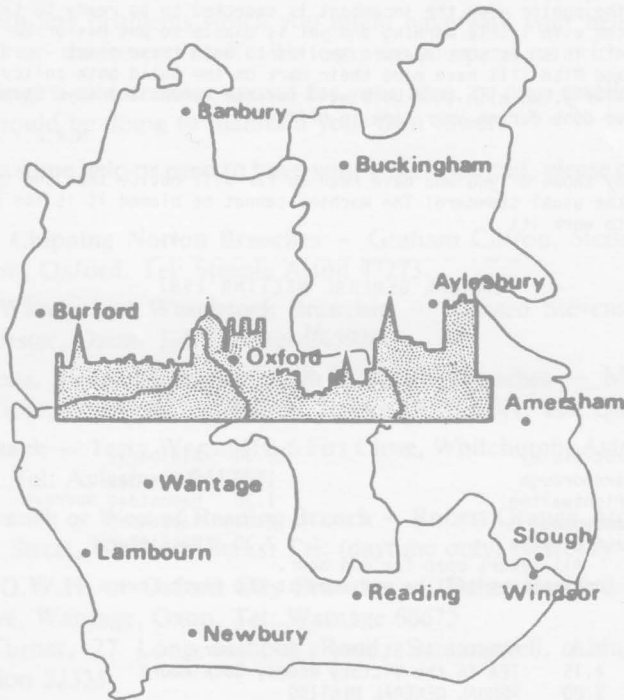


ODD BOB

Newsletter of the

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD



April 1987

ISSUE 12
21

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

This copy of ODD BOB contains important notices relating to the future of the Guild and its activities. There are notices about the Ringing Day, The Festival and the Annual General Meeting. It is to the latter that I particularly refer.

We have to elect both a new Deputy Master and a Steward to cover the south-ern Branches.

Henry Lawrenson has intimated that he will not be seeking re-election as Deputy Master and Mike Till is leaving the Diocese so has resigned as a Steward. Both these offices are concerned primarily with 'people' and the relationship of the Guild not only with its own members but with the Church and the Public at large.

As Deputy Master Henry Lawrenson has proved himself to excel in these fields; he has shown wisdom and sound judgement in difficult matters; a willingness to listen to other peoples' problems - be they large or small; and above all he has a sense of humour which has saved many a situation. Both he and Mike Till are recognised for their ringing ability and respected for it. We shall miss their sound common sense.

Peter Saddleton writing in the Sonning Deanery News Letter notes "The post of deputy ringing master is probably the least appreciated job among the officers. Seldom in the public view, the incumbent is expected to be ready to take over when needed, often with little warning and yet is unable to put his or her own ideas into action". This, in some measure applies to both these posts - yet both Henry Lawrenson and Mike Till have made their mark on the Guild both policy-wise and administratively. We wish them both well for the future and say "Thank for all that you have done during your time in office".

M.R.C.

Already those of you who have read so far will notice that the typing is not up to the usual standard! The machine cannot be blamed it is the person who has tried to work it!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1987

At

BUCKLEBURY, BERKSHIRE

on

SATURDAY 16th MAY 1987

10.00	East Ilsley	12.30	Kintbury
10.30	Farnborough	1.00	Chieveley
11.00	Brightwalton	1.30	Hampstead Norreys
11.30	Lambourne	2.00	Yattendon
12.00	East Garston	2.30	Bucklebury

All Towers open for one hour.

Any changes will be notified at the first towers.

3.30 SERVICE at St Mary's Bucklebury
4.15 TEA in the Victory Rooms, Bucklebury
5.00 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

7.00 - 8.00 Thatcham AND Midgeham
7.30 - 8.30 Beenham AND Speen

NAMES FOR TEA by SATURDAY, 9th MAY 1987 to: Mr. A.C. Woodville, 35 Epsom Crescent,
Greenham,
Newbury,
Berks RG 14 7TR

GUILD FACILITIES

The Guild promotes and encourages ringing in the Diocese. It does this by providing a variety of services which foster ringing and related interests.

The OBJECTS of the Guild as set out in the Rules are as follows:

- a) the encouragement of the attendance of its members both at service ringing and at public worship;
- b) the recruitment and training of new ringers, so that there may be regular service ringing in all the towers within the Diocese where the bells are ringable;
- c) the promotion of interest in the care of all the bells within the Diocese;
- d) the promotion of the art of Change Ringing and
- e) the recognition of the true position of ringers as Church workers.

In order to help carry out these Objects the Guild provides a variety of services as follows:

Towers and Belfries Committee. The Towers and Belfries Committee exists to help your tower with any problems which 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 for your area, or on a smaller scale, show you what you should be doing to maintain your own tower.

If you would like some help or need to have your bells inspected, please contact one of the following:

Banbury or Chipping Norton Branches – Graham Clifton, Stedman Cottage, Steeple Aston, Oxford. Tel: Steeple Aston 47273.

Witney or Witney and Woodstock Branches – Richard Stevens, 19 Thames Avenue, Bicester, Oxon. Tel: Bicester 243920.

Central Bucks, North Bucks or North E.B.S.B. Branches – Mark Dobson, 6 Cautley Close, Quainton, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 4BN. Tel: Quainton 216.

Chiltern Branch – Terry Wagstaff, 6 Firs Close, Whitchurch, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 4LH. Tel: Aylesbury 641755.

Newbury Branch or West of Reading Branch – Robert Grange, c/o 8 St. Mary's Hill, Cheap Street, Newbury Berks. Tel: (daytime only) Newbury 42961.

O.N.B., V.O.W.H. or Oxford City Branches – Either Bernard Stone, 3 Bell Close, Grove, Wantage, Oxon. Tel: Wantage 66673
or Colin Turner, 27 Long Furlong Road, Sunningwell, Abingdon, Oxon. Tel: Abingdon 22335

Sonning Deanery Branch, East of Reading Branch, South E.B.S.B. Branch – Tony Pullan, 23 Cumberland Way, Wokingham, Berks RG11 9AY. Tel: Wokingham 793488

South Oxon Branch – Noel Bartlett, Wychelm, Chinnor Road, Aston Rowant, Oxon. Tel: Kingston Blount 51197

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN BELL FUND makes grants towards bell restoration. Any donations or assistance in fund raising will help this objective. Contact the General Treasurer, Brian Gatward, Grangewood, Mill Lane, Calcot, Reading RG3 5RS. Tel: Reading (0734) 413097.

BOOKS FOR SALE. At General Guild Meetings and some Branch Meetings you will find a travelling bookstall.

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. Tel: Oxford (0865) 65140.

EDUCATION In addition to the Easthampstead Ringing Course held in September, ringing courses will be arranged both at Branch or tower level. These can be one day courses or a series of evenings. Contact Marie Cross, 6 Radley Road, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 3PQ. Tel: Abingdon (0235) 20868.

The 8mm film 'Birth of a Bell' has been purchased by the Education Committee and 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 for tower open days, Public Libraries etc. Contact Ken Darvill, 3 Copners Way, Holmer Green, High Wycombe, Bucks. Tel: High Wycombe (0494) 713217.

The General Secretary is Tony Pullan, 23 Cumberland Way, Wokingham, Berks RG11 9AY. Tel: Wokingham (0734) 793488.

GUILD STEWARDS At the A.G.M. at Charlbury the Guild once again elected four Stewards. Last year only three people could be found who were willing to fill this office. As a result there has been a re-adjustment of the area they will serve. The Stewards are there not only to act as liaison between the General Guild and the members but also to serve the Branches in any way they can or you feel they can help.

Banbury / Bicester / Chipping Norton / Central Bucks Branches

J. Harris, 95 Buckingham Road, Bicester, Oxon OX6 7ES. Tel: Bicester 252098

Chiltern / North Bucks / Witney and Woodstock Branches

Mrs. A.M. Carpenter, 41 Napier Road, Crowthorne, Berks RG11 7EJ.
Tel: Crowthorne 775036.

Old North Berks / Oxford City / South Oxon / Vale of White Horse Branches

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

East Berks and South Bucks / Newbury / Reading / Sonning Deanery Branches

M. Till, 17 Qarrington Close, Thatcham, Berks RG13 4YE. Tel: Thatcham 66186

PUBLICITY - EXTRACTS FROM A PAPER READ BY THE HONORARY
GENERAL SECRETARY AT THE AUTUMN COMMITTEE MEETING

At the AGM in May, there were no nominations for the post of Publicity Officer. I wonder why members couldn't come up with a name or names?....

Whatever the reasons, the current position is, no Publicity Officer was elected.

Publicity provided at Guild level is of more general interest to its members but because of the size of the Guild and the number of members, publicity can be of more specific interest at Branch and Tower level. So it is to the Branches that my comments are really directed.

QUESTION: Why have a Publicity Officer?

Your Church does not have one, nor does the Diocese so why the Guild and its Branches? The objectives of the Guild are clearly defined in the Rule Book leaving the work of the Publicity Officer to:-

- Foster Service Ringing
- Encourage Recruitment
- Ensure the proper use of bells.

So the objectives of the Publicity Officer are:-

1. To act as a spokesman for ringing in general.
2. To assist branches and bands to communicate with their public.
3. To gather and pass on information about the work of the Guild and Branches to:-

- a) other members
- b) the Diocese
- c) the General Public.

a) Now communication with other members of the Guild exists at Guild Level via

ODD BOB, at Branch Level I have only seen 8 Branch News Letters from 15 Branches. Perhaps the Guild Officers are not on the mailing list, perhaps not all Branches produce newsletters? Obviously an area to work on.

b) There are good communications between the Guild and the Diocese, I can assure you the Bishops, Archdeacons and Deans know they are Guild Vice-Presidents. I write to them often enough. But is there Branch liaison between them and the clergy and P.C.C.s. We have to convince them of the value of the Branches and the work they do.

c) Finally, the General Public, how should ringers treat them? Their attitudes will include Hostility, Apathy and Ignorance, but we have to change that to Sympathy, Interest and Knowledge.

Hopefully, I have given you a very broad outline of how Publicity can work in our favour. It can sometimes work the other way. For example :-the Chesterfield Affair.

Publicity IS an area that can be expanded. It will need funding, but it will reap its rewards.

EDUCATION SUB-COMMITTEE

EASTHAMPSTEAD RINGING COURSE - There are still vacancies for this course. Application forms from Mrs B. May, 4, Halfacre Close, Spencers Wood, Reading RG7- 1DZ.

CENTRAL COUNCIL RINGING SCHOOL - HADLOW, KENT. July 24 - 26, 1987
The main tuition at the school is entitled "Teaching and Leadership in Ringing". Its objective is to educate tower captains and potential ones to carry out their teaching and management tasks effectively.
The Guild Education Committee is prepared to make grants to assist two members of the Guild who wish to attend. Would Branch Secretaries please bring this to the attention of members of their Branches. Applications for grants to the Hon. General Secretary of the Guild.

OXFORD DIOCESAN BELL FUND

REPORT OF THE MANAGING TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1986

The Managing Trustees met on two occasions in 1986 to consider grant applications finance and fund-raising.

GRANTS

Applications for grants were received from fifteen towers. One application which related wholly to augmentation, was not eligible. Four applications relating to work, which would not start before 1987, were deferred, but provisional allocations totalling £6,000 were provided for, and notifications sent to the towers that the provisional allocations would be reviewed when final details were available.

Grants totalling £8,950 were made to:- DEDDINGTON £2,250, BOYNE HILL £100, THORNBOROUGH £1,500, HITCHAM £1,300, EAST ILSLEY £100, DORCHESTER £2,250, SLOUGH £1,000, GARSINGTON £200, BLOXHAM £100 and WHEATLEY £150.

FUND RAISING

The sum of NEW MONEY raised in 1986 was £6,164 (£5,431 in 1985). Included in this sum was "DRAW PROFIT £992" (£900 in 1985) and "RINGING DAY PROCEEDS £325" (£200 in 1985).

The efforts of the organisers of, and the the contributors to BRANCH FUND RAISING is again gratefully acknowledged. In the forefront of this effort are the CHILTERN and the EAST BERKS & SOUTH BUCKS BRANCHES contributing per ringing member £5.96 and £5.98 respectively.

FINANCE

CAPITAL. During the year £3,000 was invested in C.O.I.F. and £5,000 was added to the Central Board of Finance Investment Account.

The total Capital at the 31st December 1986 was £58,052 of which £46,590 is represented by shares with a market value at that date of £77,359.

INCOME. Income for the year was £6,583, which added to the unallocated income at the 1 JANUARY 1986, enabled GRANTS of £8,950 to be made, leaving £3,471 on hand at the 31 DECEMBER 1986, against which Provisional Allocations of £6,000 have been made.

H. LAWRENSON.

MARCH GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING AND BELL FUND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

Had the meeting been held a week earlier in the Banbury Branch, attendance could well have been very low. There was little evidence of the previous Saturday's blizzard except on the gated road from Deddington where one Guild Steward encountered snow drifts. It was very springlike waiting outside the Village Hall at Swalcliffe, with local residents enquiring 'were the bells being rung for a wedding'.

The afternoons business got underway with the Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund AGM. The Chairman of the Managing Trustees reported 15 grant applications had been made. One was not eligible, four were deferred, the remainder being granted a total of £8,950 of which Deddington and Dorchester were allocated £2,250 each.

New money raised in 1986 was £6,164 which included £992 from the Draw Profit and £325 from the Ringing Day. The Chiltern and East Berks and South Bucks Branches were contributing £5.96 and £5.98 per ringing member to the Bell Fund.

The total capital at 31 December was £58,052 of which £46,590 is represented by shares with market value at that date of £77,359.

All of the Bell Fund Officers were re-elected unopposed:-

Chairman - Henry Lawrenson
Secretary - Ann Osborne
Treasurer - Brian Gatward
Additional Managing Trustees - Ron Thorne, Derek Fowler, Mark Dobson,
and Geoff Holden.

The Secretary reminded the Guild Members that as 1988 was a leap year, the sponsored quarter peal day was to be held on 13/14 February.

The Bell Fund AGM closed, all of the officers changed places and The Master got the General Committee Meeting underway.

The reports of the Sub-Committees were presented and accepted. All members were re-elected to their respective sub-committees. Vacancies on the Education and Towers and Belfries always exist and any specialist talents are always welcome. The Finance and General Purposes Sub-Committee had studied the 1986 Accounts closely, and warned members of the increase in expenditure in 1987. The Guild History was to be written off the Accounts and a greater effort to sell the stock was to be encouraged by reducing the price to £3.00 and advertising it to new members.

The Annual Report priced £2.00 [£2.25 incl.p&p] was to be available by the Guild AGM. Peal Fees were to remain unchanged at 15p per person.

The Treasurer was able to present to members an improved offer from the E.I.O. for Group Personal Accident Insurance Cover for a premium of 55p per member; benefits had doubled in some areas and restrictions had been clarified. The Meeting approved of its acceptance with effect from as soon as possible.

The Master reported that Mr. Henry Lawrenson would not be standing as Deputy Master at the A.G.M. Likewise Mr. Mike Till, Guild Steward, would not be seeking re-election. The Master reminded the meeting that the post of Publicity Secretary was still vacant.

Dates for the Diary:-

4 April - C.C. Restoration Funds Committee Seminar - Northampton
4 May - Guild Ringing Day and 6 - Bell Striking Competition -
Reading.
16 May Guild AGM - Bucklebury
4 July Guild Festival - High Wycombe

24-26 July C.C. Ringing School Hadlow
 25-27 Sept. Easthampstead Course
 3 Oct. Guild Six Bell Striking Competition - North Leigh
 17 Oct. C.C. Education Committee Seminar - Northampton
 28 Nov. Guild General Committee Meeting - Central Bucks Branch

After the meeting, a plentiful tea was served by the local ringers. The bookstall did a roaring trade with Anne Carpenter standing in for Bill Butler. The day ended with ringers sampling the bells and new staircase at Tadmarton. It's not like the old one!

Some of the Committee went on to the Oxford City Barn Dance - but that is another story.

Tony Pullen

EIGHT BELL STRIKING COMPETITION

READING

MONDAY, 4 May 1987

This year's Guild Eight Bell Striking Competition will be held at St. Mary's Church, Reading on Monday 4 May 1987, starting at 3.00 p.m. The competition is open to Branch and Tower Bands and normal Guild Striking Competition Rules will apply. The Test Piece will be 237 Grandsire Triples and is to be rung by all bands competing.

234567	1	2	3	4
352674	-	-	-	5
235674	-	-	-	-
325476	5	-	-	5

The Draw will be made in the week prior to the competition and captains/conductors will be notified of their times of ringing. Heats will be held, if necessary, at Wargrave and Sonning.

ENTRANCE FEE - £2.00, payable to Tower Steward on the day.

Entries to, and tea tickets [£1.00 each], are available from:-
 Mr. Henry Lawrenson, 52 Kings Road, Newbury, Berks, RG14 5RG.

NO TICKET - NO TEA

Closing Date: FRIDAY 24 April 1987

Tony Pullen

1987 RINGING DAY

This will be held on May Day Bank Holiday, Monday 4 May 1987 in the Reading Area. RINGING DAY TICKETS £3.00 EACH, will be available at the first towers of the day, or 30 per Tower

	<u>ROUTE 1</u>	<u>ROUTE 2</u>
10.00	Beenham	Checkenden
10.30	Englefield	South Stoke
11.00	Theale	Cholsey
11.30	Burghfield	Streatley
12.00	Ufton Nervet	Basildon
12.30	Padworth	Pangbourne
1.00	Mortimer St. John	Whitchurch
2.00	Mortimer S.M.V.	Tilehurst
2.30	Swallowfield	Mapledurham
3.00	Shinfield	Caversham
3.30	Arborfield	Shiplake
4.00	Finchamstead	Henley
4.30	Wokingham St. Paul	Nettlebed
5.00	Wokingham All Saints	Ewelme

5.30	Binfield	Berwick Salome
6.00	Twyford	Benson
6.30	Reading St.Giles	Warborough
7.00	Reading St Lawrence	Wallingford

All towers open for one hour. Any changes to towers or times will be advertised at the first towers of the day.

PROCEEDS TO THE OXFORD DIOCESAN BELL FUND

Tony Pullen

Joyce Vernon

ANALYSIS OF PEALS RUNG FOR THE GUILD IN 1986

Last year, for the first time, all the peals rung for the Guild were typed into a BBC Home Computer using a word processing package [Wordswis Plus].

The main reason for doing this was to ease the process of printing the peals in the Report. An added benefit, however, is that - using some programmes written by my husband - analysing the peal details can be achieved at the touch of a button!

As is typical of anything which becomes 'computerised' the temptation to produce vast quantities of statistics becomes very strong! For example, I have been able to print out a complete list of the 421 people who rang a peal for the Guild, in order of the number of peals rung - something which, if undertaken by hand, would have been a most daunting task!

Here are a selected few of the statistics produced from the peals rung for the Guild in 1986.

1. ANALYSIS BY NUMBER OF BELLS

	Tower Bells	Handbells	Total
Doubles	2	0	2
Minor	36	3	39
Triples	20	0	20
Major	112	22	134
Caters	8	1	9
Royal	25	13	38
Cinques	0	0	0
Maximus	11	8	19
Total 1986	<u>214</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>261</u>
Total 1985	181	47	228

2. LEADING PEAL RINGERS 1986

	Total Peals [of which on tower bells]	
1. Bernard Groves	61[28]	12 Andrew Deamer 32[31]
2. Robert Newton	60[33]	13. Henry Lawrenson 39[30]
3. Colin Turner	60[60]	14. Kevin Lucas 23[20]
4. Geoff Dodd	57[57]	15. Robert Crocker 22[22]
5. Patricia Newton	55[34]	16. Peter Bridle 22[22]
6. Bill Butler	53[52]	17. Jeff Birt 22[22]
7. Helen Piper	52[52]	18. John Martin 20[20]
8. Jennifer Butler	42[42]	19. Jean Darmon 20[0]
9. Michael Till	40[40]	20. Graham John 20[9]
10. Fred Scott	37[35]	21. Frank Rivett 20[20]
11. Alan Ainsworth	34[34]	

In all 421 different ringers rang a peal for the Guild in 1986, 416 rang

a tower bell peal. It is perhaps interesting to record that of these, almost half [207] rang only one peal. These figures do include non-residents but nevertheless they do indicate that peal ringing is not dominated by a small minority of fanatics, as is often suggested.

3. LEADING CONDUCTORS

	Total [on tower bells]
Bernard Groves	50 [20]
Bill Butler	36 [36]
Geof Dodd	20 [20]
Alan Ainsworth	15 [15]
Kevin Lucas	11 [9]
Robert Newton	10 [7]
John Wells	9 [9]
Tim Pett	8 [8]

Total Number of Conductors was 56

4. LEADING TOWERS

	Number of peals
Thatcham	33
Hungerford	16
Amersham	8
High Wycombe	6
Aldermaston	6
Witney	5
Shorditch	5
Wokingham All SS.	4
Bucklebury	4
Abingdon S. Helens	4

Total Number of Towers was 102 of which 82 are Guild towers.

Katharine Firman - Peal Secretary

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD HANDBELL DAY

The Handbell Day was held at Bray on February 14, 1987. Its purpose was to enable people who already had some Handbell ringing experience to ring with different people and to ring more advanced methods. There is need for this sort of occasion arising from the fact that Handbell Ringing is normally done privately; this means that one cannot progress on one's own initiative by visiting other bands as one can for tower bell ringing.

The day comprised of a combination of Quarter Peals and general ring. Seven Quarter Peals were attempted and all were successful. Almost every one rang at least one Quarter.

Special congratulations to:-

John Harrison)	First Handbell Quarter
Jonathan King	
Rachel Pusey)	First Quarter of Royal on handbells.
Kay Chamberlain)	
Jeff Birt)	
Susan Read)	First Quarter of Kent on Handbells
Jeff Birt)	
Kay Chamberlain)	
Patricia Newton	First Handbell Quarter as conductor.
Len Porter	First Handbell Quarter of Royal as conductor.

The general ringing enabled people to be more ambitious and most people took the opportunity to try something new in a variety of methods from Plain Bob Major to Cambridge Maximus and Little Bob 16-In.

Many thanks are due to the other conductors [Robert Newton, Bernard Groves and Ken Davenport, and to everyone who participated in the event.

Katharine Firman
Anne Carpenter

TWELVE BELL STRIKING COMPETITION

This year, for the first time, all the three twelve bell towers in the Diocese

took part in the heats of the Twelve Bell Striking Contest. Our congratulations to the Christ Church Cathedral Band on coming Fourth at Luton. This was the first time they had entered the contest. High Wycombe came Fourth at Bedford and Reading ninth at the same tower. With High Wycombe's past record perhaps one day we see all three in the Final!

OBITUARIES

HENRY (HARRY) HATFIELD It was with great regret that we heard of the death of Harry on Saturday 10th January 1987 at the age of 82 years. He learned to ring at St. Edburgh's Bicester and was elected a member of the Oxford Diocesan Guild in 1923.

During his early years as a ringer, he was to be found with some of his fellow ringers cycling to practices at local towers and helping beginners at the same time. He was always consistent in his attendance at Service ringing and on practice night. He was always cheerful and appreciated a good joke. Harry was elected tower captain in 1948 and resigned in 1966. During this period service ringing was well maintained.

Harry rang a number of peals but could not give an accurate figure since he knew that some of his early peals had not been recorded. He rang in the first peal by a local band on 20th November 1924--Grandsire Triples conducted by E.Hims.

Unable to ring during the last few years due to ill health Harry would come to Church and listen to the bells being rung at Morning Service when his health allowed. We shall miss his cheerful personality.

A peal of 5040 Stedman Triples was rung on Saturday 10th January 1987 in 2hrs 54 mins at Bicester Parish Church in fond remembrance of Harry Hatfield. After the funeral on 13th January, ringing friends from around Bicester met during the evening in the tower of the Parish Church. The bells were rung half-muffled as a last tribute to Harry.

William Woodford - Cuddington, William Woodford learned to ring at Dinton and joined the Cuddington band in 1953. He became tower captain in 1968 and retired shortly before his death.

BILL CORDEROY--Harwell. We were very sorry to hear of the death of Bill Corderoy shortly before the New Year. Bill was 87 years of age and was one of the founder members of the North Berks Branch (now O.N.B). After returning from service at the end of the First World War he learned to ring Church bells he joined the Guild when along with others from the local towers they made the first moves to form the North Berks Branch of the Guild. The Branch was formed that same year. For many years Bill served on the Guild Committee. For 25 years he was the very popular Tower Captain at Harwell. This was evident at his funeral when members of 10 local towers attended the Service.

It was always a pleasure to go to a Harwell practice, and no matter how good a ringer you were always made welcome and had a fair share in the ringing. Bill was one of the 'old country type gentlemen', and his witty remarks and good information will be greatly missed by all of us who had the pleasure of knowing him.

The muffled bells were rung as the funeral cortege left the church, and it was a pleasure to stand and listen to the well struck Quarter Peal of Grandsire Triples.

We have all lost a very dear friend, and we thank God for every remembrance of him. May he rest in peace.

Len Cox

A.W.COX --WITNEY. A.W. "Gussy" Cox will probably be best remembered as a master craftsman in the watch and clock trade rather than as a bellringer and his expertise was much sought after locally.

He learned to ring early in World War 1 and after war service in the Royal Air Force finished his apprenticeship locally in the watch trade, following which he went to work in London where he remained until the London Blitz forced his

return. He worked in local engineering until the end of hostilities, when he set up business in the town.

Gussy was a regular member of the local band when the ban was lifted and for many years following while a new band was being formed. For many years he was in charge of the church clock.

A Fellow of the British Horological Institute he passed peacefully away in the local hospital on 10th February, aged 86 and on Thursday 19th February the local band rang a half-muffled Quarter Peal of Grandsire Triples to his memory.

B.J.Coggins

FACTS AND FIGURES

Bill Butler and his band based on Thatcham successfully completed the 'Course of Month' peals during 1986 - ie ringing each of the 12 methods in the appropriate month. All the peals were conducted by Bill and all were scored at first attempt; five other ringers also rang them all - Jennifer Butler, Geoff Dodd, Helen Piper and Colin Turner.

Robert Bridle rang his first peal at the age of 12 - Cambridge Surprise Royal inside at Thatcham on January 3rd.

A peal was rung at Eynsham to mark Cliff Bennett's 60 years of ringing there.

Barry Wheeler rang his 'first as conductor' - Bob Major at Hungerford - with the added distinction of using a composition which he had composed himself.

On January 17th at Easthampstead Stan Scott and his son Graham rang their 100th peal together. Is this a first for the Guild?

Four of the local band rang in a peal of Grandsire Triples to celebrate one thousand years of worship in the village. It was the first peal for the tenor and the treble ringers.

On March 14th a Quarter Peal was rung at Stanton Harcourt in which three of the local Band took part.

A peal was rung by the Shrivenham Band at Alvescot as a farewell to David Bingham.

At All Saints Wokingham a Quarter Peal of Glasgow Surprise was rung on Dec. 18 1986. All but the were members of the local band. There were six firsts in the method.

At Caversham Ann Osborne and Roy T. Harris have rung together for twenty-five years.

The Pangbourne Band rang a farewell Quarter Peal for David Wesley who had rung at Pangbourne for over thirty years, and was moving to Weston, Bath.

OXFORD GUILD ANNUAL FESTIVAL AT HIGH WYCOMBE SAT. 4TH JULY

11.00 am Communion Service at All Saints High Wycombe.

This will be followed by a Buffet Lunch in the Oakley Hall, High Wycombe.

Ringling at local towers 9.00 - 10.30 am and 2.30 - 6.15 p.m.

Barn Dance at the Princes Risborough Community Centre at 6.30 p.m.

Tickets and further details available shortly.

NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

BANBURY BRANCH

The Banbury Branch held a Training Day during March. This was attended by members of the Branch and two from the South Oxon Branch.

BICESTER BRANCH

The Christmas Clown raised £33.60 for the Branch Bell Fund; an increase of £1.60 over last year.

The Bicester Branch News Letter Editor has said that she is willing to lend to members of the Branch tapes of the sound of English change ringing on Italian bells or 'concertos' and the programme on Peterborough's bells; and that they will return them with a 50p donation to Branch funds, of course.

CHIPPING NORTON BRANCH

A Quarter Peal was rung on the evening of the eightieth birthday of Ivor Harris tower captain at Chipping Norton. That was on 2nd January. Regretably he died on 3rd April.

OLD NORTH BERKS BRANCH

On 11th October a peal of Yorkshire Royal was rung at Appleton for the 125th Anniversary of the first peal on the ten bells. It was first in the method for six of the band.

At Blewbury a peal marked the end of the celebrations of 900 years of Christian witness in the Parish. It was a peal of Stedman Triples rung on 29th November. Cholsey also celebrated by a peal a millennium of worship in the village.

The Branch has lost one of its few remaining founder members by the death of William Corderoy of Harwell.

The New Year's Day ringing at Cumnor was a success and over £60 was collected for that tower's bell fund.

At Marcham the P.C.C. has undertaken to raise the money for bell work, together with the rebuilding of a gallery at the back of the church above the vestry and a children's room above the font. The total cost together with one or two other small jobs will cost £130,000.00. The old school at Garford has been sold for £60,000.00 and this has been given to the Church for the Vestry and Children's room. The P.C.C. will organise fund raising for the other £60,000.00. It is hoped to start work at Marcham almost at once.

The Branch hopes to organise ringing at all the towers on the route from Blewbury Downs to Dorchester Abbey on the occasion of the pilgrimage to that Abbey.

'Whether Report' by Barbara Payne from the O.N.B. News Letter.

'Whether there would be a March 4th. at all this year was the burning issue as the news spread that the Village Hall had burned down two days before the dinner. Sadly we lost the peal in the morning but everyone rallied around to make this year's dinner a success despite a last minute change of venue. A guest appearance by Banwell Fire Brigade and speeches and songs by residents and regular visitors contributed to one of the best March 4ths. ever. In addition well over £100 was raised by the visitors towards the Village Hall restoration. We thank our friends and look forward to future March 4ths. back where we belong.'

OXFORD CITY BRANCH

One might be excused for thinking that the attendances for the December A.G.M. of the Oxford City Branch are highly dependant on weather conditions and the state of the member's Christmas shopping list at this time of year. Not so. It seems that December is very favourable time to hold our A.G.M. and final meeting of the year. A time to wind up the business, settle the accounts, draw the curtains and wait for the dawn of the New Year.

I say all this simply because our December A.G.M.'s seem to be going from strength to strength and the meeting this year at St Gile's was no exception. Everyone made a special effort to attend. There was a fine delegation of Guild Officers and about sixty members in attendance. In particular I should perhaps mention Bernard Masterman who had only just been released from hospital after breaking his ankle. He arrived with his leg in plaster and clutching a walking stick.

Our Chairman, Basil Townsend, dealt efficiently with the considerable business agenda and managed to conclude the meeting in one hour.

All the Branch officers were re-elected for a further year.

Eleven members generously donated prizes for a raffle in aid of the Bell Fund and £20 was raised from this venture.

The highlight of the meeting was undoubtedly the result of the competition to design a Branch sweat shirt logo. A dozen imaginative entries had been submitted and the winning entry came from John Pusey. The Judges (the Branch Officers) agreed that John's clever incorporation of the City of Oxford Coat of Arms into a bell and wheel fully justified first place in the competition. His prize will be a free sweat shirt with the winning design. At the time of writing (March) the sweat shirts have been produced and you should see them around and be able to judge for yourself in the not too distant future. I must congratulate Hugh Deam and Len Porter for organising the competition.

During the meeting I was able to congratulate various other members on their success in arranging other activities throughout the year. All these I have mentioned in my Guild Report.

As I travelled home after the meeting I gratefully realised how much had been achieved in the past year by everyone participating and working together. Thank you, one and all

Roy Goodwin

READING BRANCH

Pangbourne have rung at least four sponsored Quarter Peals for their Church Roof Repair Fund. This involved eleven ringers.

It also appears that the Branch can now involve two of its clergy in its ringing activities.

CATY still continues to widen its activities not only territorially but also its activities. It visited East Anglia and rang eight Quarter peals. Nearer home it has taken to ringing two Quarter peals in a morning.

The skittle match between Newbury and Rading was an enjoyable but crowded evening and resulted in a win for Newbury -535 to 529.

Heather Szotkowski from Pangbourne is now at Sheffield and is taking an active part in University ringing. It is not often that one takes part in the ODG striking competition one month and in that of the Northern Universities the next.

SONNING DEANERY BRANCH

Congratulations to their News Letter Editor, Lynn Deering and her husband Mike on the birth of their son Robert James.

At the Branch A.G.M. Ken Lovell was elected Branch Ringing Master and Janet Menhinick the Deputy Ringing Master. Anne Carpenter is now the Branch Librarian and runs the Branch Book Shop.

St Paul's Wokingham bells will be removed in September for several months at the end of which they will be returned in restored condition and a bill for around £16,000 will need settling. The church has agreed to find half and the ringers must find the rest. The Branch has agreed to support them and agreed to a target of 30% of the amount.

At Christmas the Handbell Ringers from All Saints Wokingham raised £305 for Helen House, the Hospice for terminally ill children in Oxford. They visited a dozen pubs in and around Wokingham.

The Barn Dance held on St Valentine's Day was a great success.

Binfield Church is once more in use after extensive repairs which fortunately did not hinder the weekly practice night.

READING BRANCH cont. (from Spring News Letter)

Tilehurst bells were heard for the first time on Christmas Eve following three months maintenance work on the spire. The ringers did not remain silent over this time as they were allowed the use of Englefield bells for weekly practices, thanks to the kind permission of the Vicar and ringers. While the scaffolding was conveniently placed in and around the tower, it was decided to install sound control for the benefit of the local inhabitants.

Congratulations to Heather on being a member of the winning Sheffield team in the Northern Universities Competition.

CATY finally rang four quarters on eight bells in one day, have expanded their repertoire to include various doubles methods and a quarter peal of Middlesex Triples at Checkenden. Four members rang over sixty quarter peals during 1986.

SOUTH OXON BRANCH

We regret to say that Roy Fuller, our chairman, is moving to Sussex later on this year. He will be sorely missed, both as Chairman and as organiser of our May Bell Ringing Week-end and Summer Outing.

Benson held their yearly Barn Dance on 14th March which was, as usual, very enjoyable. They raised £165 and donated £100 to Benson Church Tower Fund and the balance of £65 to the Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund.

Wheatley have a very enthusiastic band that are in the throes of plain hunt and Bob Doubles. They were very pleased to have the help of Anne Carpenter & Son who travelled from their home in Berkshire (a considerable journey) whilst Marie Cross was in America. They are making steady progress and no less than five of them are hoping to go to Easthampstead.

~~Borchesters~~ The bells are undergoing major restoration, the work being carried out by Whites of Appleton and Whitechapel. The time span is four months and they hope to be ringing again in July.

We are holding a six-bell striking competition later this year, the first for some 5-6 years. Our AGM will be at Benson on 25th April with evening ringing at Ewelme. -see the Ringing World for details.

Cyril Lawrence.

VALE OF WHITE HORSE

The Branch continues to hold a regular monthly practice during the last week of the month. These practices are held on the practice night of the tower involved.

Branch Practices 1987

Mon. April 27	Buckland	7.30 - 9.00 p.m.
Thurs. May 28	Hinton Waldrist	7.30 - 9.00 pm
Tues. June 30	Coleshill	7.30 - 9.00 p.m.
Tues. July 28	Stanford-in-the-Vale	7.30 - 9.00p.m.
Sat. Sept 26	Half Yearly Meeting	- Uffington

Branch Outings

Sat. July 11	Worcester
Sat. Oct. 17	Venue not fixed

Anne Jones

WITNEY AND WOODSTOCK BRANCH

A remarkable event took place at Eynsham on January 4th 1987; a peal was rung at the Church of St. Leonard. Remarkable for two reasons; this was only the second peal ever to have been rung on these bells (the first in 1927); and the present occasion was the celebration of 60 years of ringing at Eynsham of the present Tower Captain, Cliff Bennett, who, incidentally has been a Guild member since 1927. The peal of Minor Methods was rung by members of the Branch and friends, and conducted by Ted. Venn. A service of celebration for ringers and friends and relations of Cliff's, was held at St. Leonard's Church. This was followed by a splendid tea, of which the centre piece was a magnificent cake. It was good that the Master of the Guild was able to be there, and to give an address during the Service, in which he complimented Cliff on achieving the difficult task of keeping the bells ringing Sunday by Sunday for so long.

The Branch held its second Carol Service just before Christmas, this time at Alvescot, unfortunately on a wet and unpleasant evening, which meant that the attendance was not as good as the previous year. However, those who were there enjoyed the Service, the ringing, and the excellent refreshments provided by the Alvescot ringers and friends. This seems likely to become an annual event.

The latest Branch Practice (in February) seemed to bear out the theory that practices which take in 2 or 3 towers are the most popular: 25 people filled the ringing chamber at Church Hanborough, and proved impossible to fit into the very small tower at Freeland: at Witney there was plenty of space, and though numbers had thinned by then it was an enjoyable and useful practice.

Catherine Ross

Once again this Branch had a full and varied programme which included not only those things mentioned by Catherine Ross but the following: - A walking /ringing outing in the Cotswolds, a Branch Ringing Day for Beginners, a Barn Dance, a Treasure Hunt and a Branch Dinner. (from the News Letter)

PLEASE MAY I HAVE SOME NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES MISSING THIS TIME FOR 'ODD BOB!

USEFUL ADDRESSES

- The Master - R.A.Thorne, 3 Broad Gap, Banbury, Oxon OX15-4DE
Tel. Banbury 62476
- Hon. Gen. Secretary - A.G. Pullen, 23, Cumberland Way, Wokingham, Berks, RG11-9AY
Tel. [0734] 793488
- Hon. Gen. Treasurer - B.J. Gatward, Grange Wood, Mill Lane, Calcot, Reading,
RG3-5RS. Tel. Reading 413097
- Peal Secretary - Mrs K. Firman, 8, Crescent Drive, Maidenhead, Berks. SL6-6AQ.
- The Stewards - The names and addresses of these will be found in 'ODD
BOB' June 1986as will be those of both the Education
Sub Committee and the Towers and Befries Committee.

DIARY OF EVENTS FOR THE NEXT THREE MONTHS

May				
1	N. Bucks	BP	Leckhampstead	
2	C. Norton	BP	Ascott-under Wychwood	
4	GUILD 8 BELL STRIKING COMPETITION		St. Marys Reading	
	GUILD OPEN DAY		READING BRANCH	
9	O.N.B	AGM	Brightwell	
	C. Bucks	AGM	Marsh Gibbon	3.00pm
	C. Norton	AGM		
15	N. Bucks	BP	Olney	
16	GUILD AGM		Bucklebury	
	Sonning	BP	Easthampstead	7.00pm
	Chiltern	BP	Monks Risborough	6.30pm
23	S. Oxon	BP	Lewknor	6.30pm
	EBSB	BP	Wraysbury	6.30pm
28	VWH	BP	Hinton Waldrist	7.30pm
June				
6.	C. Norton	BP	Churchill	7.00pm
	N. Bucks	$\frac{1}{2}$ ly	Buckinham	
13	Oxford	$\frac{1}{2}$ ly	Marsh Balden	
	C. Bucks	BP	Bierton	6.30pm
	EBSB	SC	Winkfield	
	ONB	BP	?	
19	N. Bucks	BP	Gt Brickhill	
20	Sonning	BP	Hurst	7.00pm
	Chiltern	BP	Bledlow	6.30 pm
27	S. Oxon	BP	Ewelme	
30	VWH	BP	Coleshill	7.30pm
July				
3	N. Bucks	BP	Newton Longville	
4	GUILD ANNUAL FESTIVAL		High Wycombe	
	GUID BARN DANCE		Princes Risborough	
	C. Norton	BP	Leafield	
11	C. Bucks	BP		
	ONB	BP		
17	N. Bucks	BP	Shalstone	
18	Sonning	BP	Wokingham All	SS. 7.00pm
	Chiltern	BP	Ellesborough	6.30pm
25	S. Oxon	BP	Shabbington	6.30pm
	EBSB	BP	Windsor	6.30pm
28	VWH	BP	Stanford in theVale	7.30pm