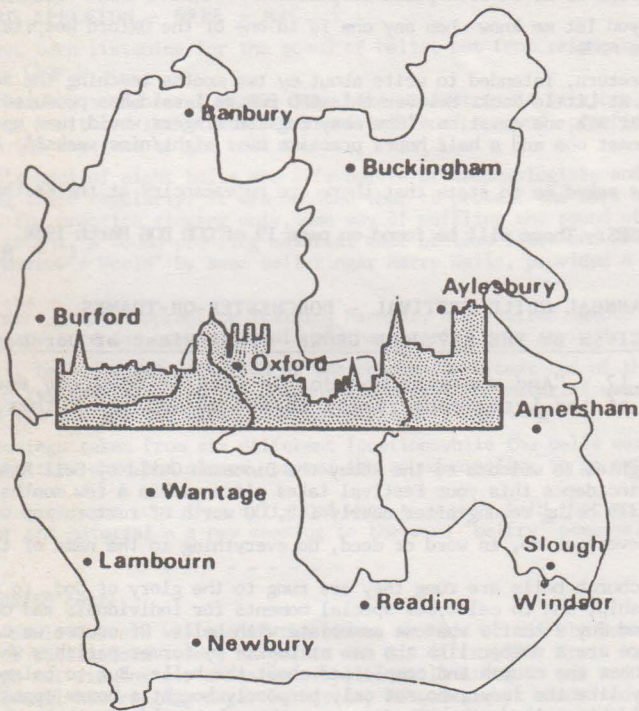


ODD BOB

Newsletter of the

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD



July 1988

ODD BOB - OXFORD DIOCESE - BERKS OXON BUCKS

This ODD BOB has composed itself! In other words -apart from reading 12 copies of the Ringing World and Branch News Letters on my return -all the material has been contributed by members of the Guild unasked. Thankyou everyone - and particularly the Branch Secretaries. With one exception due to a change of officer, all the Branch reports were awaiting me on my return from Little Rock. Please may I have some more interesting and thought provoking articles for the next ODD BOB in September.

I feel sure that the Guild would wish me to express the sympathy of us all with The Master, Anne and Andrew Thorne, Alison Roderick's parents and her fellow ringers at Bodicote at Alison's sudden and unexpected death as the result of one of those accidents 'which should never have happened'.

We were all glad to see John Harris fully recovered from his operation at the Festival.

Members will be sorry to learn that it was finally necessary to amputate Cyril Kinch's leg below the knee. He will be in hospital for some time recovering from the operation and being 'rehabilitated'. He would welcome visitors. Willy Haynes Tel Charlton-on Otmoor (086 733)303 will be able to tell you where you can find Cyril as he will be moved from place to place.

Please will you let me know when any one is in one of the Oxford Hospitals so that visits can be made.

I had on my return, intended to write about my two months teaching the new band from scratch at Little Rock. However this ODD BOB,as I said,has produced itself. I will however ask one question: 'How many English ringers would turn up every day for at least one and a half hours practice over eight/nine weeks?' Also be on time ?

Bobbie May has asked me to state that there are no vacancies at the Easthampstead Course.

USEFUL ADDRESSES:- These will be found on page 19 of ODD BOB March 1988.

M.R.C.

ANNUAL GUILD FESTIVAL - DORCHESTER-ON-THAMESADDRESS GIVEN BY THE REV. JOHN CROWE - Team Vicar of Dorchester

Col.3 v.17 - "And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,giving thanks to God the Father through Him"

I am delighted to welcome to the Abbey the Diocesan Guild of Bell Ringers. It is a happy coincidence this your Festival takes place within a few months of Dorchester bells being rehung after nearly £15,000 worth of restoration work.

"And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus."

Wherever church bells are rung they are rung to the glory of God, to summon people to worship, and to celebrate special moments for individuals and communities. **Celebration and Joy** - that's what we associate with bells. Of course we can't please everyone! There are a number like the man at Leek - my former parish - who had an antique shop near the church and complained about the bells. But to balance that there are many like the lady ,who not only purposely bought a house opposite the Abbey - but also installed a stable door - so that she could listen to the bells here!

The sound of the bells touches people at a deep level. It's amazing to realise that the two oldest bells here were ringing for more than 100 years before Christopher Columbus discovered America. How many days of national celebration down the centuries have been marked here and elsewhere by a peal of bells? How many events of importance to the local community and to local families have been the cause for bellringing here and any comparable medieval church?

Evidence of the way bells evoke a response from parishoners in general is shown in the way the £15,000 needed here was raised through the hard work of a local committee organising a sponsored walk and a general appeal. The money raised added to the grants we received meant that there was no call on the general funds of the PCC which are devoted to paying for the ministry of the Church and the extension of Christ's Kingdom throughout the world. This story could probably be repeated in other parts of the Diocese.

"And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus!"

Bells articulate people's feelings. Feelings are difficult to put into words. Our hope and prayer is that once people's feelings have been touched they may be encouraged each of them in individual discipleship and together in corporate worship.

 AS CLEAR AS A BELL, OR IS IT?

From HARLEQUIN NEWS SHEET - The News Sheet of HARWELL - CULHAM - JET
 RUTHERFORD APPLETON - NRPB - MRC.

HARWELL have been listening for the sound of bells, not from reindeer, but from East Ilsley Church.

Using a precision sound level meter, John Luke of Instrument Services, Engineering Division, has monitored the effectiveness of trials of a sound -proofing fabric mounted on the shutters of the bell tower.

The church's peal of eight bells are a favourite of campanologists and visiting groups ring there regularly. It was decided that to protect the ears of nearby residents, for practice ringing only, some way of muffling the sound of the bells should be sought. A sound-proofing material made of lead fibre and PVC, seen on BBC TV 'Tomorrow's World' by keen bell-ringer Harry Wells, provided a possible answer.

Harry, former Harwell Apprentice Training Manager, now retired, wrote for details explaining the intended use and a roll of the material duly arrived.

On 12 April, bell ringers assembled at the church for a test run of the sound-proofing. A representative of the company who market the material was also present to witness its use for the first time in such a novel setting.

Decibel readings taken from six different locations while the bells were being rung, with the shutters open and closed, proved the sound-proofing to be extremely effective.

The bell-ringers were more than delighted when they were told that no charge would be made for the material - a new meaning to the word 'belfry' perhaps?

 OBITUARIES cont.

E. GARRARD. Ernie Garrard was one of the oldest members of the Old North Berks Branch. A member of Wallingford tower, he joined the O.D.G. in 1955. Ernie was in his 80's and although not ringing for a number of years still liked to see and talk to Branch members and recall his ringing days. In his day he was always ready and willing to help out at any tower that needed assistance. His friendly manner and his charming and witty tales will be greatly missed by all who knew him. His cremation took place at Oxford on June 23rd. and was attended by members of the Wallingford tower and also other members of the Old North Berks Branch.

Len Cox

OBITUARIES

Alison Jane Roderick

Alison's death, as an innocent victim of a road accident, occurred on Tuesday, May 3rd, as she drove home from work. The shock to her family, friends and all who knew her has been deep and impossible to describe in mere words.

Alison first came into Bodicote tower ten years ago, when as a confirmation candidate she was encouraged to take her share in service to the Church. She joined a group of youngsters who were recruited following the augmentation to eight bells. Most of this group stayed together for the next eight years until they went off to University. She soon learnt to ring and progressed over the years with the rest of the band to ringing Surprise Major. She rang a few peals and many quarter peals. Her first peal of Bob Major was by an all-local band to mark the 25th anniversary of the ordination of the Revd.D.Bishop.

She had a lively, bubbly sense of fun which always brightened up a practice or day's outing. She could not take things too seriously and taught us all to laugh at ourselves. Her vitality and love of life were transmitted to all who knew her. She always had time to help others and many a learner has cause to be grateful for her encouragement. In the words of one of our ringers,

"she made us all feel as though we mattered and that there was no age difference between us!"

A former pupil of Banbury School she played hockey for the school and took an active part in the music activities, playing the clarinet. Her main interest was in ringing and she helped on many day courses and outings organised by the Oxford Guild. On leaving school she spent a year at St. Aldate's Secretarial College in Oxford before taking a post as secretary in the Oxford Branch of United Dominions Trust.

Alison attended the Hereford Course several times. Initially she attended as a student learning Doubles and progressed to helping. She was present this year, as a helper with the conducting group. She took a full active part in all the activities of the course, in particular those of "not the Hereford Course" Group.

Her funeral took place at Bodicote on Tuesday May 10th and was attended by ringers and friends from far and wide, filling the church to capacity. The service was conducted by the Revd C. Butland with the sermon preached by the Revd.D.Bishop. There were family flowers only but donations amounting to £1100 were made for the Newcastle branch of Shelter. Her ashes were later interred at the foot of the Tower.

In the evening following the funeral, a half-muffled quarter was rung by her friends. The band was chosen by Andrew, her boyfriend, to be as close as possible to the band she would have chosen.

We have lost a very special friend and her loss will be felt for a long time to come. Our sympathy and prayers are with her parents, Meg and Ian, her brother David (also a ringer) and Andrew. May she rest in peace.

Bodicote, Banbury, Oxon. 10 May, 1260 Grandsire Triples: R.A.Thorne 1, Anne D.Thorne 2, A.M.Kelly 3, J.Gardner 4, A.J.Thorne 5, A.J.Griffin 6, G.J.Clifton (c) 7, I.Roche 8. Half-muffled in memory of Alison Jane Roderick a ringer at this church who died 3rd May 1988 aged 20 years. A.D.T.

Noel C.Ta'Bois. It is with regret that we report the death of Noel Ta'Bois on 7th March after a long illness. Although a member of the Essex Association Noel and his wife Margaret were regular members of the Easthampstead Course over a number of years - first as students and then as helpers. The sympathy of all their friends in this Guild go to Margaret in her sorrow.

L.J.Oliffe. A member of Witney tower and of this Guild for sixty years his death occurred during the last week of June. He was tower captain of Witney from 1931 until the early 1950s.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Apology to Simon Powell who was omitted from the Leading Quarter Peal ringers in March ODD BOB. He rang 81 quarters in 51 towers.

Restoration Work:- Yarnton bells were re-dedicated on July 9.

Cunnor bells are now out of the tower. It has been found necessary to do work on the tower.

Marcham bells are also out of the tower. Alterations are taking place to the interior of the church.

Wootton, Oxon and Ducklington are also undergoing restoration.

Woodstock, Oxon. The PCC has given the go ahead to the bell restoration project. Hopefully the bells will be taken down at the end of the year (after Christmas). They will be retuned, and rehung with new fittings in a new metal frame for ten bells. The two trebles will be added when funds allow and with money raised by the ringers themselves.

All Saints, Didcot. The three bells have been rehung in a newly strengthened tower at a cost of £17,000.

Uffington, Oxon are officially opening their Restoration Fund on Sept. 9.

St. Paul's, Wokingham have been rededicated.

East Hagbourne have raised the money need for a set of new clappers.

Kidlington, Oxon. The bells will be out of action from the end of October for repairs.

New Methods:-

17.3.88	Highclere, Hants	Highclere Alliance Major*	cond. B.C.Groves
21.4.88	Overton, Hants	Fairfield Delight Major*	cond. B.C.Groves
18.5.88	Shorditch, London	Southgate S. Maximus*	cond. J.A.Ainsworth
19.5.88	Thatcham, Berks.	Faraday S. Royal*	cond. B.C.Groves
28.5.88	Liverpool	Merseyside S. Maximus*	cond. J.A.Ainsworth
	Our Lady and St. Nicholas		
11.6.88	Thatcham	Botolfston S. Royal*	cond. J.A.Ainsworth

* First peal in method

Anniversary Peals: etc:-

13.3.88	Thatcham	5039 Grandsire Caters	cond. W. Butler
		250th peal on the bells. Rung by a resident band.	
21.5.88	Twyford, Berks	Plain Bob Triples	cond. J. Wells
		Rung on the 75th Anniversary of the first peal on the bells.	
		The 50th peal on the bells. It was the first peal for Jennie Dane, Nick Deadman and Tony Evans, Also first on eight for Shirley Dexter.	
1.5.88	Monks Risborough (St. Dunstan)	5040 Minor (4m)	cod. L.R. Woodruff
		Rung for the Millenium of St. Dunstan.	
27.5.88	Thatcham	Leatherhead S. Royal	250th Anniversary of John Wesley's Conversion.

Personal Records:-

Peter Bridle	1200 peal	Hungerford 6.6.88
Robert Newton	450th Tower bell peal	Slough 12.3.88
Michael K. Till	250th peal	Thatcham
	100th peal in	Thatcham Tower 13.3.88
Donald B. Carter	250th Surprise Peal and conducted	50 for Guild.
Kevin Lucas	400th peal	21.5.88
Graham N. Scott	500th peal Handbell peal	London S. Royal (No 3). This was also the first in method by all except the conductor.
Walter Lee	Hughenden 9.4.88	Stedman Triples. especially arranged as he rang his first peal of Stedman in this tower 50 years previously.
Naomi Lewis	First peal of Surprise (Yorkshire S. Major) at	Hungerford. She also conducted it. It was for her 15th Birthday.
Stephen Putt	rang 7 Surprise Minor for his 15th Birthday	peal and his first of Surprise Major was Rutland at Witney on 25th May. He has also circled Witney tower to Quarter Peals.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Is your Guild/Association Annual General Meeting well supported? Well this year, even without the counter attraction of the F.A.Cup Final, only 82 of the 2,100 Guild Members attended the A.G.M. at Benson, Oxon on 21 May, a slight improvement on 1987!

Ringling on the anti-clockwise eight at St Helen's Church preceded the traditional Evensong which included the Ringers Hymn and sermon, and was followed by an excellent tea. The Master opened the meeting at 5,00pm, and some 80 minutes later one of the briefest of A,G,Ms ended.

All of the officers were re-elected with the exception of the Librarian. Phil Walker stood down after many years of service and the library has now been housed in a purpose built room in Thatcham. Members wanting to use the library should now contact Bill Butler. The Secretary always comes prepared for a paper ballot for the elections but this year was another one when there was only one nomination for every office.

Guidance had been sought from Diocesan Church House about ringing for the Armada celebrations and Bishop Richard felt that individual towers wanting to ring should go through the usual procedures. The Guild had experienced a spate of requests for similar ringing and to have two requests from two organisations to celebrate the same event on different days was not well received.

The 1987 accounts had made the predicted deficit as a result of increased costs for printing the Guild Newsletter, ODD BOB, and for obtaining insurance cover for Guild members. This would be offset by the 1988 subscription being increased to £3.00. Non-Resident Life Members will now pay £5.00, the Annual Report will be £2.00 and the peal fees will go up to 20p/person from 1 January 1989.

The meeting agreed to make a grant of £80.00 to the Ringing World.

The Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund continues to thrive with investments keeping pace with inflation. New money raised in 1987 was £6,837.00 which included a draw profit of £1,241.00. The Bell Fund also received its first legacy of £6,256.00. Grants totalling £11,100.00 were made to six towers with Woodstock receiving £3,000.00. Provisional grants to five other towers totalling £12,500.00 were also made.

In the final stages of the meeting comments were made about the "No Ticket - No Tea" scheme introduced for the first time at an A.G.M. How do you provide teas for a large meeting without some idea of numbers? Are Tea Tickets the answer? The tea organisers thought so - but not all of the members approved!

A.G.Pullin

OR SHOULD IT BE GUINEAS?

This was the question which occurred to me when I heard that Guild subscriptions would be raised to £3.00 for 1988. Not because I felt that the extra 25p was a charge worth collecting, but rather because the amount itself was more in keeping with an era when it might have been expressed in units of twenty-one shillings.

Contrast this with one of Berkshire's Hockey Clubs: annual subscription £35.00. A hockey match fee of £2.50 (35 minutes each way) equates to £6.25 for a peal rung in 2hrs 55mins. When did you last hear of a major peal band collecting £50.00? (8 x £6.25). For such pursuits as golf or squash, even higher fees may be expected.

Yet, at Branch A.G.M.s the length and breadth of the Diocese, the question, "What do we get for our three quid?" will ring in our ears. I am not singling out peal bands for criticism; rather I am drawing attention to a fee structure lacking in realism. It stems from a confusion of responsibility, whereby, in our minds we have divorced the exercise from the bells - which is perpetuated. It is as though

the ringers have claimed responsibility for the science of change ringing, whilst the equipment is to be the property of the established church, to be financed by the Church Commissioners or a notional General Synod Belfries Sub-committee.

Unless we are to be **remembered** as the generation who rang the bells to death, two things need to happen.

i) Guild fees should be increased to include a substantial portion towards bell restoration. Prosperous **guilds**, in parts of the country where complete restorations are rare, might consider twinning with a less fortunate area, on either a Guild or project basis;

ii) Visiting ringers, whether individually or in bands, should, wherever they go, expect to pay as they play.

The A.G.M. season is upon us; it will be interesting to see whether those who are quick to raise their hands on their Branch's burning issues, are as quick to their hands into their pockets in support of the wider exercise.

Paul Sandham

From The Reading Branch News Letter

TWO 'MOVING' WEEK-ENDS

Sat.14 May. Ringing in the afternoon for a wedding. The same evening the City Branch members were at Horspath for the Six-bell striking contest, St.Gile's, Oxford, having the good fortune to be winners, ringing Plain Bob Minor.

Sun. 15 May. Rang a good touch of Stedman Cinques at Christ Church and then back home to await the arrival of the 'Library removal contingent'. Bill Butler was first to arrive, which enabled us to have a brief conversation, and a cup of tea for Bill (that is what he called it). It consisted of hot water in the cup which was briefly shown a tea bag, no milk, no sugar, quite awful I would think! The rest of the contingent arrived in a short time, Tony Pullan with Nicola and Anne Jones, driving the lorry, with Tina as her passenger. To facilitate the removal, two planks were laid on the stairs to save carrying the boxes down them. It was like a conveyer belt, with Bill at the top lifting the boxes on to the planks; with Tony sliding them down to Anne and Tina who carried the boxes out to the lorry where Nicola, complete with crutches, was moving the boxes around on the lorry. The job was completed in very quick time, even the weather was kind to us. There is no doubt that they all worked very hard, except myself, and Anne and her daughters deserve our very great thanks for the effort involved.

Time was then taken to tidy up before partaking light refreshments and indulging in pleasant conversation, before moving to Thatcham, a very successful event.

I am told that the transfer of all the material at Thatcham was successfully achieved without incident.

The other 'moving week-end' was at the Bank Holiday, 28 - 31 May, when ourselves moved to:- 84, Lime Walk, Headington,
Oxford, OX3 7AF
Tel.(0865) 65140

Please note that we have the same telephone number. Again the weather was kind and the move went smoothly, and having moved everything again at least once since moving in we are now settled. Visitors would be welcome but the reduced amount of space prevents more than a few visitors at a time.

Philip Walker

Facts and Figures cont.

Handbells:- Aylesbury - John White called a quarter of P.B.Minor 3.April.
Wokingham - The Wokingham based band have recently rung peals of Plain Bob Major and Kent T.B.Major.
Oxford - This band has rung Quarters of Grandsire Doubles and Kent T.B. Royal. Bernard Masterman, who is blind rang his first in the method.
High Wycombe - peals of Superlative S.Maximus and Bristol S.Royal.
Maidenhead - a peal of Glasgow S.Major.

MAY DAY RINGING DAY AND 8-BELLSTRIKING COMPETITION 1988

Monday 2 May 1988, May Day Bank Holiday and the Guild's Annual Ringing Day with the Bell Fund benefitting from the proceeds of the day. In accordance with the Hon. General Secretary's fifteen year plan this year's towers were centred on the Central Bucks Branch where two routes were arranged converging into one later in the day. Large numbers of tower grabbers were out early in the day queueing up to an hour prior to the advertised ringing times. It is pleasing to report that these times were kept to, thanks to the tower stewards, and the standard of ringing and behaviour of ringers was better than in previous years. Known casualties of the day were a broken rope and a lost anorak.

Meanwhile at Quainton, six teams from around the Guild were ringing in the Final of the 8-Bell Striking Competition. Earlier, in the morning, heats were held at Long Crendon and Linslade to select three finalists from each. The touch chosen for this year was 224 changes of Double Norwich Court Bob Major, it being chosen by the Branch Secretaries at their annual meeting. Results of the heats were:-

Long Crendon - judged by Henry Lawrenson and Mike Till

1. High Wycombe	51½ faults
2. East Berks and South Bucks Branch	66½ "
3. All Saints, Wokingham	94½ "
4. North Bucks Branch	109½ "

Linslade - judged by Graham Clifton and Jane Cudley

1. Sonning Deanery Branch	15 faults
2. Oxford City Branch	21 "
3. Amersham	26 "
4. Beaconsfield	28 "
5. Chiltern Branch	33 "

The Final was kindly judged by Frank Rivett of Sandy, Beds. and Stephen Stanford of Southampton, both of whom are ex-Guild members. From the comfort of a caravan they particularly noticed all teams had difficulty in striking the third and fourth, but generally speaking those teams that rang faster, rang best.

The result was:-

1. East Berks and South Bucks Branch	84 faults
2. High Wycombe	107 "
3. All Saints, Wokingham	108 "
4. Amersham	136 "
5. Sonning Deanery Branch	164 "
6. Oxford City Branch	Disqualified

And so the East Berks and South Bucks Branch Band regained the Cup they last won in 1983 and 1984. Mention must be made of the Oxford City Branch Band who succeeded in qualifying for the final on their first attempt at entering the competition and calling on their supporters to ring when two members of the band failed to turn up!

The surplus money from the teas and raffle, together with the Ringing Day proceeds, raised the grand sum of £740 in aid of the Bell Fund. Thanks must go to Terry Wagstaff and his army of helpers, and to all of those keen tower grabbers and the competition ringers for supporting the Bell Fund.

A.G. Pullan

COMPETITION ORGANISERS COMMENTS

In our travels around the Diocese prior to Guild Competitions we try to gauge what the support is likely to be. This year, as we correctly anticipated, there

would be a need for heats when eleven entries were received. They arrived, in addition to the official entry form, on scraps of paper and by telephone calls to both home and office. Hence we lacked details of teams, conductors, telephone numbers and numbers for tea.

Our troubles continued when two teams dropped out at the last minute and we had to decide whether to cancel the heats or not. We felt it was too late in the day to change the plans of nine teams, judges and tower stewards. We accept any criticism directed at us.

In an effort to ease the organisers problems in the future, it has been decided that all entries for Guild Competitions will only be accepted on official entry forms. It is with regret we have to take this action but the Guild relies heavily on the kindness and goodwill of the Branches in arranging these competitions.

TEAM ORGANISERS -- PLEASE HELP US, TO HELP YOU!

Tony Pullan and Anne Carpenter

SIX-BELL STRIKING COMPETITION 1988

The North Bucks Branch are looking forward to welcoming bands from all the Branches to the 6-Bell Striking Competition on 1st October.

Heats will be held at Loughton and Shenley during the afternoon. The Final will follow tea at Old Bradwell.

ENTRIES to:- Mrs A.M.Carpenter, 41, Napier Road, Crowthorne, Berkshire. RG11 7EJ. Please use the official form which will be dispatched to your Branch Secretary by the General Guild Secretary, (together with final details).

The Draw for the order of ringing etc will take place, as last year, at the Easthampstead Course Sept.23 - 25. Please return all entries by Thursday, Sept.22 1988 at the latest. Thank you.

TEA will be by ticket only - available after September 1, 1988 from:- Alan Marcbank, 109 Bradwell Road, Bradville, Milton Keynes, Bucks.

TEA TICKETS £1.50 each

OTHER TOWERS WILL BE OPEN DURING THE EVENING

Facts and Figures cont.

Farewell Quarter Peals:- Radley -6.April 1260 Bob Minor -A farewell to the REV.D. Pope, Vicar of Radley for 16yrs and a supporter of the work of the Oxford Guild. Leaving to undertake work in the northern part of Cyprus.

Marston, Oxford. - 24.April. A Farewell Quarter Peal to Miss D.Barrett the parish worker for 12yrs.

St Aldate's Oxford - 27 March 1260 Grandsire Doubles - a farewell to Stephen and Annika Everett leaving for the Faroes. Also at 28 Asquith Rd. 1260 Bob Royal in hand.

Wolvercote -10 April a farewell Quarter for Catherine Lack leaving for Windsor.
Gt Linford - A quarter peal of Bob Doubles as a farewell to Heather Beck leaving for Australia.

On Four Bells.- Minimus seemsto have come into fashion! CATY on 12 March rang a Quarter at Basildon; on 9th April Great Kimble ringers rang Bob Minimus at Halton and followed it by ringing another, which they jointly conducted at Great Kimble. On 3rd May Rev.Canterbury minimus was rung at Fritwell

THE TEWKSBURY SHIELD COMPETITION

The Tewksbury Shield is a Spode Plate mounted on a wooden shield and was presented in 1971 by the Theocsbury Charity Committee as a trophy for a 10 bell striking competition to be held at Tewksbury Abbey each year. The competition arose out of the Festival of Tewksbury in 1971. This was held to celebrate the anniversaries of the consecration of the Abbey and the Battle of Tewksbury in the Wars of the Roses.

Originally the competing teams came only from the Gloucester and Bristol, the Hereford and the Worcestershire Associations, but for a number of years the competition has been advertised nationally and this year teams came from Bath and Wells, Coventry, Lichfield, Midland Counties and London as well.

The competition test piece was 317 changes of Erin Caters and only the last four courses were marked. The chief judge was Rick Shallcross and he was assisted by J. Harold and N. Mattingly.

In recent years previous Oxford Guild teams were truly representative of the Guild, literally made up with members from each corner of the Diocese. Apart from successes in earlier competitions the Guild has never risen to repeat these performances lately. Following discussions with previous team organisers it was agreed to form a team based on a centre of ringing. Thus All Saints', Wokingham band formed the nucleus of the Guild's entry in the 1988 competition.

Practices were arranged at St. Laurence's, Reading and High Wycombe. Quarter Peals were rung at St. Sepulchre's Holborn and St Giles', Camberwell. Then on competition day, Saturday 7th May, the band met at St. Mary's, Cheltenham for one final practice.

The draw - eighth out of nine entries, time to relax, have lunch and look round Tewksbury. Eventually it was time to ring. There were no clashes, missed dodges or missed calls. All the bells stood at the end even! And no the waiting began.

The judges comments applied to most teams, method unfamiliarity and a lack of rhythm when the bells were in the front. Half faults were awarded for slight clips and gaps, full faults for extended gaps and clashes, and for failing to stand. The judges also gave an impression mark which they would have used in the event of a tie.

The result was:-

1. Coventry Diocesan Guild	(3H 30)	43	Faults
2. Oxford Diocesan Guild	(3H 18)	61	"
3. St. Mary Abbots Guild, Kensington	(3H 21)	65	"
4. Bath and Wells Association	(3H 20)	70	"
5. Worcester and Districts Association	(3H 22)	74	"
6. University of London Society	(3H 06)	78	"
7. Midland Counties Guild	(3H 20)	80	"
8. Lichfield Archdeaconry Society	(3H 25)	82	"
9. Gloucester and Bristol Association			Disqualified

And so the highly delighted Guild band headed for Stanford-in-the-Vale to celebrate their unexpected success. The band was:- 1. Sheila Williams. 2. Jo Druce, 3. Kevin Lovell, 4. Mick Pickup, 5. John Harrison, 6. Tony Pullan, 7. Jon Tutcher, 7. Peter Munday, 8. John Wells (conductor) and 10. Stephen Smith II.

Facts and Figures cont.

Family occasions:- Wallingford 15 April Cambridge S. Major to welcome Peter Albert Diserens (b. 5.4.88) - 2 grandparents and 3 uncles.

Stanford-in-the-Vale - Quarter peal (Grandsire Triples) for the confirmation of Adam Greenley. - (mother, grandfather, uncle/god father) and Janet Haskell (husband). Shottesbrook - Half muffled for Irene B. Coulson the grandmother of one of band and for Amy G. Gulliford mother of one and grandmother of two of the band.

Ludgershall, Bucks; - 1260 Doubles (3) in memory of A.J. Taylor, father of Jill Ward who rang the third.

NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

BANBURY BRANCH:-The Banbury Branch was shattered by the tragic news of Alison Rodrick's unnecessary death in a car accident on 4th May. Alison was only 20 but had been a keen and good ringer for many years. Alison was the girl friend of Andrew Thorne, son of Ron and Anne Thorne, and the whole family have been deeply saddened by Alison's death. Many ringers sadly joined Alison's family and the Thornes for the funeral at Bodicote. A half-muffled Quarter Peal was rung in the evening, the band chosen by Andrew.

May 10, 1988 1260 Grandsire Triples:- R.A.Thorne 1, Anne Thorne 2, A.Kelly 3, J.Gardner 4, A.J.Thorne 5, A.J.Griffin 6, G.J.Clifton (c) 7, I.T.Roach 8.

At this year's Branch A.G.M. at Mollington it was very pleasing and encouraging to see so many members attending (over 60). All the officers were thanked for their work and re-elected with the exception of David Robson, the treasurer. Malt Eden of Sandford was elected to this post. 17 new members were elected to the Guild, this means we now qualify for two Guild Representatives.

The Branch agreed to send £25.00 to the Bell Fund draw as a prize and to sponsor Mike Green on the Easthampstead Course. Unfortunately our A.G.M. is in April and this is too late as all the places were booked.

Members asked if the Branch could hold more specialist practices with methods announced in advance. It is also hoped to hold 10 bell practices at Banbury. More one day courses were asked for.

This year's Spring Bank Holiday ringing week-end was to the Blackburn area. We were blessed with good weather and very good bells. This was the 10th Anniversary of this event and at the Saturday evening meal Anne Thorne gave us all a recollection of the last nine years and presented Graham Clifton with an inscribed bell and thanked him for making the arrangements over the years.

Three Duns Tew members rang their first Quarter Peal for the Christening of Robert Burgess, son of John and Claire.

May 8, 1988 1260 Bob Doubles:- M.G.Curren 1, S.Stanks 2, J.Burgess 3, R.Stanks 4, G.J.Clifton (c) 5. First Quarter 2,3,4.

Graham Clifton.

BICESTER BRANCH:- AT THE Branch A.G.M. the Branch Secretary gave a resumé of events for the past year which had included a peal of Stedman Triples for the passing of Harry Hatfield, Tower Captain of Bicester for some 20 years. Ludgershall had a new ringing chamber which had been dedicated in March and a Quarter Peal had been rung for the occasion. A Branch Dinner in May had been well supported and a ringing day at Radley for Islip ringers had been constructive. Richard Stevens was thanked for running a monthly practice at Launton which he was prepared to continue.

On the finances, a Jumble and Toy Sale had raised just over £500.00 for the Branch Bell Fund, the Balance of which now stood at £1,001.04.

The Branch Ringing Master explained that due to his parish commitments, he would not be able to stand for re-election. Due to the fact that this post was not filled, he suggested setting up a Branch Committee to take on this work and review other aspects of Branch activity. This was agreed by the meeting.

Branch Committee Meeting;- This was held on March 26, 1988. It was called to explore ringing within the Branch as, although we have many active towers, we do not meet TOGETHER to ring as a Branch.

The meeting was informal to encourage a free flow of ideas with representatives from Brill, Bicester, Middleton Stoney, Kirtlington, Ludgershall, Launton, Islip and Wood-eaton.

It was felt that monthly practices would be helpful, particularly for towers that have lots of learners but not many experienced ringers to guide them. Deciding when would be the best time to hold these practices was not easy. Eventually, it was agreed that a practice would be held on the last Saturday of each month from 6.30 - 8.30 p.m. However, nobody is to feel they are obliged to stay the whole of two hours, please 'COME WHEN YOU CAN AND GO WHEN YOU MUST'.

TOWER CAPTAINS please encourage your members to attend. We would like to see ringers from all towers in the Branch which have members. Although we hope that it will be possible to ring something for the more experienced ringers, these practices should be particularly helpful for those who are struggling with Plain Hunting/Bob Doubles etc.

Jill Ward.

CENTRAL BUCKS BRANCH:-What with the Branch and Guild A.G.Ms and the Branch Six Bell Striking Competition, May and June are always busy months. Additionally, this year the Branch acted as host for the Guild Eight Bell Striking Competition and Ringing Day. I see in the Guild General Secretary's notes on these two latter events that he refers to his fifteen year plan. I hope that he will be flexible, because according to that plan Central Bucks is due to host the event in 1989.

Though the weather could have been better, I believe the day can be judged a success, especially by the amount collected for the Bell Fund. I would like to thank all those who assisted me with the organisation. With fifty or so helpers it is impossible to name them individually, but, especial mention goes to Mary and Dick Lee, Richard Samways, Geoff Tyler, Ron Churchard, Mark Dobson, Kate Guest, Amanda Coulthard, John Evans, Philip Roberts and all Tower Captains who made their towers available.

The day's ringing was deliberately planned to allow more time between towers. At least one party managed to ring at all the towers from both routes! The idea was to avoid the endless dash between towers with no time for lunch or tea. Initial comment was evenly divided between those who liked the relaxed programme and those who wanted more towers open. I leave next year's organiser and the Guild Officers to judge.

Guild Members will have (fond) memories of the rigmarole involved in getting rule changes through. The last time, I think, was the post of Publicity Officer. Well there is a flaw in the Eight Bell Striking Competition rules. The crib sheet says that "Rule 10 should read; There will be a set touch..."ie. no mention of one minutes rounds. It could only happen in Central Bucks, one team suggested that the rounds, therefore, were not part of the competition. I envisage many happy hours of debate with Henry in his usual role of arbiter.

Members attending the Branch A.G.M.thanked all the retiring officers, especially Mark Dobson. Mark had been our very active Chairman for several years.The experiment of having a Branch Steward successfully generated a new interest in Branch activities and it was decided to retain the post. One of our youthful members,Kate Guest,was elected to the post.

The Branch Officers are now:-

Chairman	John Evans (Aylesbury 681240)
Vice-Chairman	Mike Dodd
Secretary/Treasurer	Terry Wagstaff(Aylesbury 6417551)
Ringing Master	Dick Lee (Quainton 507)
Deputy Ringing Master	Richard Samways
Branch Representatives	Reg Darvill and Ron Churchard
Branch Steward	Kate Guest (Aylesbury 87502)

The late Frank Gibbard who for many years was Secretary of the Central Bucks Branch, was a founder member, and laterly a Vice-President. The A.G.M. decided that as a tribute a trophy for the winner of the BranchSix Bell Competition would be presented. Frank, by the nature of his trade, loved wood, hence, a carved wooden bell complete with clapper and headstock, and mounted on a plinth seemed a fitting choice. Even more so was we were additionally pleased that his son Norman Gibbard agreed to come along to present the trophy to the winners.

Bierton was once again the venue for the competition. The judges were John Harris (we were pleased to see that he seemed fully recovered) and Graham Clifton. Strictly speaking - by the Guild Rules - there were only three teams but they judged five.

The result was -

1st	Quainton
2nd	Branch Officers (we will do better next time)
3rd	Wing

- 4th St Scratch (really Bierton and Whitchurch)
 5th Aylesbury (morally if we overlook they rang 20 too few changes they were second).

Quanton became the first holders of the Frank Gibbard Trophy and will represent the Branch in the Guild Competition.

Finally, I do not think I have ever written so much, I am pleased to announce that there is life outside Central Bucks. On Saturday 8th October there is to be a joint meeting with the North Bucks Branch at Winslow. The meeting will also have a social side (I describe as a gathering - others may say a drink) All are welcome to our practices/meetings, the dates are below and details can be obtained from the officers (telephone numbers above).

July 9	6.30pm	Branch Practice -Haddenham
August 13	6.30pm	Branch Practice - Wing
September 10	6.30pm	Branch Practice - Long Crendon
October 8	6.00pm	Joint Practice with North Bucks Branch at Winslow, followed by a gathering.
October 15	2.30pm	Orchard Cup - Bledlow
November 12	3.00pm	Half Yearly Meeting - Aylesbury
December 10	6.30pm	Branch Practice - Bierton

Terry Wagstaff

CHIPPING NORTON BRANCH:- The Branch A.G.M. was held at Burford on May 14th. We welcomed 10 new members to the Branch including 7 from Hook Norton. All officers remain the same with the exception of the Deputy Ringing Master, into which office we welcome Keith Mitchell. We hope that Keith's expertise and personality will help the Branch. Ringing took place at Burford in the afternoon and Taynton in the evening.

In March an inscribed plate, installed in the tower of Hook Norton, was dedicated in memory of Cecil Sole.

After the first ever ladies quarter peal in the Branch lady ringers have met for a coffee evening and plans are being made for a practice and other events.

We are pleased to see Jean Datsun making good progress after one hip operation but she has got to have a second operation in July.

We welcome the arrival of Richard James, second son of Drs Martin and Cathy Elliott. A Quarter Peal in honour of the baby was rung at Chipping Norton where mother and baby met the ringers beforehand.

Ken Wakefield

Branch Practices:- Aug.6 Kingham 7.00 - 8.30pm
 Sep.3 Charlbury 7.30 - 9.00pm

CHILTERN BRANCH:- Our Annual Pub Games Evening was held on 26th March and the evening was once again a social and financial success. The teams this year included visitors from Central and East Berks and South Bucks Branches and the challenge shield was won by Little Missenden.

The Branch A.G.M. was held at Weston Turville on 16th April. The Rev. Nick Maloney delivered an interesting and thought provoking sermon during evensong on the part we as ringers play in the life of the Church and this was much enjoyed by those present. After an excellent tea the meeting itself was held. All the Branch Officers were re-elected with the exception of Roy Woodruff who stood down as Branch Representative. Jim Richardson filled this vacancy.

At Ellesborough Les Floyd is to be congratulated on teaching another band after many of the local ringers had left for various reasons. We wish him every success and hope that his hard work will bear fruit for many years to come.

The bells of Stoke Mandeville have been silent for some six years after continued deterioration in their condition left them virtually unringable. In view of this lapse of time an approach was recently made to the P.C.C. in the hope that they may be restored. By coincidence it transpired that the quinquennial survey had just been made on the church and the P.C.C. had asked for a full bellhanger's

report to be made on the installation. Discussions are now taking place between the Branch, the P.C.C., the architect and the bellhanger and it seems likely that the outcome will be a restoration project involving D.I.Y. and professional work under professional supervision. Hopefully it will not be too long before the Branch has three ringable eight-bell towers for the first time.

John White

EAST BERKS AND SOUTH BUCKS BRANCH:- The Branch Secretary is now :-

Mr John Martin,
59, Beechwood Gardens,
Slough, Berks.SL1 - 2HP

NEWBURY BRANCH:- The Branch car outing on March 12th proved to be an enjoyable day for all those who came along. Ringing was at six towers on the outskirts of London. Special practices for towers have continued to be successful. They have been held at a number of towers, each one based on a particular method. These have been organised to give the local band extra help and have been reasonably well attended. It was pleasing to see four teams entering the Annual Branch Striking Competition, especially the team from the only recently formed Midgham band. The judges commented that all the ringing had been creditable. The winners, Newbury, go on to represent the Branch in the Guild 6 Bell Competition at Bradwell in October. The day continued at Chieveley with tea, some evening ringing and finally a skittles match. The most recent social event in the Branch has been a rounders match/Barbeque. The weather was ideal for the barbeque, but playing rounders was hard work. Nevertheless everyone agreed that it had been a very successful evening, a total of £37.39 being raised for the O.D.G. Bell Fund.

Diane Clarke

NORTH BUCKS BRANCH:- Following the Branch A.G.M. in March two very successful competitions have been held in the Branch. On the 8th April 10 teams took part in the learners competition at Stowe, my congratulations to Emberton "A". This was followed by the Branch six bell at Woughton where 9 teams took part, and Newport Pagnell will go forward to the Guild Final, which is being held at Bradwell, and hopefully lift the cup for the Branch. We had a less auspicious entry to the Guild 8 Bell Competition, but we nearly had two teams entered and most branches do not even enter. The number of ringers taking part in these competitions and the number of different towers represented can only be taken as a very healthy reflection on the current state of ringing within the Branch and long may it last. I would like to make one appeal which is a repeat of the one I made at the A.G.M. Two of the most important responsibilities of the Branch as a whole is the education of new and existing ringers, and the maintenance of our bells. The officers tackle these problems under two sub-committees which meet on a regular basis to report, discuss and plan action. What is needed is new faces and new ideas; you do not even have to attend the meetings as long as you can provide some input. Remember education and maintenance of our bells are very closely linked. How many people can splice a broken rope, correct a very odd struck bell, or replace a broken stay? Have we all been to see the bells we ring? Our responsibilities do not stop with regular attendance to ring on Sundays. We individually and collectively have a responsibility to preserve and maintain our very valuable heritage.

From Branch News Letter Editorial. David Phillipson.

OLD NORTH BERKS BRANCH:- The Branch A.G.M. was held at Drayton in May. The afternoon started with ringing followed by the Guild Service conducted by the Vicar of Drayton; our preacher was the Rev. Ivor Marsh from Letcombe Regis. This was followed by an excellent tea provided by the ladies of Drayton. At the meeting we elected a new Chairman, Bernard Stone of Appleton, and also a new Branch Ringing Master, Michael Harrison, also of Appleton. Thanks were given to both our retiring Chairman and also the retiring Ringing Master. A grant of £50.00 was given to All Saints, Didcot whose 3 bells have been rehung in a

newly strengthened tower at a cost of £17,000.00.

During the Whitsun holidays we took 14 of our very young ringers on a trip around 5 towers in the Reading-Newbury area. They all enjoyed the day's outing and we learned a little more about different towers and bells.

After the Branch practice in June we visited Helen and Jim Diserens' garden for a barbecue. Although it was a cold evening 36 members attended and a profit of £45.00 was made for the Guild Bell Fund.

Last year we rang at the five towers on the route of the St. Birinus Pilgrimage. This was much appreciated by the walkers and we hope to repeat this again for this year's pilgrimage on July 3rd.

The Branch has lost through death one of its oldest members, Ernie Garrard of Wallingford.

Len Cox

The two new Trebles at Sutton Courtenay were dedicated on Palm Sunday; the bells at Marcham were removed from the tower during the first week of April and Cunnor bells were lowered during the last weeks of June.

East Hagbourne have raised the money necessary for the new clappers that they need.

Branch News Letter

OXFORD CITY BRANCH:—The Oxford City Branch entered the 8 Bell Striking Competition for the first time this year. There was a slight panic when two of the team failed to arrive on time but fortunately two other Branch members stood in at the last minute. It was very satisfying to be awarded second place in one of the semi-finals. However, in the final, things went badly wrong and our team failed to be placed. I think it was a good experience and a few lessons were learnt for future years.

The Branch 6-Bell Striking Competition took place at Horsepath on Saturday 14th May. Six teams entered the competition and the judge, Mark Gill, commented on the high standard of all the teams. He awarded St. Giles first place and Kidlington second place. Other teams taking part were St Aldates, North Hinksey, Cowley and Marston. Thirty-seven members attended the half yearly meeting at North Hinksey on Saturday 11th June. It was a great pleasure to have the Deputy Master, Anne Carpenter, present at the meeting. As ever the North Hinksey ringers provided an excellent tea and made everyone extremely welcome. The main topic of discussion was the ways in which the Branch funds could be improved. Lack of funds restricted the various activities of the Branch. Hugh Deam reported that he and Eddie Smith had raised £26.00 that morning from a table top sale at the Marston June Fair.

On 18th June St. Giles ringers held their annual outing and this year visited Northamptonshire. The tour included visits to Daventry, Weedon, Nether Heyford, Northampton, Easton Neston and Kings Sutton. The tour was extremely well organised, well attended and everything went according to plan. The same could not be said about a ringing tour from Chesterfield visiting Oxford on the same day. They became inextricably stuck in traffic jams in and around the city and arrived over an hour late at one of the towers. Needless to say the person waiting to meet them had long since gone home!

Roy Goodwin.

Oxford University v Oxford City Branch v Oxford Society - Skittles Match

This year's match transpired into being arguably the most titanic struggle ever in the annals of this competition, carrying with it wildly fluctuating fortunes throughout the four rounds and all three teams leading at one stage of the proceedings. The closeness is evident in that at no point was any team more than a painful from assuming the lead. The hypothetical "Gold Award" would have unquestionably gone to Melanie Tribble for the City Branch with her top score of the evening (14) and highest overall average that saw the City Branch home by two points.

O.C.B. 272 O.U.S. 270 O.S. 268

Barn Dance, Saturday April 23 - John Radcliffe Hospital :- The clear sign of success in a strenuous and enjoyable evening being had by all was in that no one was seen to be leaving with anything other than a satisfied expression on their face. For this it is testimony to the solid work put in by Len Porter and the small band of volunteers on the day. Though it has to be said that the balloons garlanding the

walls did not enjoy the conclusion to the evening as they succumbed to a mass stomp-in, or rather stomp-on.

Spring Tour '88 - It was the turn of Birmingham to experience the dubious pleasure of an Oxford City Branch excursion. Once we dug the coach out of the snow and fended off a stream of London bound boarders we made surprisingly good time. Visiting Shirley, Solihull, Kings Norton, Harborne and Selly Oak, and in spite of the low turnout of merely 25 ringers the actual standard of ringing transpired to be easily the highest in recent memory.

Hugh Deam

READING BRANCH:- After acting as Branch News Letter editor Lynda Smith resigned at the Branch A.G.M. As no one could be found to undertake the work Bobbie May has said she will act as editor once more until a new editor can be found. Ruth Groves (18) daughter of Bernard rang her first peal at Bucklebury on 23rd April. Naomi Lewis conducted her first peal at Marston (4 minor) on 20th February and for her 15th Birthday on 30th April conducted Yorkshire S.Major at Hungerford. The Branch outing took place on 11th June, visiting Tonbridge, Maidstone (St. Michael), Bearsted, Hollingbourne and Leeds. A well organised day arranged by Paul Butler of Reading University.

Eunice Wark.

At the Branch A.G.M. there was an application for a grant from the Bell Fund towards work to be done at St. John's Mortimer. A moving beam has curtailed ringing at that tower. As a result ring at Mortimer has been mainly at St. Mary's. Those of you who read the Evening Post on April 9th might have been forgiven for thinking the fairies had made off with Tilehurst bells and left a ring of flower pots in their place. Why else would ringers be complaining of having to ring a 50lb Tenor? However apart fromit did bring into focus a problem which seems to be endemic in the Branch at the moment - a shortage of experienced heavy bell ringers. At the moment members are down to about 14, which puts quite a strain as Tilehurst is now starting on the three weddings-per-Saturday treadmill. Practices are at 7.30 on Wednesdays. .. Hopefully your presence could enable them to ring Major on a more regular basis. Most of the 'heavy' works done by Jo and Eunice, which you will appreciate can only be done for limited periods. Shinfield are enjoying brighter times at the moment, though its been hard work since the loss of six Cambridge ringers only about three years ago. They have crept back up since then. On a good practice night, with help from Helen, Norwich is the pinnacle of their achievements.

Despite its falling numbers, Tilehurst still manages to be the Guild's leading quarter-peal tower and presents a wide and interesting range of methods. Caversham has also been busy with 17 and has produced 2 first quarter pealers, as has Nettlebed. More advanced ringing has been produced at St. Laurence including Stedman Cinques and Cambridge Maximus: most important, the quarters demonstrate that much teaching is going on in the Branch, with all towers being well-used, with ringing at all levels.

Branch News Letter

SONNING DEANERY BRANCH:- The Branch 6 Bell Striking Competition was held on Saturday, 16th April at Warfield. 12 teams participated, representing 11 towers. The competition was judged by Bill Birmingham and Arthur Newton.

Results:- 1st Wokingham A - 31½ faults 2nd Easthampstead A - 39 faults
3rd Warfield - 45 faults

The elementary 8 bell method ringing practices continue at Twyford on the first Friday of each month. They are an excellent opportunity to practice Plain Bob and Grandsire on seven or eight bells. Experienced ringers are also very welcome to ensure a good standard of ringing is maintained.

St. Paul's Wokingham - The bells arrived back on 22 April and were blessed in the at the Parish Communion on the following Sunday. Work of rehanging started in earnest on Tuesday 26th April. The bell hanger, Phillip Jakeman had completed his work after two weeks. All that remained to do was to complete rebuilding the ringing chamber ceiling and place the rope holes directly under the pulleys. The five, six and seven

have all been drawn to create the circle, previously done by the rope guide. Moving the holes in the guide was hard work as each was held by three screws with heads too rusty to use a screwdriver. Opportunity was also being taken to repaint the ringing chamber. In the meantime the steeple jacks arrived on the 12th May to finish their work of repointing and reinstalling the cock. They covered the bells in large tarpaulins which were very necessary with the amount of sand we found lying on the frame we had so carefully painted. Well I will not complain because the spire repairs gave us four extra months to do all the work that was required and we certainly needed it. If any of you want to have a look at the bells as they are now I will gladly show you round or you can wait until our Annual open day in July.

From Branch News Letter Hugh Baxter.

SOUTH OXON BRANCH:- Activities in the Branch have been fairly quiet except that it was our turn to host the Guild A.G.M. this year. We decided on Benson as the venue where the whole proceedings seemed to go very smoothly, thanks mainly to our super team of lady caterers.

We held our own Branch A.G.M. on 23rd April at Wheatley but whereas we usually hold a general practice at two towers, we departed from this, in that we held our six bell striking competition at great Haseley before the meeting and general ring at Wheatley.

The competition was won by Aston Rowant who will represent the Branch at the Guild Competition.

The Branch officers are as last year except that Stan Day did not wish to continue as Master. Louise James and Fred Keen were elected as Joint Ringing Masters.

Cyril Lawrence

VALE OF WHITE HORSE BRANCH:- With one exception, nobody had any news for this edition. Coleshill, Faringdon, Hinton Waldrist, Stanford and Shrivvenham practise regularly; Buckland and Uffington whenever they can get enough together. Towers who close their own practices down on Branch Practice nights don't give full support to the Branch. Uffington are opening their Bell Restoration Fund officially on 9th Sept.

Anne Jones

St. Mary's ringers, Stanford in the Vale, managed to raise £150.00 by their sponsored silence. We sold all of the time, and had an offer from one gentleman to buy from 10.00pm to 9.00am, (it shows how much he likes the bells!). The tower needs a lot more work done than appeared at first, so we ran a Tombola stall at the Village Week-end Festival.

We had a response to an S.O.S. in the Village leaflet and we are now teaching two new ringers. We now occasionally ring Cambridge on practice nights, having gained a new ringer and his wife to the village, along with Tony Pullin who now has become almost part of the tower!

We are looking forward to the Branch Summer Outing, kindly organised by Anne Jones and are holding a tower Croquet and Barbeque evening soon.

Anne Greenley

WITNEY AND WOODSTOCK BRANCH:- From Branch News Letter

Branch Chairman's comments:- At our A.G.M. on March 26th we elected our officers for the year. As a Branch we must be grateful to all who volunteer to work on our behalf. We welcome Judy Turvey as Branch Secretary and Charles Carrington as Branch Treasurer, and wish them well. The Branch no longer has a Ringing Master; instead three Joint Ringing Masters were elected - Brian Curtis, Jane Eagle, and John Harwood. I am sure that the new Joint Ringing Masters will do all that they can to encourage ringing within the Branch; their task is made easier by the good work of their predecessor, Jim O'Beirne (Jim's untiring efforts whilst in office have certainly benefited the whole Branch).

A special mention must be made of the retiring Secretary/Treasurer - Catherine Ross who managed to combine these two offices for a number of years. The efficiency and enthusiasm that Catherine gave to her duties is to be admired and appreciated. On behalf of the whole Branch I extend grateful thanks to Catherine for her hard work and dedication.

I am more than a little concerned at the lack of support given by the membership to the activities being organised by the Branch. In particular the Branch Practices..The Branch Practices are primarily for those struggling to get on. The Branch aims to visit every tower in the Branch once a year, in the hope that contact can be made with local ringers requiring assistance - it has long been recognised that many ringers are shy and nervous about visiting other towers (especially by themselves). Do try and attend the Branch Practices, particularly if your tower is the one being visited.

News from Woodstock;- We welcomed our new incumbent (Canon John D. Beckwith) with a peal on Saturday, February 6th - 5040 Plain Bob Triples in 2hrs 38mins. The P.C.C. at Woodstock has given the go ahead to the bell restoration project. Hopefully, the bells will be taken down at the end of the year (after Christmas). They will be re-tuned, and rehung with new fittings in a new metal frame for ten bells. The new Trebles will be added when funds allow and with money raised by the ringers themselves. So we are looking for potential donors. Fund raising for the restoration of the bells continues. We are planning to ring eight quarter peals in a day at Woodstock on Saturday, October 15th. Each Quarter peal will be sponsored - hopefully, by ringers, the church, the town, and friends. The Quarters will be rung by the same band of ringers; every Quarter being on a different bell. To make the event even more challenging eight different methods will be rung.

Ted Venn

Branch Ringing details:- We are compiling a list of ringing times within the Branch. It would be most helpful if all tower correspondents could provide me with details of Sunday ringing as well as when practices are held. In addition, it would be most useful if the replies could give an indication of what is rung on practice night; also the name, address and telephone number of the tower correspondent. Please give me this information by the end of July.

Like a lot of towers your practices may be short of one or two experienced ringers, making progress impossibly slow. Whilst the Branch cannot provide many helpers, it may be possible to direct Branch Members to towers where help is needed - though such assistance may only be available for short periods of time or at regular intervals. Do let me know if your tower would like some assistance, and tell me what it is you are trying to learn.

Judy Turvey Stonesfield 492

EAST BERKS AND SOUTH BUCKS BRANCH:- Well done the three EBSB bands who were placed 1st, 2nd and 4th in the 8-Bell Competition. Unfortunately, Wokingham crept in at 3rd place to prevent a Branch "Grand Slam".

Branch Cricket Match against Sonning Deanery - Not such a good result for the Branch in the cricket match on 4th June. On a weather affected day and pitch Sonning Deanery managed to score 95 for 6 in 20 overs and EBSB scored 67 for 7 in their innings. The Social Secretary thanks all those who turned out to play for the Branch and especially Pat Newton who provided a splendid tea for both teams.

Branch 6-Bell Striking Competition - The 6-Bell Competition was held at Chalfont St. Giles on 11th June. The Judges were Roger and Kath Baldwin from Bushey. Six Teams entered and were placed: 1st. High Wycombe 'A' (50F), 2nd. Slough (65), 3rd. Beaconsfield (67), 4th. Chalfont St Giles (80), 5th. Amersham (82), 6th. High Wycombe 'B' (132). So High Wycombe 'A' goes through to the Guild final on 1st October. Many thanks to the judges and to Jean Kelly and her team who provided tea for us.

News Sheet- Please send any news, short articles or snippets or if anything happens in your tower to John Martin, 59, Beechwood Gardens, Slough Berks SL1 - 2HP. Tel. Slough 24269. Written copy would be appreciated.

John Martin

SONNING DEANERY BRANCH cont.;- The address of the Branch Secretary is:-

Mrs Katrina Cappleman,
57, Maddingly,
Birch Hill, Bracknell Berks.

Telephone Bracknell 426695

DIARY OF EVENTS -cont.

Oct.				
8	Central Bucks & N.Bucks	Joint Practice at Winslow followed by social gathering		
13	Reading	BP	South Stoke	7.30pm
15	Chiltern	½ly Meeting	Bledlow	
	Chiltern	SC Orchard Cup		2.30pm
	C.Bucks	SC Orchard Cup	Bledlow	
	Sonning	BP	Sandhurst	7.00pm
	ONB	Barn Dance	Appleton	
	Banbury	½ly Meeting	Adderbury	
21	N.Bucks	BP	Newton Longville	
22	EBSB	SC Lorna Newton Cup	Chalfont St Peter	
	EBSB	½ly Meeting	Chalfont St.Peter	
	EBSB	BP	Chalfont St Peter	
26	Finance and General Purposes Sub-Committee Radley 7.30pm			
29	S.Oxon	Autumn Meeting	Shabbington and Long Crendon	to be confirmed
Nov.				
4	N.Bucks	BP	Simpson	
5	Chipping Norton	BP	Ascott-under-Wychwood	7.30pm
9	Reading	BP	Whitchurch	7.30pm
12	C.Bucks	½ly Meeting	Aylesbury	3.00pm
	ONB	BP	Harwell	7.00pm
16	Towers and Belfries Committee Meeting Radley 7.30pm			
18	N.Bucks	BP	Bletchley	
19	Sonning	BP	Hurst	7.00pm
	Chiltern	BP	Monks Risborough	
26	Guild General Committee Meeting			
	EBSB	BP	Burnham	6.30pm
	S.Oxon	BP	Lewknor	6.30-8.30pm
Dec.				
3	N.Bucks	Quarterly Meeting and Christmas Social		
	Chipping Norton	BP	Shipton-under-Wychwood	7.30pm
10	C.Bucks	BP	Bierton	6.30pm
	ONB	BP	Hagbourne	7.00pm
	Oxford	AGM	Headington	
14	Reading	BP	Reading- St Giles	7.30pm
16	N.Bucks	BP	Hanslope	
17	Sonning	BP	Finchampstead	7.00pm
	Chiltern	BP	Aston Clinton	
	EBSB	BP	High Wycombe	6.30pm

Facts and Figures cont.

D.N.C.B. Major. Did the 8-Bell striking competition have something to do with the spate of Quarter peals in this method?

Engagement Quarters. At Ludgershall Valerie East conducted her own engagement quarter peal.

Two quarter peals were rung for the engagement of Tony Pullan and Nicola Jones-at Wokingham and Stanford-in -the - Vale.

Cheddington -28 April 2 Doubles for Julia Trott and Jonathon King.

Half Muffled Quarter- Sally Franklin called her first quarter at Stonesfield with an all Stonesfield band -in memory of Stanley Woodward.

Deddington - The local band on 11 May rang the first quarter on the rehung bells.

North Hinksey- 24 April 11 Doubles methods. The first by all the band except for Norah Nicholls who rang in the multi - method doubles peal conducted by Alan Pink.

3 - 10 Bells- A quarter peal band based on the Oxford Witney area rang in on day - 21 May quarter peals on all numbers from 3 - 10.

D I A R Y O F E V E N T S

July

1	North Bucks	BP	Stoney Stratford	
2	Guild Festival		Dorchester-on Thames	
	Guild Barn Dance		Appleton	
	Chipping Norton	BP	Leafield	7.30p.m
5	Chiltern	SP	Aston Clinton	7.45-9.00pm
9	C.Bucks	BP	Haddenham	6.30pm
	ONB	BP	Steventon	2.30pm
			Milton	3.30pm
			Hanney	4.30pm
	Reading	BP	Checkendon	
15	N.Bucks	BP	Leckhampstead	
16	Sonning	BP	Shottesbrook	7.00pm
	Chiltern	BP	Edlesborough	6.30-8.30pm
23	EBSB	BP	Denham	6.30pm
27	VofWH	BP	Shellingford	
29	N.Bucks	BP	Loughton (Special Methods)	
30	S.Oxon	BP	Chalgrove	6.30-8.30pm
	Bicester	BP	Middleton Stoney	6.30-8.30pm

Aug.

4	Chiltern	SP	Bledlow	7.45-8.30pm
5	N.Bucks / Bedford	BP	Twyford, Bucks	
6.	Chipping Norton	BP	Kingham	7.00pm
	N.Bucks	Joint Meeting with Bedford Assoc.	Stagsden and Olney	
	W&W	BP	Stonesfield	7.45pm
10	Reading	BP	Englefield	
13	C.Bucks	BP	Wing	6.30pm
	ONB	BP	Wantage	7.00pm
15	N.Bucks	BP	Calverton or Beachampton	
20	Sonning	BP	Barkham and Arborfield	
	Chiltern	BP	West Wycombe	6.30-8.30pm
27	EBSB	BP	Lane End	6.30pm

Sept.

3	Newbury		Branch Outing	
	N.Bucks		½ly Meeting Hanslope and Haversham	
	Chipping Norton	BP	Chrlbury	7.30pm
6	Chiltern	SP	Aston Clinton	7.45-9.00pm
10	C.Bucks	BP	Long Crendon	6.30pm
	ONB	SC & ½ly Meeting	Aston Tirrold	
	Reading	SC	Padworth	
16	Sonning	SC & BP	Easthampstead	
	Chiltern	BP	Slapton	6.30-8.30pm
	EBSB		Coach Outing	
23 -25	EASTHAMSTEAD RINGING COURSE			
24	VofWH		½ly Meeting Ashbury & Shrevenham	
	EBSB	BP	Amersham	6.30pm
	S.Oxon	BP	Berrick Salome	6.30-8.30pm
30	N.Bucks	SP	Newport Pagnell	

Oct.

1	GUILD 6-BELL STRIKING COMPETITION		North Bucks	
	Chipping Norton	BP	Chipping Norton	7.30pm
7	N.Bucks	BP	Stowe	
	BRANCH SECRETARIES' MEETING		RADLEY	7.30pm
8	Newbury	AGM		
	Chipping Norton		Autumn Meeting	
	ONB	BP	Sunningwell	2.30
			Radley	3.30
			Abingdon St Nicolas	4.30