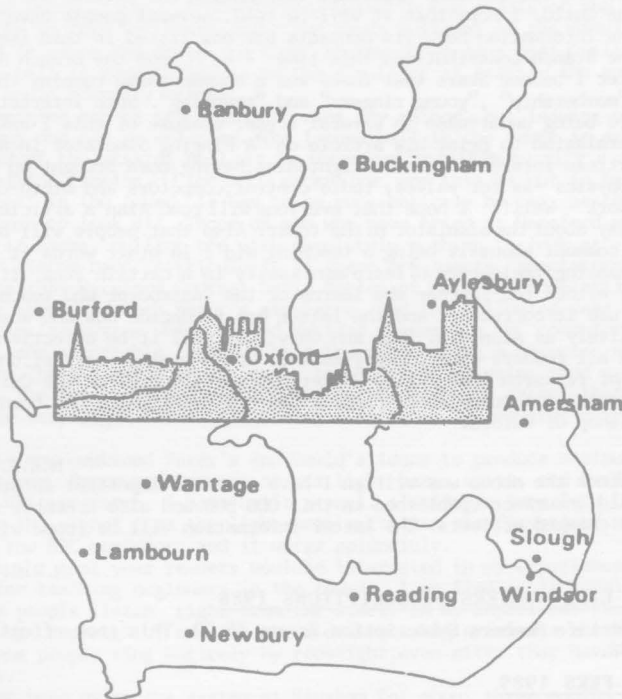


ODD BOB
Newsletter
of the
OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD



ODD BOB - OXFORD DIOCESE - BERKS OXON BERKS

Once again ODD BOB goes to the printer on time. This is due to the co-operation of all the contributors who sent in their material by the date I gave to them as a dead-line. No news letter works satisfactorily without team work and contributions come from many sources.

At the March Committee Meeting Mr Philip Walker gave notice that he would not be seeking re-election as the Guild Librarian as he was moving house shortly and would no longer be able to house the Library. At the present time it occupies one of his spare bedrooms! In fact it almost fills it. Very few people realise how much time and work Philip Walker has put into the library since he was elected Librarian 1974. The amount of books, papers etc in the Library has grown considerably during those years and all had to be classified and catalogued. Within the last two years a completely new catalogue was issued to Guild towers replacing one which was out of date. This entailed many hours of checking and cross checking of the draft and then checking the proof before the final run.

In addition Philip Walker was always welcoming if one went to borrow books or check information. Further he was always willing to spend time looking up references or to seek facts if one could not get in to do it oneself. Each year he made sure that the Guild bought books for the Library which it would be to our advantage to possess. That we now have a Guild Library of which we can be proud is due to his work and we are grateful to him.

This issue of ODD BOB contains important information and notices sent by Officers of the Guild. I hope that it will be read. Several people have recently asked about the Information Box. Its contents are now listed in this issue.

As I read the Branch contributions this time - be it from the Branch Secretary or a News letter I became aware that there was a common theme running through many of them "membership", "young ringers" and "teaching". Some interesting experiments are being undertaken in several areas. Because of this I asked Alan Griffin for permission to print his article on "A Ringing Simulator in a tower". I found the article interesting and enlightening having been brought up with little or no physics - as for valves, radio control, computers and micro-chips and how they work - Well!! I hope that everyone will read Alan's article and what he has to say about the simulator in the tower. Also that people will note very carefully his comment about it being a 'teaching aid'! In other words it is a useful tool enabling the learner to learn more easily in a certain area. It does not do the work of either the learner who learns or the instructor who teaches. The former has to use it correctly and the latter has to decide how and when it can be used effectively as Alan did. Then and only then will it be effective.

May I wish all readers a very happy Easter. Which reminds me that one of the recent pieces of research that Philip Walker did was to research the Guild Minute Books etc in reply to a query about ringing in Holy Week which had been made by the present Bishop of Oxford:

M.R.C.

PLEASE NOTE: Since the above was written I have received important information concerning Guild Insurance (published in this ODD BOB and also a number of the Branches have changed officers. The latter information will be found with the Branch News.

M.R.C.

NON-RESIDENT LIFE MEMBERS SUBSCRIPTIONS 1988

The Non-resident Life Members Subscription is now £5.00. This took effect from 1st January 1988.

PEAL BOOKING FEES 1989

At the March General Committee Meeting the peal booking fee was raised to 20p per rope as from 1st January 1989.

RINGING SIMULATOR IN THE TOWER

The idea of using a change-ringing simulator in the tower came originally from Peter Cumins of Camelford, Cornwall. Peter is an engineer, who has always been fascinated by electronics. In the 1940's he was carrying off all the prizes in competitions for the radio control of models, including cars, boats and aeroplanes. (This was in the days of valves, and led to his subsequently accepting a job designing radio-control equipment for Barnes Wallis, of bouncing bomb fame, who was later knighted.)

Peter started learning to ring when he retired, having moved his workshop to Cornwall, and he very quickly realised that he could design an electronic ringing machine which would ring changes far more rhythmically than most bands can manage! He therefore set to, and produced the first of his machines. This, and several later models have been demonstrated at the Hereford Course each year recently, the latest employing computer microchip technology, which Peter has taught himself.

Having constructed the ringing machine, Peter hit on the brilliant idea of using it in the tower, to teach himself change-ringing. He lashed a bell, set up a device with a focussed light beam. This is clamped to the bell-frame about 18 inches below the centre of the wheel, and directs light towards the bell. A piece of reflective tape, such as one purchases from a cycle shop, is stuck on to each of the two spokes, so that they pass through the light beam. The glass beads on this tape have the property that they reflect the light back along the path from which it came. A photocell mounted in the middle of the lens of the unit picks up this reflected light and sends a signal to the simulator. This is arranged to cause the device to "ding" as the spoke goes past the light-beam. (When the bell is rung it sounds on the simulator at exactly the same time as the clapper would normally strike.)

The machine can be programmed to ring any method, but leaving out a particular bell - any one can be selected. The lashed bell in the tower is arranged to ring the pitch of the missing bell. It is therefore possible to ring a method, with the simulator ringing all the bells except one, and this is put in by ringing the lashed bell in the tower. It has to be rung entirely by ear, as there are no other ropes to look at! Those of you who have tried at Hereford will remember how odd it seems, pulling off with absolutely nothing to look at - but it does make you listen hard (particularly if there are twenty spectators watching you!)

At the 1984 Hereford Course, David Bagley of Malvern, then still at school, was very impressed with Peter's simulator, and the following year he turned up with a similar system which he had devised, using his BBC computer to ring the changes, and a portable wooden "bell Tower" containing a bicycle wheel with a cardboard "bell", which sent signals to the computer using reed switches and magnets. The end results were very similar to Peter's, except that some people found the very light "bell" difficult to control. It requires a very delicate touch!

I have now combined Peter's and David's ideas to produce a simulator for use in the tower, Peter made me one of his light-beam units, and David gave me a copy of his programme. I have built a small electronic interface box which connects the signal from the light-beam unit into the "joystick" socket on the back of the BBC computer, and it works splendidly.

I thought that your readers would be interested in my experiences of using the system for teaching beginners in the tower. I am finding it invaluable, because it makes people listen right from the start. In my experience everybody learns to ring by ropesight, and the sound does not begin to make sense for about a year. Some people ring entirely by ropesight, even after they have been ringing for years.

I have been using the system at Bloxham for about three months now. I have two lashed practices every week, totalling about three hours, both with the computer. As soon as learners can handle on their own, and are ready to start

4 (A)

ringing rounds, I get them ringing rounds with the computer. I use the second bell in the tower for this, and generally make it the Tenor on the computer which rings 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 and leaves a gap for the ringer to supply the 8th. I stand with the learner, telling him or her to ring more quickly, or more slowly, until the penny drops! One of the most useful things about this system is that it takes the boredom out of ringing a lashed bell for someone who can handle fairly competently. A young lady whom I am teaching is terribly keen, and thinks nothing of coming and covering for half an hour at a time to triples on the computer, and this gives a lot of handling practice. There would be far less incentive just to ring a lashed bell on its own just for the sake of handling. The young lady in question is already plain hunting the Treble to Bob Minor at the open practice, and she has only been ringing for about 10 weeks.

In addition to beginners, there has been quite a lot of interest from experienced ringers, and the Bloxham pre-practice computer session has become quite popular with people wanting to try their hand at Cambridge Royal or even Maximus!

Peter Cumins has really started something with his idea to link technology to the teaching of ringing. He himself learnt to ring almost entirely with his machine. It is an invaluable aid to learning, but of course it is necessary to ring with people as well, **in order** to become competent! It is important to learn ropesight, which you cannot do with the computer, but it does make people listen to their bell right from the beginning. **I am finding it an excellent teaching aid** and the people whom I am teaching are making progress much more quickly as a result of using the system.

With many thanks to Peter Cumins and David Bagley, for allowing me to "pirate" their designs and ideas.

Alan Griffin
Bloxham, Oxon

FACTS AND FIGURES

These will be found scattered throughout ODD BOB.

ENGAGEMENT:— Our best wishes go to Nicola Jones and Tony Pullan on their engagement.

SPONSORED SILENCE:— The Parish of St Denys', Stanford in the Vale has to raise £33,000 for repairs to the Tower of the Church. They have been promised grants from the Vale of White Horse District Council, English Heritage, Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust and the funds of the Archdeaconery of Berkshire. The Bell-ringers at the Church have inserted the following notice in the appeal sheet.

24 HOUR MARATHON

The Bell ringers of St Denys' Church are all set to start a 24-hour bellringing session to fund cash for the Tower.

Sponsored Silence

If the idea of bells for 24 hours doesn't appeal to you, then you can sponsor 5 minutes silence for 50p

According to reports the Sponsored Silence is selling well!

SPONSORED PEAL RAISES £1141.00:— December 23rd was the 50th Anniversary of Frank White's first peal. A peal was planned to celebrate the event and Frank decided that it should be a sponsored in aid of the Village Hall damaged by fire just before last year's March 4th Dinner. The sponsors (residents and friends of Appleton) responded so generously that the total raised was £1141. The hall committee are going to use it to buy new tables. B.P

Note -The tables which were burnt in the fire had all been made by Frank.

100th ANNIVERSARY OF 10,080 DOUBLE NORWICH:— To celebrate this Anniversary the Appleton Society rang a Quarter Peal in the same method on January 31st.

FAMILY QUARTER PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES:— Helen and Jim Diserens, their four sons and two daughters-in-law rang a Quarter Peal of Stedman Triples on Boxing Day 1987.

OBITUARIES

JAMES E. GODMAN - BENSON

The Bellringers of St.Helen's,Benson have not only lost a fellow ringer but a very dear and loyal friend in the passing of dear Jim. It was on Advent Sunday, 30th November 1987 that Jim ,punctual as always, having raised the Tenor in preparation for a Quarter Peal for Evenson, found his resting place in the tower he loved so much.

Jim learned to ring at Benson in 1945 and was taught by his father-in-law,Dick Wells, whom he succeeded as foreman of the Tower. Since 1955 Jim had in turn held the office of Branch Secretary (for 10 years),Branch Representative on the Guild Committee,Deputy Master of the South Oxon Branch and at the time of his passing was its Vice-Chairman.

It was indeed a very rare occasion for him to miss Sunday Service ringing, Wednesday practice, ringing for weddings or any other occasion for which he might be needed - including helping out at any other tower which required help. This he always did with his usual cheerfulness. In spite of the many commitments he had outside of bellringing he was just always there with his wife Marjory behind him to help and encourage wherever she could.

Over the past ten years Benson Bellringers have enjoyed an annual bellringing and camping weekend, a coach outing, Barn Dance and many other activities. In these Jim played a major role and we shall truly miss him. He had rung in many peals and quarter peals throughout the Diocese.

He will be greatly missed,as a much loved and founder member of the Benson Hand-bell Ringers. Their practice had been held at his house the previous Tuesday, when we were treated to Jim's special home made Danish Pastries - cooking being one of the many hobbies he had adopted on his retirement.

Together with Marjorie he was a loyal and faithful member of the Church Choir; he loved and served his church well and was a true and devout Christian always willing to help others who were inspired by his quiet and gentle manner.

Since his retirement he and Marjorie have helped to run the Mill Stream Day Centre in Benson.

Jim's funeral took place on Thursday 3rd December at St.Helen's Benson. Friends and family from far and wide filled the church to capacity; living proof of the love and high esteem felt for him. A very comforting address by Canon Alfred Barton was given. After the service the bells were rung half muffled and a quarter peal was rung in his memory.

Jim lived his life for others and foremost was his family whom he loved dearly. It is to Marjorie,Dick,Liz,Trish and his grandchildren we extend our love and prayers and say "Thank you for sharing Jim with us".

BENSON,OXON A Quarter Peal of Plain Bob Triples on Thursday,3rd December 1987

D.R.Fuller 1 Olive Lawrence 2 Kay Tuckwell 3 Doreen Stoneham 4 B.Gray 5

J.Tchighianoff 6 S.Day (c) 7 C.Lawrence 8

Rung in fond memory and thanksgiving to God for the life of Jim Godman.

Stan and Marion Day

WALTER HOLLOWAY - COWLEY

Walter Holloway, tower captain at St James', Cowley since 1949, was a churchman in every sense of the word. He was noted for his stern, almost disciplinarian approach to the teaching of ringing but people who knew him well knew that his attitude was the mark of a perfectionist.He expected good ringing and loyal service to the church - nothing less would do. Walter was in large measure responsible for the rehanging of Cowley bells in 1950's.

CECIL BENNETT - IFFLEY

Cecil Bennett ,who joined the Oxford Guild in 1949, was a ringer and sidesman at Iffley for many years. Regular and reliable as a Sunday Service ringer ,he also enjoyed theoutings and meetings. Cecil was a character of warm and friendly disposition and enlivened many a social evening with his anecdotes of life

-position and enlivened many a social evening with his anecdotes of life aboard submarines during the war.

Both Walter Holloway and Cecil Bennett will be greatly missed by the Oxford City Branch.

Roy Goodwin

BILL HARRISS - ALVESCOT

Bill had been a bell - ringer since 1934. I first met him when I wanted to learn about bell-ringing at the tower at Langford. I lost touch with him(National Service) and did not meet up with him again until 1976, when ringers were being sought to ring at Brize Norton Church, St Britius. Three of us built up a team which included my two daughters and many more novices. Bill was in the thick of this, turning up on every occasion, and eventually our practice paid off when we won the ringing shield for Brize Norton, of which Bill was justly proud

on every occasion, and eventually our practice paid off when we won the ringing shield for Brize Norton, of which Bill was justly proud (May 5 1979). At this time, Alvescot had been working hard on their bells and had had them rehung, with the result that Brize Norton had an influx of new budding ringers. Eventually, with the change of fortunes, Bill became a member of Alvescot tower in 1980. Bill was a quiet member of the tower, but had a dry sense of humour, providing stands for the ringers to stand on, particularly myself. It is with great sadness that I have to report that Bill passed away on 4th January at Witney Hospital. He will be greatly missed. The ringers at Alvescot will endeavour to ring a quarter-peal in memory of Bill Harriss in the near future.

Reg Messer - Witney and Woodstock News Letter

Facts and Figures cont.

LEADING PEAL RINGER:- Colin Turner not only is the leading peal ringer for the Guild but also for the Exercise with 168 peals. Geoffrey K. Dodd is third with 122 peals. Will he reach his 2,000th peal in 1988?

BRANCH PEAL:- The North Bucks Branch rang a Branch Peal of Cambridge S. Minor at Great Linford in November.

A peal of Little Bob Royal was also rung in November at Banbury. This was "a first" by all the band - majority of whom were members of the Banbury Branch. Five members of the Old North Berks Branch rang in a peal of Glasgow at Brightwell in February.

The N. Bucks Branch have also scored peals of Cambridge S. Major and Stedman Triples. Both the Reading and Sonning Deanery as well as the East Berks and South Bucks Branches continue to score peals with local Bands.

The Peal Band based in the Newbury area continues to add to its repertoire of methods and 'first in method' or 'first for the Guild'. This includes the all the work spliced 'months methods' rung at Caversham in January conducted by Bernard Goves.; New South Wales S. Major at Highclere for the Australian Bicentennial in January; Newbury Delight Royal at Newbury; Ospringe S. Major - Chieveley; Dergate S. Royal - Thatcham; Bolton S. Major - Checkendon; Zamora S. Royal - Thatcham; among others.

Humberside Maximus was rung at S. Sepulchres Holborne conducted by G.K. Dodd Robert Newton conducted a peal of Cambridge S. Maximus at High Wycombe in which there were five Firsts. Was this a local peal?

Alan Ainsworth called a peal of Debenham S. Major at Debenham. This was an EBSB band and was a first for the Guild and by the band.

GROUP PERSONAL ACCIDENT INSURANCE

The Guild has arranged Group Personal Accident Cover via the Ecclesiastical Insurance Group for Guild members.

SCOPE OF COVERAGE

Guild Members are covered whilst ringing or attending to routine maintenance work to bells in any church or bell tower, or whilst travelling to or from a church or bell tower to practice or take part in bellringing anywhere in the United Kingdom. [" Routine Maintenance" means work for which an Archdeacon's Certificate or a Faculty is not required - separate cover can be arranged where needed in connection with these more major items of work].

Insurance is extended to include members teaching bellringing and persons under instruction by a Guild Member at a church or bell tower within the Diocese of Oxford.

The members of the Towers and Belfries Committee are specifically covered for carrying out their duties on behalf of the Guild.

BENEFITS PAYABLE IN THE EVENT OF A CLAIM

Age Range (years)	Temporary Total Disablement	Personal Disablement	Death
16 - 70	£100 per week up to 104 weeks	£10,000	£10,000
11 - 16	Nil	£500	£500
71 - 75	Nil	£1,000	£1,500

This Insurance Cover has been in operation since March 1987.

Guild Records do not show members' ages. It would be appreciated if numbers of members outside the age ranges for which cover is provided could be notified to the Treasurer so that possible extensions of cover can be negotiated.

Any queries concerning the operation of this Insurance should be directed in the first instance to The Honorary Guild Treasurer, Mr.B.J.Gatward,Grange Wood, Mill Lane, Calcot, Reading RG3 5RS, and should be confirmed in writing.

BELL FUND SPONSORED RINGING 1988

The amount of money received by the Guild Treasurer as a result of the Sponsored Ringing was £2170.00 on March 31st. The comparable amount raised in 1984 was £931.00.

The Trophy will be presented at the Guild Annual General Meeting in May. Could all remaining money be forwarded as soon as possible before the A.G.M.

FACTS AND FIGURES cont.

DEDICATION OF TWO NEW TREBLES:- The two new Trebles were dedicated by Bishop Bulley at Sutton Courtenay Parish Church on Palm Sunday. The climax of a great effort by the ringers under the leadership of John Napper.

YOUNG RINGER HELPS TO RAISE MONEY FOR BELL FUND:- Lloyd Cartwright (age 15) of Burnham raised £24.10 by ringing three sponsored Quarter Peals at Hitcham,Dorney and Farnham Royal.

SPONSORED PEALFOR THE BLIND:- On the 22nd Nov. a sponsored peal was rung for the Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind.

CENTENARY OF FIRST PEAL ON THE BELLS:- At Newbury a peal of Stedman Caters was rung on 27th Nov. to celebrate the 100 anniversary of the first peal on the bells.

OXFORD DIOCESAN BELL FUND

REPORT OF THE MANAGING TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1987

The Managing Trustees met on two occasions to consider Grant Applications, Fund Raising and Finance.

GRANTS

The four provisional allocations together with applications for grant from Seven Towers were considered.

Grants totalling £11,100 were made to:- Woodstock £3,000 ; Marcham £2,500; Bow Brickhill £1,5000; Yarnton £2,500; Chalfont St.Peter £600; Oxford, St Mary Magdalene £1,000.

Provisional allocations totalling £12,500 were made to the other Five Towers.

A grant voted in 1986 was reduced, subsequent to a revision of the plan and reduction in work carried out.

FUND RAISING AND BEQUEST

New money raised in 1987 was £6,837 (£6,164 in 1986). Ringing Day proceeds £663 (£325 in 1986) and Draw profit £1,241 (£992 in 1986) were both new 'Highs' and organisers of both events are congratulated.

Whilst contributions from the branches are slightly down at £4,278 (£4,492 in 1986) thanks are gratefully acknowledged to all branch fund raisers and contributors for their sustained effort and support.

The receipt of a legacy £6,256 added to the above, raises the total of new money in the year to £13,093.

FINANCE

CAPITAL During the year £6,000 was invested in C.O.I.F. and £6,000 in Charinco.

The total capital at 31 December 1987 was.....£71,146
of which profit on Sales investments 1981
and 1982 was.....£ 5,181

New money raised 1975 to 1987.....£65,965
The index-linked equivalent of new money.....£89,111
Market Value of Investments.....£91,138
Cash on deposit.....£12,555
£103,693

INCOME: Income for the year was £7,010, which added to the unallocated income at 1 January, 1987 of £3,471 and the reduction in grant of £950. enabled Grants of £11,100 to be voted.

H.Lawrenson

Facts and Figures Cont.

Facts and Figures cont.

Memorial Peal:- On December 6th a Peal of Plain Bob Major was rung in memory of Sidney Young a member of the local band for 70 years.

Wedding Peal :- A peal was rung at North Leigh on December 2nd for the wedding of Geoff Holden (Guild Trustee) and Edna Ling. J.B.Coggins circled the tower.

Pensioners Quarter:- This was rung at High Wycombe on 12.11.87 It was Stedman Caters and rung for the Silver Wedding of Mary and Walter Lee.

PEAL RINGING IN 1987Highlights from the analysis prepared for the Annual Report 1987

Peal ringing for the Guild in 1987 flourished as never before! A number of new records were achieved:-

* The total of 321 peals was the highest annual total ever recorded for the Guild (well ahead of the previous record of 280 in 1976).

* According to the Central Council Analysis of all 1987 peals the O.D.G. was the leading Guild by almost 100 peals!

* Colin Turner's incredible total of 129 peals is almost certainly the highest number ever rung by an individual for the Guild. (Colin somehow managed to fit in a further 39 peals for other Guilds to give him an overall total of 168; - which, it is believed, made him the country's leading peal ringer.)

* Colin's enthusiasm seems to have been rather contagious! Most of the regulars in the leading Peal Ringers list rang more peals than usual; and considerably more than usual rang over 25 peals (21 in all).

* The number of peals rung at Thatcham rose to a new record of 39!

A total of 455 different people rang a peal for the Guild (451 rang a tower bell peal and 25 rang a handbell peal) and there were 58 conductors. Tower bell peals were rung at 141 different towers of which 102 were in the Guild.

25 people rang their first peal, and 5 people rang their 'first as conductor.

Summary Analysis of Peals rung during 1987 (1986 totals in brackets)

<u>TOWER BELL PEALS</u>		<u>HANDBELL PEALS</u>	
Doubles	6 (2)	Minor	4 (3)
Minor	57 (36)	Major	19 (22)
Surprise	36 (14)	Surprise	9 (17)
Other	21 (22)	Other	10 (5)
Triples	16 (20)	Royal	16 (13)
Major	123 (112)	Surprise	12 (12)
Surprise	79 (79)	Other	4 (1)
Spliced Surprise	24 (11)	Maximus	12 (8)
Delight	5 (7)	Surprise	10 (6)
Other	15 (15)	Other	2 (2)
Caters	3 (8)		
Royal	49 (25)	<u>TOTAL HANDBELL PEALS</u>	<u>51 (47)</u>
Surprise	45 (24)		
Delight	2 (0)		
Other	2 (1)		
Cinques	3 (0)		
Maximus	13 (11)		
Surprise	12 (11)		
Other	1 (0)		

TOTAL TOWER BELL PEALS 270 (214)

LEADING PEAL RINGERS All Peals (Handbell Peals in Brackets)

Colin M.Turner	129	Robert J.Crocker	36
Peter Bridle	88	Peter Bladen	34
Geoffrey K.Dodd	81	Frederick R.Scott	34 (2)
William Butler	67 (1)	J.Alan Ainsworth	33
Bernard F.L.Groves	63 (30)	Jennifer Butler	33
Helen J.Piper	58	Peter C.Ellis	32
Robert H.Newton	57 (26)	Donald B.Carter	31
Patricia M.Newton	56 (26)	Frank Rivett	28
John R.Martin	48 (1)	Diana M.Bridle	27
Michael K.Till	42	Ian Roulstone	26
Graham A.C.John	37 (29)		

LEADING CONDUCTORS

Bernard F.L.Groves	47	J.Alan Ainsworth	15
William Butler	37	Donald B.Carter	15
Geoffrey K.Dodd	27	Timothy G.Pett	12
Ian Roulstone	17	Robert H.Newton	12
Robert J.Crocker	16	John R.Martin	12

LEADING TOWERS

Thatcham	39	Windsor	4
Hungerford	17	West Wycombe	4
High Wycombe	9	Shoeditch	4
Sunningwell	6	Newbury	4
Highclere	5	Burnham	4
Amersham	5		

Katharine Firman
Peal Secretary

QUARTER PEALS -Facts and Figures from The Ringing World (12.2.88, 11.3.88)TOTAL QUARTER PEALS published in 1987 in The Ringing World

	1985	Total	No of Towers	Leading Tower
Berkshire	-11	270	45	Wokingham A.SS.(34)
Oxfordshire	+24	543	120	Woodstock (34)
Buckinghamshire	-30	205	74	Chalfont St.Peter (16)
TOTAL	-17	1018	239	

LEADING QUARTER PEAL RINGERS as published in the Ringing World

Name	1987	Total to date	No.of Towers
Donald B.Carter	142(84)		90
Edward C.W.Lupton	140(55)	370(134)	69
Sally A.Franklin	112		61
Len Porter	88(72)	479(308)	33
Brian J.Curtis	85(13)		53
Peter C.Tribble	79(14)		41
Melanie Tribble	54		27
Tony C.Pullan	52(11)	505(103)	-

Figures in Brackets -Number conducted.

NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

BANBURY BRANCH:- This year the Branch has run a series of beginners practices to get the large number of new members out of their own towers to ring differentbells. The response has been very good with between 30 and 40 people attending.

The Branch Dinner was held on Saturday 20th February at Steeple Aston. Dorothy Clifton and Diana Gardner were the cooks with teenage ringers competently acting as waitresses. The evening ended with a mystery auction raising £30.00 for the Bell Fund Sponsored Ringing Day.

Some towers in the Branch felt that to ask villagers to sponsor them was 'not on' after just raising money for the bells. So they either made a donation from tower funds or raised money in other ways. One tower rang a quarter peal with its adult members while the younger ones rang sponsored call changes.

Graham Clifton.

It is very encouraging to see that membership is picking up in a number of towers. Certainly the turn-out of 21 students for the course on 21 November shows a lot of interest and indicates a lot of hard work for both towers and the Branch. The subject of standards and membership is being discussed at Guild level and was the subject of a lively discussion at the Branch Half-Yearly meeting at Deddington. In all of this there is food for thought. As we read the reports of other towers let us look for those things we can do to improve ringing in our own tower and to maintain our membership.

BLOXHAM - The Friday practices are flourishing. They are preceded by an hour's lashed bell practice with the simulator, and I am grateful for the help of ringers from Brackley, Bodicote, Great Tew, and King's Sutton who come regularly to help. My learners are now starting to plain Hunt, so assistance from competent ringers is much appreciated. If any one would like a go with the simulator, come between 6.30 and 7.30 on Friday (and then stay on for the main practice!).

BODICOTE - Aside from elections, we looked at activities we ought to pursue or would like to undertake. Early next year (1988) we plan to have a half-day beginners outing, with a full -day outing later in the year. We also plan a tower social evening. We also confirmed our practice of only nominating for Guild membership those who were competent, regular Sunday Service ringers who we felt would stay. It was pointed out that all but one of our Guild members has rung a quarter peal.

DUNS TEW - One important development this year has been a fortnightly visit to a 6 bell tower to develop minor method ringing. At first we used Somerton but quickly moved to Lower Heyford; the thought of the "Mad Villager" descending on us at any time with cudgel and chain was too much to contemplate. In fact the only visitor we did have was a local, complete with video camera, to record the ringing for posterity. We now ring at Lower Heyford every other Wednesday.

GREAT TEW - The Rev. H. Colchester, Vicar since 1981 retired at the end of September. The villagers presented him and his wife with a large cheque..... We arranged for one of our handbells to be dispatched early and engraved to commemorate his stay here, and a peal was rung as a retirement compliment.

The new Vicar, Rev. R. Denniston, was licensed on 12th October. He is keen to have the bells rung, so visitors are always welcome. We now have several youngsters learning to handle a bell and starting to ring rounds.

MOLLINGTON - Practice Night is still on Wednesday but we have decided to start at 7.00 instead of 7.30. This because most of the ringers are so young. Visitors are always welcome but please telephone (Croprey 778) before coming as we do not ring every week.

STEEPLE ASTON - ... Last winter, while waiting to ring, every one was kept warm and found much entertainment in Bill Butler's book 'Waiting to ring'. From this they progressed to Hangman (words borrowed from the more serious ringing books lying around and the word search in the last newsletter. Some nights we have had the computer in the tower with ringing games (or even lesser mental activities) loaded ready. We have shown videos of the casting of our two Trebles and the ringing at

the Patronal Festival when those same bells were rung for the first time. There is always a supply of paper and pens at hand, normally for drawing a 'blue line' but useful for other things.....

Outside the tower we have had a bar-b-q following practice one warm Tuesday night, a jumble sale and a short tower outing geared to the abilities of the younger members, and on that occasion they decided for themselves to have a Junior Tower Dinner, this they organised by themselves with accomodation (and financing) provided by ringing Mums! We have done our best to welcome young ringers from other towers and young friends whenever identified - for some reason (we can't fathom why) just about all young ringers are girls. I am sure our next move must be to recruit some boys.

BICESTER BRANCH - GUILD VICE - PRESIDENT IN HOSPITAL. We are sorry to report that Mr Cyril Kinch has been admitted to Hospital in Oxford for urgent treatment to one of his feet. Cyril has suffered with feet problems for many years and this, together with his high blood pressure and Diabetes makes the situation far more serious. We wish him a speedy recovery and hope that he will be home soon. Please remember Cyril in your prayers.

A.G.M. Charlton - on - Otmoor 20.2.88 - The meeting was held in the Village Hall following ringing and a service in the Church and tea. The attendance was extremely poor with less than 20% of members present.

The following Officers were elected:-

President	C.Kinch	Vice-President	Rev.J.Nixon
Secretary +	Jill Ward	Ass.Secretary	Val East
Treasurer			
Branch Representative	Jane Singleton		
Branch Ringing Master	This post to be filled by the Branch Committee.		

Finances are in an excellent state with the Branch Funds now in excess of £1,000. In order to try to instill enthusiasm in the Branch a committee is to be formed with a member from every tower participating. Another Branch Dinner is to be organised. It is hoped that a team for the Guild 8 Bell Competition will be forthcoming and special practices organised.

ST. MARY'S, LAUNTON - 720 Grandsire Doubles. Phyllis Grace 1; Mike McArthur 2; Pat Steeples 3; Daphne Bellman 4; John Harris (c) 5; Phil Clark 6. By the Sunday Service Band. Rung to celebrate the Golden Wedding of Jack and Hilda Ancil, married in this church 50 years ago today - 12 February 1988

Following the ringing a supper was provided at the 'Ancil' home and was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Jack was born in Launton and was a ringer for some 40 years until he gave up some ten years or so ago. Never venturing past covering on the Tenor or occasionally hunting the Treble to 120 of Grandsire, he prides himself on being the only ringer in England to ring for 40 years and up, knowing exactly as much when he finished as he did when he started!!

Launton must have been a thriving tower in 1938 as on the wedding day one band rang 720 London Doubles directly after the ceremony and another band rang a 720 of Grandsire Doubles in the evening as the couple left for their honeymoon.

Jack's wife Hilda (nee Castle) was also born in Launton and her father Dick Castle was a competent ringer at the village church for most of his life. We send best wishes to Jack and Hilda and look forward to ringing for their Diamond Wedding!

CENTRAL BUCKS BRANCH:- Editing ODD BOB must be a thankless task - the recipients moan they do not receive it often enough while those who write the Branch Reports think that the copy dates come to quickly. Marie Cross is to be congratulated on striking the right balance. The additional copies and the content of the last ODD BOB went down well in the Branch. It has overcome, to my mind, many of the difficulties of getting the news to the members.

On the subject of members, the number of subscriptions received by the end of February must have been a record. (The rumour that they financed my recent holiday is unfounded). I think that it is a visible recognition of the value of the Guild

insurance. There is every sign that all of our members are committed to ringing and hence to the Guild.

May Day is fast approaching and with it the Eight Bell Striking Competition and Ringing Day which we are to host this year. Our preparations are well advanced, with the addition of some good weather, it could be a good day. We all hope to be able to welcome vast numbers so that the proceeds will boost the Bell Fund. Look forward to seeing you then.

Terry Wagstaff

CHIPPING NORTON BRANCH:- Activities in the Branch were quiet over the Christmas holidays but then came the start of arrangements for a sponsored quarter peal in aid of the Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund. One tower captain commented 'We could ring a quarter within our own tower'; but the gauntlet was laid the next day when the following statement was made- 'How about a ladies quarter!' unheard of in this Branch. So the men had to respond and with a lot of arm twisting three quarters were arranged involving twenty ringers.

On the Saturday afternoon of the sponsored ringing week-end the ladies met at Eton and rang a quarter of Grandsire Doubles in 40 mins, the first ever all ladies quarter for the Branch. In the evening the men met at Hook Norton to ring the same method with three cover bells and the warning that they would stop there until they had completed the quarter. So, without any fault of the ringers the task was eventually completed some two hours after the scheduled starting time. Charlbury tower rang a quarter of Plain Bob and Southrepps Doubles on the Sunday. Truly a good Branch effort.

Diary Branch Practices

April 9 Hook Norton	Branch Practice	7.30 - 9.00
May 7th Ascott-u-Wychwood	Branch Practice	7.30 - 9.00
May 14th Burford and Tainton	Branch A.G.M.	
June 4th Churchill	Branch Practice	7.00 - 8.30
		Ken Wakefield

CHILTERN BRANCH:- Our Branch practices in November at Weston Turville December at Aston Clinton and January at Wendover have been well attended and we look set for a promising 1988.

Congratulations to James and Caroline Stonham on the birth of Katherine Alice on 5th January. No doubt we can look forward to a future addition to the band at Bledlow.

Apart from our usual meetings we have two events approaching geared toward fund raising for the Guild Bell Fund. Our Annual Pub Games Evening will be held on Saturday 26th March at Wendover Cricket Club and later in the year there will be a concert by the Launton Handbell Ringers on Saturday 25th June at Princes Risborough Community Centre. Details will be published in the next ODD BOB, but if you are interested then book the date now.

John White

EAST BERKS AND SOUTH BUCKS BRANCH:- On November 29th the Sunday Service Band at All Saints High Wycombe rang a Quarter Peal of Cambridge Maximus for the Advent Carol Service. It was also sponsored in aid of the All Saints Restoration Appeal. This was the first in Surprise Maximus the Sunday Service Band and by Sheila M. Bradley, Sheila Bruce, June A. Saint, D.J. Cunningham and P.J. Bruce. A peal of Stedman Cinques was rung, on 1st November 1987 to celebrate 900 years of worship at All Saints Parish Church, High Wycombe.

On the 22nd November 1987 a sponsored peal was rung in aid of the Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind.

Two Royal occasions were celebrated by quarter peals at Windsor. On 14.11.87 a quarter peal of 1280 P.B. Major was rung at St John's to celebrate the birthday of H.R.H. The Prince of Wales. The 40th Wedding Anniversary of H.M. The Queen and H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh.

Chalfont St. Peter with 16 Quarter Peals published in 1987 was the leading tower.

NEWBURY BRANCH:- The Newbury Branch has held over the past few months several special practices for individual towers. These have been organized primarily to give the local band extra help; perhaps in teaching a method or just standing behind people. These practices have proved to be of great benefit to the towers concerned.

On Thursday 26th November 1987 a peal of Stedman Caters was rung at St. Nicholas, Newbury to mark the centenary of the first peal on the same bells (Stedman Triples 26th November 1887).

For the sponsored Quarter Peal Week-End, Feb 13/14 1988 the Branch succeeded in ringing a total of 16 quarters, nearly one at each ringable tower in the Branch. Wherever possible each tower had provided its own local band. It was felt that this had been a worthwhile exercise not only to raise money for the Bell Fund but also for the people who scored their first quarter.

Diane Clarke

NORTH BUCKS BRANCH:- Please Note the Branch Secretary's new address is

Alan J. Marchbank,
Bradwell Road,
Bradville,
MILTON KEYNES,
Bucks MK 13 7AW.

OLD NORTH BERKS BRANCH:- The Augmentation and Rehanging of the Sutton Courtenay bells has now been completed. The two new Trebles have made this into a very nice ring of 8. Frank and Brian White have done a very good job here. The Dedication will take place during the Parish Communion on Palm Sunday, 27th March at 10.30 a.m. Bishop Cyril Pulley will dedicate the bells and preach at the service.

Didcot All Saints 3 bells have been rehung in a new frame by Taylors and now go very well..

Work on Cunnor bells will start in the spring, the two new bells will be added to make another ring of 8 for the Branch. Marcham rehanging will also commence later this year. The bells will be rehung clockwise.

The New Year Morning Ringing and Fund Raising at Marcham was not so well attended this year, however a small profit was made and has been placed in the Marcham Restoration Fund.

The Guild Barn Dance will be held at Appleton in their new Village Hall on the evening of the Guild Festival. Dancing will be to the Green Willows Barn Dance Band.

The profit made at the Branch Barn Dance £76.00 has been divided between Branch Funds and the Guild Bell Fund. The profit of £34.50 made on the Raffle during the evening has also been sent to the Guild Bell Fund.

Our Annual General Meeting will be held at Drayton on Saturday May 14th. Evensong will be sung at 3.15p.m. and the meeting will follow. We hope to have Sutton Courtenay bells available during the evening.

L.F. Cox

The Branch Committee has decided to hold a ringing day or afternoon for the under-18-year-olds. Details have not yet been finalised but it seems likely the activity may be based around a mini-outing, fun ringing, or even a striking competition.

Once more the Branch is holding a knock-out Striking Competition and the first round has to be completed by April 30.

East Hagbourne bells were rehung 60 years ago and to mark the occasion Bishop Paul Burrough was invited to the Annual Ringers' Service to preach. The Bishop also went up into the tower to join the ringers for a short time. A Quarter Peal was rung to mark the occasion.

OXFORD CITY BRANCH:- ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. The A.G.M. of the Branch took place on Saturday 12th December at Iffley. After an excellent service conducted by the Rev. Francis Coles, the tea and meeting were held in the adjacent village hall. At the meeting Basil Townsend asked to stand down as Chairman and was thanked by all the members for his years of service as Chairman. He continues in the post of Branch representative.

New appointments were:- Chairman: David Pullin; Vice-Chairman; John Pusey. All the remaining officers were elected as in the previous year.

During the year members were presented with a bumper issue of the Branch Magazine "Bell Board". The magazine contained stories, articles and photographs of outings held during the year.

A raffle draw offering no less than fourteen prizes raised £23.75 for the Guild Bell Fund.

In spite of a large attendance at the meeting, the members totally failed to do justice to the massive tea provided by the Iffley Ringers and afterwards all the surplus food was taken to the local Old People's Home where it was much appreciated. It seems from the reports of the officers that 1987 was a particularly active year for the Branch and that 1988 promises to be just as busy.

BRANCH BARN DANCE. I am told on good authority (the organiser) that plans for the Branch Barn Dance are going well. It is scheduled for April 23rd and will be held at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford. It will be called the St. George's Day Massacre but I am also told on good authority (the organiser) that the hospital will be unable to assist!

PRACTICES AT HEADINGTON. Paul Foote, the tower captain, will be on sabbatical leave for part of the year and Len Porter and Ray Rook have kindly offered to run the practices on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays from January until June.

Roy Goodwin

READING BRANCH:- Please note the new Branch Secretary is:-

Eunice Wark,
31 Brooksby Road,
Tilehurst,
Reading. Tel. Reading 427322

At the A.G.M. the following were also elected:-

Chairman - Mike Bland, 298, Henley Road, Caversham, Reading. Tel. Rdg 475826
Vice-Chairman - Don Drayton, 7, Wood Lane, Sonning Common, Reading. Tel Rdg. 723239
Treasurer - Joyce Vernon, 121, Mayfield Drive, Caversham, Reading. Tel Rdg. 474281
Ringing Masters - Len Palfrey Tel. Pangbourne 2698
Jo Druce Tel. Rdg 62377

News Letter Editor - Not filled.

6 Bell Striking Competition

Joyce Vernon

1st	St. Mary and St. Laurence	52 faults
2nd	Shinfield 'A'	70
3rd	Tilehurst	83
4th	Pangbourne	
5th	Mortimer 'A'	
6th	Mortimer 'B'	
7th	Shinfield 'B'	

The Reading Branch was the most footnoted of those that rang for the Diocesan Pilgrim Festival. There were four firsts on ten, two firsts of Caters and a first on ten as conductor.

From Branch News Letter

SONNING DEANERY BRANCH:- The Branch KnockOut Competition was won by Warfield who rang Cambridge Minor (61 faults). Shottesbrook/White Waltham were second; Plain Bob Doubles (71 faults).

ST PAUL'S, WOKINGHAM. In the Branch News letter for December 1987 it was stated that the ringers had to raise a further £440 of their share (half the total cost) of the money needed. The PCC had promised to give half also. Unfortunately there was an unforeseen hold up in the work. The top half of the spire shifted in the high winds

swept the area in November. Fortunately the insurers have agreed to pay the cost of the repair plus V.A.T. The steeplejacks arrived unannounced on 14th January and put up the scaffolding the following week. They reported that the top of the spire had been loose for many years. When the report for the Branch February News Letter was written the steeplejacks were assessing which stones need replacing and the next delay will be in getting these stones made in Salisbury or Bath. So now we can hope and pray that the bells are back by Easter'

Hugh Baxter in News Letter.

St Paul's Challenge Trophy. This was won by Waltham St. Lawrence 'A' 135 with Waltham St. Lawrence 'B' second (133). Anne Yates won the individual knock-out at the end.

The Trophy itself caused some interest. We constructed it from a piece of old slider support surmounted by the stay from the 6th. Though the stay is iron and looks more like a blunt tuning fork. If you want to see it for yourself go and visit Waltham St. Lawrence as it is on display in their ringing chamber.

Hugh Baxter - News Letter. (Feb.)

QUARTER PEAL WEEK - This years quarter peal week resulted in 12 successful quarters out of 15 attempts. It is good to see some adventurous attempts from Binfield and Sandhurst as well as quarters from Sunday service bands. In all a total of 15 first of one kind or another were achieved, well done to you all. The three losses were New Cambridge Surprise Major at Wokingham All Saints, Bob Minor at Binfield and a handbell quarter at St Paul's belfry, Wokingham.

Kevin Lovell - News Letter.

SOUTH OXON BRANCH:- 70 YEARS A RINGER. Evensong at St. Mary's Church, Thame on Sunday 13th December 1987 was a very special occasion as the service was a celebration of 70 years of bell ringing by Bob Arnott.

Bob and Lily were surrounded by family and friends including ringers from Tetsworth, Brightwell Baldwin, Long Crendon, Chinnor, Aston Rowant, and Great Hasley who had all made a special effort to be there. The Vicar gave a very appropriate and enjoyable sermon about bells and their calling; the lesson was read by Dick Lindars. The service ended with the hymn 'Belfry Praise'.

After the service sherry and refreshments were served and this was followed by the presentation to Bob of a beautiful pewter bell on which are inscribed the words "Bob Arnott - 70 Years Bellringer - St Mary's Church, Thame - 1988" (we did in fact celebrate a couple of weeks early!!)

Lily was given a pewter vase and a lovely plant by Mrs Margaret Youens, Church-warden.

The presentation to Bob was made by Mr. Terry Payne, Church-warden. He made a really excellent and at times amusing speech which he concluded by saying, "Bob, we at St Mary's and indeed all the citizens of Thame, are grateful for your lifetime of service as a bellringer and Captain of the Tower and we wish you many more years of good health, happiness and continued ringing for us".

Thame ringers also marked the occasion by having a photograph of Bob and Lily framed and hung in the ringing chamber.

Maureen Poulter. r.

The Branch has lost by death one of its most loyal servants - James E. Godman. An obituary appears elsewhere.

VALE OF WHITE HORSE BRANCH:- The AGM of the Branch was held at Stanford-in-the-Vale on 27 February 1988. There was quite a good attendance. Gordon Belcher stood down as Vice-Chairman and Anthony Williams from Hinton Waldrist was elected in his place.

We also passed a rule that 'prospective members should attend at least two Branch functions; i.e. meetings or practices, before being proposed for membership'. Some were not very keen on the idea.

Anne Jones.

WITNEY AND WOODSTOCK BRANCH:- A 'Walk and Ring' in the month of January might seem to be asking for trouble in respect of the weather: last year deep snow caused its cancellation; but this year we faced nothing worse than mud and mist. Twenty-two people and 5 dogs set off from Kingham and walked first to the nearby village of Bledington, where the people rang the bells and the dogs (some of them) howled in protest, until removed rapidly to a discreet distance. We then walked through beautiful country, made mysterious by the persistent mist, to Oddington, a small church set at a distance from the village among trees; after ringing here, and enjoying a good lunch at the local pub, we walked up to Adlestrop to look at the church, although we could not ring there as ringing is only allowed once a year. From here we walked back to Kingham, which was our last tower for ringing. It was a most enjoyable day.

Catherine Ross

Ducklington Bells:- The large sum of £10,000 has been raised by Ducklington tower and friends for the Ducklington bells. Another £2,500 is expected from the Guild. The faculty has been granted and the estimate for £20,000 has been approved by the P.C.C. So there is optimism that the bells will be ringing soon. In the meantime, an enthusiastic 12 or so ringers from Ducklington have been learning to ring by going around to other towers and attending Branch practices.

LATE NEWS:- Change of Officers Witney and Woodstock Branch

Joint Ringing Masters - Brian Curtis, Jane Eagle, John Harwood

Hon. Secretary - Mrs Judy Turvey, Timms, Park Road, Combe, Oxford OX7-2NA
Tel Stonesfield 492

Hon. Treasurer - C.E. Carrington, Arden, 68 High Street, Standlake, Witney
Oxon OX8 7RT Tel. Standlake 217

Branch Representatives - This election was referred to a Committee Meeting.
News Letter Editor - Mrs J. Haviland, Peakes House, Stonesfield, Oxford
OX7 -2PY

NORTH BUCKS BRANCH:- Having re-introduced a Branch Dinner last year it was pleasing to see 46 members and friends at the second dinner. We now feel that this event has become part of our Calendar.

The Annual General Meeting, held at Emberton, was attended by over 60 members (the ringing masters being overwhelmed at the numbers actually wanting to ring). After an excellent hot meal, the actual meeting ran quickly and without controversy before the crowds moved on to the bells at Olney. All but one officer was re-elected for another year; Derek Stainsby, after a number of years as one of the ringing masters, stood down to be replaced by Andrew King. Derek has suffered from an Arthritic hip, we look forward to his 'bionic' return.

Work is progressing on the tower at Milton Keynes, the bells are in good condition and a local band is now being trained. The Church authorities are keen on the bells being rung in July, when structural problems have been resolved.

Although the Friday evening Branch practices are sometimes sparsely attended, it is pleasing to see small groups of towers working together to improve the standard in their area of the Branch. Interest in the Beginners' Striking Competition is very high and a record number of bands is expected for the General Secretary to judge!

Chairman; David Phillipson 3, The Dells, Olney, Bucks MK46 5HY - 0234 711291
Secretary; Alan Marchbank 109 Bradwell Road, Bradville, Milton Keynes, Bucks
Tel 0908 321564

Treasurer; Sheila Watts

Ringing Masters; Godfrey Foat and Andrew King.

Guild Representatives; Doug Hird and Andrew King,

Godfrey Foat.

W A N T E D

4½ cwt redundant bell metal for new Treble at Stowe. Please send any information to A.E. Lloyd, Cobham House, Stowe, Buckingham MK 18 5DF. Tel. (02801) 813343.

DISPLAY BOX

Many people seem to be unaware that the Guild has a **DISPLAY BOX** which contains material suitable for **Exhibition**. The box may be borrowed on application to:-

Mr. E. J. Darvill,
3, Copners Close,
Holmer Green,
High Wycombe, Bucks.

Borrowers must collect and return the material.

CONTENTS OF THE DISPLAY BOX.

- * The Oxford Diocesan Guild (1)
History of Formation
- * The Oxford Diocesan Guild (2)
List of Branches - dates formed
- * The Oxford Diocesan Guild (3)
Aims of Guild
Certificate of Membership
- * Bell Founding 1, 2, 3.
- * Bell Frames
- * Tuning 1, 2.
- * Founders' Marks (1)
Dorney, Bucks. 1582, Joseph Carter, Reading Foundry
'Church Warden' Ornament, 1672-1694, used by the Knights of Reading.
Rudhalls of Gloucester 1684-1736, Running pattern.
- * Founders' Marks (2)
Gillett and Johnston, 1950, Croydon Foundry.
Pack and Chapman, 1772, Whitechapel Foundry.
Abraham Rudhall, 1684, Gloucester Foundry.
Albert A. Hughes, 1947, Whitechapel Foundry.
- * Bell Inscriptions
 1. 1702 Walsgrave, Warwick.
 - 1653 Sherbourne, Wilts. (Fire bell)
 - Cullompton, Devon. (Tenor)
 - 1666 Damerham, Wilts. (Third)
 2. 1585 Passenham, Northants
 - Stanley St. Leonard, Gloucs.
 - Houghton, Huntingdon.
 - 1622 Elsing, Norfolk.
 - Cloford, Somerset. (Tenor)
 3. Dorney, Bucks
 4. Amersham. (Treble)
- * European Founders

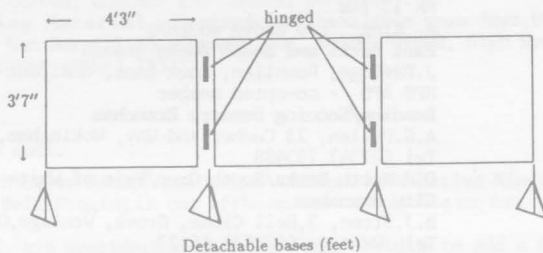
1554	Van Jacop Waghevens, Mechlin, Belgium.	
1610	Jan Bergerhuys, Middleburg, Holland	
1663	Gerard Koster, Amsterdam	
- * Bourdon Bells

	Cast	Weight
'Great Paul', St. Paul's Cathedral, London.	1881	16½ tons
'The Roeland Bell', Ghent	1948	6 tons
'Great John', Beverley Minster	1901	7½ tons
'Great George', Bristol University	1925	9½ tons

- * Carillons
 - Bruges
 - Halinos
 - Clavier, or keyboard
 - Chiming barrel
 - * Ringing Research
 - Document - Berkshire Record Office
 - * Handbells
 - Short History
 - * Change Ringing
 - 1,2 Explanation
 - No. of Changes, No. of Bells
 - 3,4 Method - Grandsire Triples
 - (written as music - on staves)
 - Early Peals from 1725 - 1735
 - (Towers - Dates - Ringing Bands)
 - * Bell Hung for Ringing
 - * Sounding a Bell
 - * Dumb Bell
 - * Birchington, Near Margate -
 - John Powell of Quex Park
 - Tower
 - London Ringer - William Shipway
- Various Leaflets

Display Panels and Feet

Each of 3 display panels, 3'7" x 4'3" is same size and, for storage and transporting, they fold to size 2'2" x 4'3".



Facts and Figures:-

Vicar of Leaffield retires. The Rev.P.G.Smith has retired from the living of Leaffield which he had held for many years. During that time he was a loyal supporter of the Chipping Norton Branch which he served as Chairman for several years.

Handbells:- Len Porter called his 300th Quarter Peal. It was 1260 P.B. Royal in Hand. He also organised a successful Handbell day when three Quarter Peals were scored. This was in February at Oxford.

There are now a number of Handbell centres in the Guild;- High Wycombe, Maidenhead, Reading, Bracknell and now the Oxford area.

U S E F U L A D D R E S S E S

- The Master** R.A.Thorne, 3,Broad Gap, Bodicote, Banbury, Oxon OX15 4DE
Tel. Banbury (0295) 62476
- The Deputy Master** Mrs A.M.Carpenter, 41 Napier Road, Crowthorne, Berks.
RG11 7EJ Tel. Crowthorne (0344) 775036
- Hon.General Secretary** A.G.Pullan, 23,Cumberland Way,Wokingham,Berks.RG11 9AY
Tel. Wokingham (0734) 793488
- Hon.General Treasurer** B.J.Gatward, Grange Wood, Mill Lane, Calcot, Reading
RG3 5RS Tel. Reading (0734) 413097
- Hon.Librarian** P.Walker, 152, Headley Way, Headington,Oxford.OX3 7SZ
Tel. Oxford (0865) 65140
- Guild Stewards** **Old North Berks/Oxford City/Vale of White Horse/South Oxon Branches**
Miss M.R.Cross,6, Radley Road, Abingdon, Oxon.OX14 3PQ
Tel. Abingdon (0235) 20868
Banbury/Bicester/Chipping Norton/Central Bucks Branches
J.Harris, 95, Buckingham Road, Bicester, Oxon OX6 7ES
Chiltern/North Bucks/Witney and Woodstock Branches
G.Foat, 18, Ashfield, Stantonbury, Milton Keynes.MK14 6AU
Tel. Milton Keynes (0908) 313859
East Berks and South Bucks/Newbury/Reading/Sonning Deanery Branches
Mrs P.M. Newton, 44, Georges Hill, Widmer End, High Wycombe, Bucks. HP15 6BE. Tel.High Wycombe (0494) 713834
Mrs K.Firman, 8,Crescent Drive, Maidenhead, Berks.SL6 6AQ
Tel. Maidenhead (0628) 36484
- Peal Secretary** Applications to the Hon.General Treasurer
Banbury /Chipping Norton Branches
G.J.Clifton, Stedman Cottage, Middle Aston, Oxford.
Tel. Steeple Aston (0869) 47273
Bicester/Witney and Woodstock Branches
R.C.Stevens, Dellow, Blackthorne Road,Launton,Bicester,Oxon
Tel. Bicester (0869) 243920 -co-opted member
Chiltern/North Bucks/Central Bucks Branches
A.J.Marchbank,109 Bradwell Road, Bradville, Milton Keynes
MK 13 7AW
A. King c/o above address
East Berks and South Bucks Branch
J.Davidge, Rowallan, Back Lane, Chalfont StGiles,Bucks
HP8 4PD - co-opted member
Reading/Sonning Deanery Branches
A.G.Pullan, 23 Cumberland Way, Wokingham, Berks, RG 11 9AY
Tel (0734) 793488
Old North Berks/South Oxon/Vale of White Horse/Oxford City Branches
B.J.Stone, 3,Bell Close, Grove, Wantage,Oxon
Tel. Wantage (02357) 66673
C.Turner, 27, Long Furlong Road, Sunningwell, Abingdon,
Oxon. Tel. Abingdon (0235) 22335
Newbury Branch
R.Grange,45, Green Acres, Woolton Hill, Newbury, Berks
RG15 9TA Tel.(0635) 254436

The Towers and Belfries Committee exists to help your tower with any problems you might have with your bells, their fittings, sound control, or the tower itself. We can, in co-operation with the Education Committee, arrange a maintenance course in your area, on a smaller scale, show you what you should be doing

to maintain your own tower.

Help may be obtained from the above members of the committee.

Education Sub -Committee

In addition to the Easthampstead Ringing Course held in September, Ringing Courses will be arranged both at Branch and Tower level on request. This may be a One Day Course or a series of evenings. Contact Marie Cross, 6, Radley Rd. Abingdon, Oxon. OX14 3PQ.

Mrs A.M.Carpenter, 41, Napier Road, Crowthorne, Berks, RG11 7EJ

Tel. Crowthorne (0344) 775036

Miss M.R.Cross, 6, Radley Road, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 3PQ Tel. Abingdon (0235) 20868

Mrs K.Firman, 8, Crescent Drive, Maidenhead, Berks. SL6 6AQ Tel Maidenhead (0628) 36484

Mrs B.May, 4, Halfacre Drive, Spencers Wood, Reading, RG7 1DZ

Tel. Reading (0734) 884172

Mr. D.W.Strucket, 103, Prince Andrew Way, Ascot Berks. SL5 8NH

Tel. Winkfield Row (0344) 884653

Mr J.S.White, 70, Long Meadow, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP21 7EQ

Tel. Aylesbury (0296) 85822

Please note that all enquires with regard to the Easthampstead Course should be made to Mrs B.May.

The Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund.

This makes grants towards bell restoration. Any donation or assistance in fund raising will help this objective. Contact the General Treasurer, B.J.Gatward Grangewood, Mill Lane, Calcot, Reading RG3 5RS Tel Reading (0734) 413097

The Guild Library. The Guild maintains a comprehensive Library from which books may be borrowed. For details contact Philip Walker, 152, Headley Way, Headington, Oxford OX3 7SZ

Please note - All towers should have a copy of the recently published list of material in the library. This includes two sets of handbells.

Books for Sale - At General Meetings of the Guild and some Branch Meetings you will find a travelling bookstall.

Film for Hire - The 8mm film "Birth of a Bell" is available for hire (charge £5.00).

This 25 minute film covers the casting and tuning of bells. There is also a VHS video copy of this film for hire and a Betamax copy could probably be made if required; contact the General Secretary.

Exhibition Display Material and stands are available open days, Public Libraries etc. Contact Ken Darvill, 3, Copners Way, Holmer Green, High Wycombe Bucks. Tel. High Wycombe (0494) 713217

Facts and Figures cont.

School Bands:- Both Stowe School and Radley College have active Ringing Societies. At Radley College Bell Ringing is one of the options available on two afternoons a week.

At Stowe the P.C.C. are considering applying for a faculty to add a 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt Treble to the present ring of five. Does any one know of a suitable redundant bell which will fit into the existing ring or could be melted down to supply metal for it?

Green School, Theale rang a Quarter Peal of P.B.Doubles at Pangbourne. It was conducted by M.J.Palfrey whose first as conductor it was.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS

EIGHT BELL STRIKING COMPETITION

QUAINTON

MONDAY 2 MAY 1988

This years Guild Eight Bell Striking Competition will be held at Quainton,Bucks. (Tenor 17-2-00) on Monday 2 May 1988 and starting at 2.30 p.m.

The competition is open to Branch and Tower Bands and normal Guild Striking Competition Rules will apply.

The test piece will be 224 changes of Double Norwich Court Bob Major and is to be rung by all bands competing:-

23456	1	4	6
32654	-	-	-
23456	-	-	-

- ENTRIES:** To Mrs Anne Carpenter, 41 Napier Road, Crowthorne, Berkshire RG11 7EJ
- ENTRY FEE:** £2.00 per band, payable to Tower Steward on the day.
- ENTRY DATE:** Closing date for entries is **Friday 15 April 1988**.
- DRAW** The draw will be made at the Sonning Deanery Practice at Warfield on Saturday 16 April 1988. Conductors will be notified of their ringing times.
- HEATS:** Heats will be held,if necessary, at Linslade and Long Crendon.
- TEA TICKETS:** Available from Mrs A.Carpenter, 41 Napier Road, Crowthorne,Berks RG11 7EJ. £1.00 each, make cheques/PO payable to Mrs A.Carpenter. Please enclose s.a.e.

NO TICKET -- NO TEA

ENTRY FORMS ARE AVAILABLE ON NOTICES SENT TO TOWERS.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1988

AT

BENSON, OXFORDSHIRE

ON

SATURDAY 21st MAY 1988

1.00 - 2.00	Nettlebed	Chalgrove
1.30 - 2.30	Checkendon	Berwick Salome
2.00 - 3.00		Benson
3.00	CHORAL EVENSONG at St.Helen's,Benson	
4.14	TEA in the Youth Hall,Oxford Road,Benson	
4.30	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	
	6.30 - 7.30	Ewelme
	7.00 - 8.00	Watlington

TICKETS FOR TEA,£1.00 each,ARE AVAILABLE UNTIL SATURDAY 14 MAY from :- Mrs M.Day,91, Brook Street, Benson,Oxford OX9 6LH

PLEASE MAKE CHEQUES/P.O. PAYABLE TO:-

"Oxford Diocesan Guild, South Oxon Branch",
and enclose a stamped and addressed envelope.

N O T I C K E T ---N O T E A

Tony Pullan
Hon. General Secretary

July					
1	N.Bucks	BP	Stoney Stratford		
2	GUILD FESTIVAL AT DORCHESTER				
	and GUILD BARN DANCE AT APPLETON				
	C.Norton	BP	Leafield		7.30 p.m.
9	C.Bucks	BP	Haddenham		6.30 p.m.
	O.N.B.	BP	Steventon 2.30	Milton	3.30
	Reading	BP	Sutton Courtenay	4.30 p.m.	
			Checkendon		
15	N.Bucks	BP	Leckhampstead		
16	Sonning	BP	Shottesbrook		7.00 p.m.
	Chiltern	BP	Ellesborough		6.30 - 8.30 p.m.
23	E.B.S.B	BP	Denham		6.30
27	V. of W.H.	BP	Shellingford		
29	N.Bucks	BP	Loughton (Special Methods)		
30	S.Oxon	BP	Chalgrove		6.30 - 8.30 p.m.
16	V. of W.H.	Outing			

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS

1988 RINGING DAY

MAY DAY BANK HOLIDAY

MONDAY 2 MAY 1988

CENTRAL BUCKS AREA

ROUTE 1

ROUTE 2

10.00	Steeple Claydon	Wendover
10.45	Hillesden	Aston Clinton
11.30	Buckingham	Aylesbury
12.15	Padbury	Bierton
1.00	Great Horwood	Wingrave
1.45	Little Horwood	Cheddington
2.30	Mursley	Wing
3.15	Winslow	Aston Abbots
4.00	Granborough	Hardwick
4.45	North Marston	Whitchurch
5.30		Quinton
6.15		Waddesdon
7.00		Nether Winchendon
7.45		Cuddington

ALL TOWERS ARE OPEN FOR ONE HOUR

Any changes to Towers or Times will be advertised at the first towers of the day.

RINGING DAY TICKETS £3.00 EACH, will be available from Stewards at the first towers of the day, or **30p PER TOWER**.

Tony Pullan
 Hon. General Secretary
 23, Cumberland Way
 Wooshill
 Wokingham
 Berkshire RG11 9AY
 Tel. Wokingham (0734) 793488

Terry Wagstaff
 Central Bucks Branch Secretary
 6, Firs Close
 Whitchurch
 Aylesbury
 Bucks HP22 4LH
 Tel. Aylesbury (0296) 641755

PROCEEDS WILL GO TO THE OXFORD DIOCESAN BELL FUND

DIARY OF EVENTS FOR THE NEXT FOUR MONTHS

April

2				
7	Chiltern Branch	SP	Bledlow	7.45 - 9.00 p.m.
9	Newbury	Half Yearly Meeting and Striking Competition		
	C.Bucks	BP	Dinton	6.30 p.m.
	C.Norton	BP	Hook Norton	7.30 p.m.
	O.N.B.	BP	E.Hendred 2.30 W.Hendred 3.30	
			Farnborough 4.30 p.m.	
11	Reading	BP	Mapledurham	
15	N.Bucks	BP	Newport Pagnel	
16	Sonning	SC/BP	Warfield	
	Chiltern	A.G.M.	Weston Turville	3.00p.m.
	N.Bucks	SC	Woughton	
	Banbury	A.G.M.	Mollington	
23	E.B.S.B.	A.G.M.	Beaconsfield	
	Oxford	Barn Dance	John Radcliffe Hospital	
	S.Oxon	A.G.M.	Wheatley	
18	V.of W.H.	BP	Coleshill	
29	N.Bucks	SC (LEARNERS)	Stowe	
30				

May

2	GUILD RINGING DAY	Central Bucks Branch		
	& 8 Bell Striking Competition	Quainton		
3	Chiltern	SP	Aston Clinton	7.45 - 9.00p.m.
6	N.Bucks	BP	Maids Moreton	
7	C.Norton	BP	Ascott-u-Wychwood	7.30 p.m.
14	C.Bucks	A.G.M.	Steeple Claydon	
	Chipping Norton	A.G.M.	Burford and Taynton	
	O.N.B.	A.G.M.	Drayton	
	Oxford	SC		
20	N.Bucks	BP	Chicheley	
21	GUILD A.G.M.	BENSON	Youth Hall	
	Sonning	BP	Waltham St.Lawrence	7.30 p.m.
	Chiltern	BP	Ellesborough	6.30 - 8.30 p.m.
26	V.of W.H.	BP	Hinton Waldrist	
28	E.B.S.B.	BP	Clewer	6.30 p.m.
	S.Oxon	BP	Aston Rowant	6.30

JUNE

2	Chiltern	SP	Bledlow	7.45 - 9.00 p.m.
4	N.Bucks	Quarterly Meeting	Drayton Parslow	
	C.Norton	BP	Churchill	7.00 - 8.30 p.m.
	V.of W.H.	Outing	Rugby area	
11	C.Bucks	SC		
	E.B.S.B.	SC	Chalfont St Giles	
	O.N.B.	BP	Brightwell 2.30 Wallingford 3.30 p.m.	
	Oxford	Half Yearly	North Hinksey	
	Reading	Outing		
17	N.Bucks	BP	Old Wolverton	
18	Sonning	BP	Wokingham St.Paul's	
	Chiltern	SC	Great Kimble	6.30 p.m.
25	E.B.S.B.	BP	Old Windsor	6.30 p.m.
	N.Bucks /C.Bucks	Joint Meeting		
	S.Oxon	BP	Brightwell Baldwin	6.30 - 8.30 p.m.
27	V.of W.H.	BP	Uffington	