6.30 pm	
	ONB	BP	(Letcombe Regis	2.30 pm	
			(Childrey	3.30 pm	
			(Wantage	4.30 pm	
15	Sonning	BP	Sandhurst	7.00 pm	
	Chiltern	BP	Edlesborough	6.30 - 8.30 pm	
			(TO BE CONFIRMED)		
20	Chiltern	SP	Aston Clinton	8.00 - 9.15 pm	
21	N.Bucks	BP	Thornborough		
22	EBSB	BP	Fulmer	6.30 pm	
Sept.					
5	Newbury		Coach Outing		
	C.Norton	BP	Charlbury	7.30 pm	
12 - 13	DIOCESAN PILGRIM FESTIVAL - OXFORD				
12	ONB	$\frac{1}{2}$ ly	Radley		
	C.Bucks	BP	Quainton	6.30 pm	
17	Chiltern	SP	Bledlow	7.45 - 9.00 pm	
18	N.Bucks	BP	Weston Underwood		
19	Sonning	SC	Sonning	3.00 pm	
	Chiltern	SC	Little Missenden	6.30 - 8.30 pm	
	Banbury	BP	(Cropredy	7.00 pm	
			(Mollington	8.00 pm	
25 - 27	EASTHAMPSTEAD COURSE				
26	S.Oxon	BP	Wheatley	6.30 - 8.30 pm	
	EBSB	BP	Wooburn	6.30 pm	
	VWH	$\frac{1}{2}$ ly	Uffington		