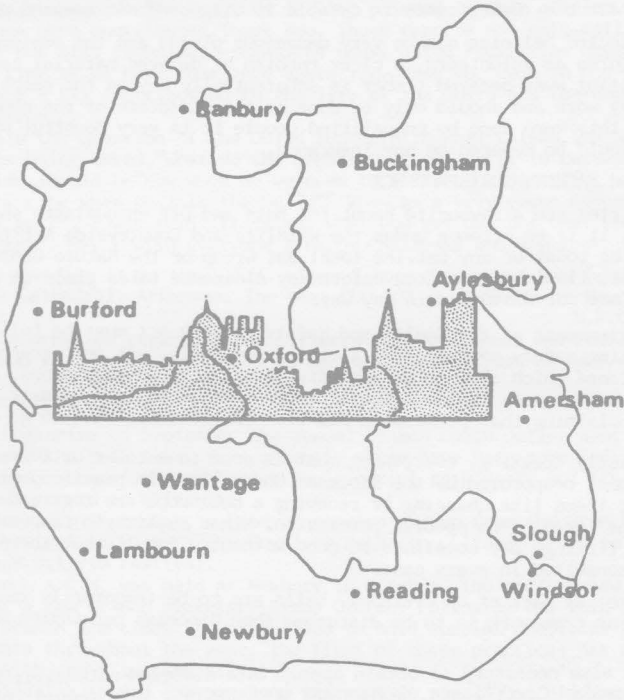


ODD BOB

Newsletter of the

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD



DIY - A RIGHT AND A WRONG WAY

Extracts from a letter written to the Ringing World by Alan J. Frost, Bells Adviser to the Oxford Diocesan Advisory Committee.

Each week we hear of well-intentioned exploits of ringers who have carried out substantial work in towers, apparently with minimal advice from church architects or accredited bell hangers. Whilst there is almost no limit to what can be done by suitably experienced volunteers with proper care and permissions - such schemes I wholeheartedly welcome - I am increasingly alarmed that publication of some recent "do-it-yourself" feats leaves readers unaware of hazards to health and safety, or to risk of prosecution and the need to keep within Faculty Jurisdiction Law.

The following examples illustrate some points that need to be watched.

HEALTH and SAFETY

Clearing pigeon debris, or even being in a pigeon infested belfry, can be very hazardous. Dust from infested birds can cause psitticosis, a bronchial disease that can be fatal. We were informed recently in St Alban's Diocese of a death caused in this way. On no account, therefore, should pigeons be allowed to roost in belfries and if infestation is very extensive a specialist firm should be called in to clear and clean the tower. This is **NOT** a work that can be safely carried out by volunteers. Any one inspecting a pigeon laden belfry should wear a mask and notify a doctor if he or she develops bronchial trouble. Psitticosis is curable if diagnosed and treated promptly.

Neglected belfries can be very dangerous places and the employment of schoolchildren as volunteers to clear rubbish or decayed material can be foolhardy. Cutting away decayed timber is substantially beyond the scope of ordinary survey work and should only be done at the direction of the **church architect**. If this were done by unqualified people it is very doubtful whether the work would be covered by any insurance.

The LAW and FACULTY JURISPRUDENCE

Belfries are a favourite haunt for bats and DIY enthusiasts should be aware that it is an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act to disturb or block the roost of any bat. The local Bat Group or the Nature Conservancy Council must first be consulted before any clearance takes place to ensure that bats are not disturbed in any way.

Requirements of the Health and Safety at work Act must be followed, especially noting safety measures for clothing and tools, yet photographs have been published which show volunteers disregarding these provisions. Again, serious consequences could follow if there were an accident and it would be no use claiming that permission had been received for work to go ahead.

Strictly speaking, everything that is done to a tower or installation of bells must be approved by the Diocesan Chancellor. In practice, of course, very minor items like changing or renewing a bell rope are regarded as being "de minimus" needing no special permission. Minor repairs to clappers, wheels and other fittings may sometimes be done without a faculty but the Archdeacon should be consulted in every case.

Where, as part of an overhaul, bells are to be temporarily removed from the tower or framework is to be disturbed then Diocesan permission must be obtained.

It is also necessary to obtain appropriate diocesan authority, by Faculty or Archdeacon's Certificate, **BEFORE ANY WORK BEGINS**. This should include preparatory work if it involves disturbance of the frame, structure or tower masonry If work proceeds ahead of proper authorisation a Confirmatory Faculty would be required or the Chancellor might choose to hold a Consistory Court. I have been required to give Evidence at several. Even where the work is approvable this has involved parishes in thousands of pounds of unrec-

-essary expense in Court Fees and the like.

Lastly, the work done should be that for which permission has been granted. This may seem obvious.....In one case the revised scheme was so unacceptable that the faculty was withdrawn.

To a well organised group of volunteers these sensible precautions and regulations need not be onerous. If from the earliest stages, contact is kept with the Diocesan bells adviser, or if the local Association bells adviser keeps in touch with the Diocesan Advisory Committee, everything should proceed smoothly. Too often this liaison is not maintained and frequently Diocesan Advisory Committees are sent quotations which are several years old with a request for their immediate approval.

Good luck to all you D-I-Y enthusiasts, but remember there is a right way and you might not survive if you do it the wrong way!

ODD BOB - OXFORD DIOCESE; Berks, Oxon, Bucks

First may I thank all those who have contributed to this ODD BOB and also those whose contributions will be held for the next copy. Particularly I wish to draw attention to the extracts from Alan J. Frost's letter to the Ringing World. This contains much useful information. If possible the copy should be shown to other people in the parish. We had hoped to publish a list of 'de minimus' jobs but this is still awaiting the Chancellor's approval. Bobbie May has written an excellent report of the C.C. Seminar at Northampton. I commend it to you. **The Easthamstead 1988 Syllabus is also printed in this edition.** Once again all Branches have contributed. Thank you. Those reports not only tell us of your activities but also disseminate ideas. The usual Guild Facilities have been omitted this time as we have lost, once again, four men, who each in his own quiet way has made a big contribution to the life of the Guild and the community in which he lived.

Once again the question of the Guild Subscription has raised its head and the question is being asked, "what do the members get out of it in return?" Surely the question should be "How much do we need to fulfil the aims of the Guild, which we all subscribe when we join the Guild?" When as a very young member I asked "what do I get?", I was told "It is not what you get out but what you put in that matters!". May I wish everyone a happy Christmas and New Year. Once again I shall be spending it in the U.S.A. where I hope to train a new band for Little Rock Cathedral, Arkansas. The next ODD BOB will be due in March.

M.R.C.

The usual information regarding the Officers, Sub-Committees and facilities can be found in ODD BOB Sept. 1987. It has been omitted due to lack of space!

Newbury Branch

At the beginning of September the annual Branch coach outing went to some towers around the Bath area. More recently there have been some individual tower outings; Hungerford arranged a day's outing to Dorset, and Kintbury visited some towers in Wiltshire.

On Sunday 13th September, a band of ringers chosen from the Branch rang a fine quarter peal of Yorkshire S. Royal at Magdalen College Oxford to celebrate the Diocesan Pilgrim Festival.

The Branch A.G.M. was held at Newbury in October. The meeting saw the election of a new Branch Secretary, Diana Clarke. Following the lack of support shown for Branch practices it was decided to hold special practices for individual towers throughout the year. The first of these practices has already been held with great success at Kintbury.

It is pleasing to see a revival in interest in ringing at Midgham where the bells are shortly to be restored. Thanks must go to the Ringing Master and Diana Bridle for their help in teaching the new band.

A skittles match was played against the Reading Branch at the end of October being an enjoyable evening as usual.

Diane Clarke

CENTRAL COUNCIL SEMINAR IN NORTHANTS

The C.C. Education Sub-Committee's seminar this year in Northampton was on the subject of 'Introducing Change Ringing'. The morning session at Duston Church included discussions and practical work with a ringing machine, and the afternoon session at the Teachers' Centre (after a superb lunch laid on by Malcolm Tyler and friends) included talks and teaching videos.

I am always sceptical, to some extent, when surrounded by a lot of electronic gizetry, as to the motives behind its introduction. Those of you who came on the Easthampstead Course four or five years ago will have been amazed by Peter Cummins' Ringing Machine, around which the lecture was planned. The machine enables you to ring a single tower bell to changes by means of a tied bell (a dumbbell could equally well be used) with photo-electric sensors and reflectors. Alternatively you can ring two handbells to changes. Since then Peter Cummins has built many other machines for individuals and Mk10 or thereabouts was sitting in front of us, ready to catch out the experienced, never mind the novice ringer!

It would seem that some machines are sensitive to false signals, such as a sudden surge on the mains, and then have to be re-set. Philip Gay, who introduced the subject, explained that it had helped them to ring many quarter peals, even though they had lost a few from the temperamental nature of the machine.

Ringing Machines can be more sophisticated with the help of someone with a little computer know-how, where quite complicated methods can be programmed in. The advantage of using this in certain areas of teaching would seem to be manifold:

- It can be used to teach 6-8 bell ringing in 4-6 bell towers.
- It can be used for extending the repertoire of the band - how often have we met one or two short for a method to the frustration of the more advanced members of the band?
- It can be used with individual students or any numerical combination of ringers with synthesized sounds.
- It doesn't help a bit with rope-sight, but it certainly makes you listen!

I think that used with restraint it could be a positive teaching aid, though I do see limited application for the rank beginner. It will help you learn when to listen for your bell, either alone or in sequence with others, without annoying the neighbours, but I did feel the suggested teaching scheme didn't really allow for individual learning processes - we haven't yet turned into robots with a common learning experience!. It was quite interesting to observe that among our company several had difficulties with such matters as not being able to identify which bell they were ringing (!) and coming in on the wrong stroke. This does not auger well for beginners who have other problems to contend with and do not need to be bombarded with extra, unnecessary problems. Like so many other things the Ringing Experience is a combination of many experiences, rhythmic, visual, spacial, aural and social, and it might not prove to be too clever to isolate these experiences except for remedial training. I am quite sure some of us could name ringers who ring very well with machines, but who cannot ring very well with rather less perfect human ringers.

Whoever is in charge of setting up the ringing machine in a tower will need to organise his/her time carefully, otherwise I can foresee good ringing time being wasted up and down ladders tying and untying bells.

There was some discussion about Branches investing in machines. It was thought that the none mobile components could be purchased fairly inexpensively for about £15 per tower using photo-electric cells and using the infra-red system, for about £1.00 per bell, using D.I.Y. and your own computer, and the machine itself bought for anything up to £300 depending on the sophistication of the machine. Peter Cummins' most recent machine can ring any 8-bell method. These machines are custom built and not available on the open market.

Wilfred Moreton's exposition on 'Teaching from Rounds to Bob Doubles' was accompanied by a video and was tressing, among other things, that far too little

O B I T U A R I E S

A.J.ADAMS - Iffley

It is with regret that I have to report the death of A.James Adams of Iffley, Oxford. He died after a long illness on Saturday 24th October at the Longlands Old People's Home in Blackbird Leys, Oxford.

Jim, as he was affectionately known, learnt to ring at Great Hasely in 1934 and so began a life-long association with ringing and the Oxford Diocesan Guild. He was a member of St.Mary's Church, Iffley and conducted the first peal on the bells in 1950. In 1957 he was elected secretary of the Oxford City and District Branch and served in this post for thirteen years. Subsequently he was Branch representative 1972 - 74, Vice-Chairman 1975 - 77 and Chairman 1978 - 83. To all these offices he brought his own special talents. He was a man, small in stature but big in heart and possessed the great gift of being easily able to make friends.

Over the years he rang and conducted innumerable quarter peals and some three dozen peals, the last being at Kirtlington in 1971. He believed passionately that there should also be a social side to ringing and to this end he organised frequent outings, social evenings and was a devoted member of the Iffley Handbell Ringers. Few people knew that even when he was too weak to manage tower bells, he still assisted Miss Cross in the teaching of Handbell Ringing at the Brasenose Adult Training Centre in Oxford. Towards the end, when his debilitating illness forced him to stop handbells, he still kept closely in touch with the activities of the Guild through the pages of the Ringing World.

He loved the countryside, he loved the churches, but bell ringing was his life and in his death ringing lost a true and loyal friend. May he rest in peace.

Roy Goodwin

CECIL SOLE - Hook Norton

Cecil Sole died on 13th September in Hospital at Banbury one month before his eightieth birthday. He was born at Great Rollright and started ringing there in 1923, becoming a member of the Oxford Diocesan Guild in 1926. He moved to Hook Norton in 1933, became Tower Captain in 1966, a position he held until earlier this year when ill health prevented him from climbing the steep stairway of his tower, but he occasionally rang in other towers up till August. Not an experienced change ringer, Cecil's enjoyment was to ring the Tenor, until increasing ill-health forced him round 'the front'.

On leaving school Cecil started work on the farm but after moving to Hook Norton he worked for the local brewery, becoming Cellar Man. Many visiting parties have been met by his cheerful, but forthright manner, with as much knowledge of the local brew as of ringing.

Cecil was a 'Special' in the local police and also looked after Hook Norton Church Clock.

The funeral service took place on 18th September, followed by cremation. The bells were rung half muffled before and after the service and a Quarter Peal was rung in the evening.

Ken Wakefield

E.H.SMITH - Shiplake

Ernest Harold Smith died suddenly on 24th September 1987; he was 80 years of age. He had been connected with the Church of SS Peter and Paul, Shiplake since he began there as a chorister, his parents having brought him to Shiplake at the age of 6. He was a server and a sidesman and for several years before he married he was the local Scout Master. His service to the Church included a staggering 56 years as a Parochial Church Councillor.

He took up bellringing in his teens and joined the Guild in 1923. He, it was who kept our bells ringing and in good shape for most of the post World War II years and he must have taught dozens of would-be ringers. Even when crippled with arthritis he was prepared to make up numbers and after he had to give up ringing he continued to organise our twice yearly ringers' outings. The last outing he organised took place 2 days after he died.

On leaving school Ern was apprenticed to a Shiplake joiner and it was as a joiner that he spent his whole working life. Our ringing chamber, and also the Church, contain examples of his handiwork.

He will be sadly missed by many members of the Reading Branch who had become regular riders on his outings and by the Shiplake ringers. He leaves a widow, Nell, and two sons. We mourn his passing and extend to Nell our sympathy at her loss.

M.P.

E. Frank Gibbard

"If you seek his memorial look around you". This free translation of the Latin inscription to Sir Christopher Wren in St Paul's Cathedral was the theme of the address given by the Rector of Winslow to a packed church on the occasion of Frank's funeral. Master Craftsman, Master Builder, Mason, Churchwarden, Friend and Ringer Frank Gibbard was responsible for much work in Winslow and neighbourhood and for the care and maintenance of the Parish Church and its bells. A Churchwarden for many, many years his care of the fabric of the church was unobtrusively carried out and often unnoticed for some time. He helped to make improvements to the church; not the least being the addition of two Trebles to the ring of six which was carried out by the ringers in 1956 not long after Frank became tower captain in 1954. For many years he also maintained the bells.

It is well known that, after a storm, he would walk round the village noting storm damage to the homes of absentee householders and would quietly put things right without anyone knowing. After he retired as Churchwarden he was elected Churchwarden Emeritus and held that office until his death. As a boy he sang in the Church choir. Later he became a ringer and joined the Oxford Diocesan Guild in 1929.

In 1930 Frank was elected as Branch Secretary of the recently formed Central Bucks Branch. He continued to hold that office for 29 years until 1959. During that time he had nurtured the Branch quietly and conscientiously so that it had grown from nine towers to forty two and was one of the largest in the Guild. In 1959 the Branch elected him a Vice-President, later its President and when he resigned that office once again a Vice-President. A sound christian and churchman, quiet and unassuming, yet shewing authority when necessary, he laid the foundations of the Branch soundly and thoroughly; at the same time recognising the need for change so that when the need arose to form the Chiltern Branch he was prepared to see his Branch Secretary leave to form the new Branch and to lose one of his strongest towers to it. As a Guild officer the writer came to rely on Frank's sound judgement and understanding of the needs of the rural Branches.

Besides managing the family business Frank was also deeply involved in the community in which he lived. During the 1939-1945 War he was involved in the local A.R.P.. Not only this - he went about quietly helping those who were in need in any way whatsoever. Many owe much to him for a helping hand given at the right time. Throughout his life Frank tried to follow in the steps of The Master Craftsman.

M.R.C.

Miss G. Gray - St Aldates, Oxford.

The death of Miss Georgie Gray has just come to our notice. She was a regular member of the St. Aldate's Band from 1960-1975. In recent years she has attended St Cross Church. For many years she was a participant in the outings organised by Jimmy Adams.

R.G.

EASTHAMPSTEAD 1988 - ADVANCE NOTICE

Friday 23rd September -- Sunday 25th September 1988

GROUPS WILL BE AS FOLLOWS :-

1. Plain Hunt and Bob Doubles - the only qualification necessary for this Group is the ability to ring a bell up and down.
2. Plain Bob Doubles - applicants for this group must be able to Plain Hunt.
3. Grandsire/Stedman Doubles - Applicants for this group must be able to Plain Hunt.
4. Plain Minor - Plain Bob ,Little Bob,St.Clements and Double Oxford ; applicants for this group should be able to ring a plain course of Plain Bob Minor.
5. Plain Major - Plain Bob,Little Bob,Original,St.Clements and Double Norwich C.B.; applicants should be able to ring a plain course of Plain Bob Major.
6. Triples - Stedman,Single Oxford Bob and St.Clement's; applicants should be able to ring a plain course of Grandsire Triples.
7. Surprise Minor - Cambridge,Primrose,Ipswich,Norfolk,Norwich and London; applicants for this group should be able to ring a plain course of Cambridge S.Minor.
8. Surprise Major - the Standard 8; applicants should be able to ring a plain course of Cambridge S.Major.

We have deliberately set a high standard for some of these groups , but it is not expected that everyone will take more than the firststep. Do not be put off applying because you think some of the methods may be beyond your capabilities - You may surprise yourself!

One point that will be emphasised throughout the course is correct handling,and there will be a handling clinic on the Friday morning for everyone.

In addition to the lectures and practical ringing, a selection of options will be offered:-

1. Change Ringing on Handbells - this will encompass at least three sessions of handbell ringing with expert helpers. This option is not available to students applying for Group 1.
2. Maintenance - this includes a lecture on Bell Engineering, a 'hands on' rope splicing session and a tower inspection with Brian White,
3. Conducting - this will be for anyone who wants to know how to call a 120 of Plain Bob Doubles,but has never had a chance to try. It will include an introductory lecture to explain the rudiments of Bob Calling, a practical "voice-on" session and a more advanced lecture explaining how to interpret touches from the diary and other books and dealing with coursing orders etc.
4. General - various lectures on topics of general interest.

Application Forms will be available after Christmas from:-

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

PLEASE ENCLOSE A LARGE STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE (at least A5 or foolscap size).

FEE - This will be £62.50 (the same as last year).

IF PLACES ARE NOT FILLED BY MAY 1st 1988 THE COURSE WILL BE ADVERTISED OUTSIDE THE GUILD.

IMPRESSIONS OF THE GUILD 6-BELL STRIKING COMPETITION 1987

It is some eight years since the Amersham team had been chosen to represent the EBSB in this competition so we started our journey to the area to the west of Blenheim Park for this year's contest with an open mind. At our last final each team only rang once but this time two heats were held during the afternoon, at Stonesfield and Combe. We were drawn to ring at Stonesfield and rang our 240 Bob Minor at a pace which seemed to suit the bells and which turned out to be a quickish 2.30 for a peal.

We all gathered at North Leigh for tea and to hear the results of the heats from the two pairs of judges. There were only 10 teams in the contest and the heats merely excluded two from each heat leaving the final to be contested by six teams under the magisterial ears of the Rev. Peter and Mrs Angela Newing. Two points surprised me, could not the judges have heard all ten teams thereby dispensing with the need for separate heats and the necessary attendance for a much longer period of time and was it advisable for the final's judges to hear the comments of the heats' judges on each team?

The draw for the final put us last so we had plenty of time to admire the handsome harvest decorations in North Leigh Church and to gather some blackberries whilst listening to the other teams. Appleton's brisk Grandsire Doubles sounded splendid to all ears as did Wokingham's Cambridge Minor to ours. Off up the unusual wooden spiral staircase to tackle Bob Minor again. This time we seemed to hit the slower of the ring's two optimum speeds for comfortable ringing and completed our steady and measured 240 without mishap.

The attendance for the announcement of the results was necessarily sparser as some teams had gone home and others "retired hurt". The judges gave us victory by the narrow margin of one fault over Appleton so we returned home in a happier state of mind from the journey there or during the afternoon and evening's long waits. After all, the only really good contests are those which you win either outright or in successfully meeting challenges which you have yourselves set!

Alan Ainsworth.

6-BELL STRIKING CONTEST 1987

This was held on Saturday, October 2nd in the Witney and Woodstock Branch. Catherine Ross, Branch Secretary and Jim O'Beirne, together with their helpers are to be congratulated on the arrangements they made for the judges' comfort, the general organisation of the day and the tea arrangements. The Deputy Master, Anne Carpenter, proposed a general vote of thanks to them and the judges at tea-time. Originally eleven Branches were due to be represented but one team withdrew too late for another to be found to replace it.

HEATS	STONESFIELD	COMBE
	Thatcham 42	Kidlington 57
	Appleton 40	Wokingham 50
	Reading 46	Stanford 233
	Amersham 31	Gt. Linford 147
	Quainton 61	Aston Clinton 66
JUDGES	Ken Davenport	Pat + Robert
	Philip Saddleton	Newton
FINAL	NORTH LEIGH	
	Thatcham 53	
	Kidlington 106	
	Aston Clinton 122	
	Appleton 47	
	Wokingham u	
	Amersham 46	
JUDGES	Peter Newing	
	Angela Newing	

OXFORD DIOCESAN PILGRM FESTIVAL

The Pilgrim Festival had been underway for 24 hours before the ringers of the Diocese got into action. And when they did both tourists and pilgrims walking around Oxford on Sunday 13 September heard the sound of bells from all directions, the sound carrying much easier than normal with fewer buses in service. Some 120 ringers representing every Branch in the Guild were successful with their ringing with sixteen quarter peals scored.

Details of the quarter peals are as follows:

Banbury Branch	Wolvercote	1296 Cambridge S.Minor
Bicester Branch	St.Aldate	1260 Plain Bob Minor
Central Bucks Branch	Iffley	1260 Grandsire Doubles
Chiltern Branch	St.Cross	1260 Doubles (4 Methods)
Chipping Norton Branch	Marston	1260 Plain Bob Doubles
EB & SB Branch	Christ Church	1346 Canbridge S.Maximus
Newbury Branch	Magdalen	1282 Yorkshire S.Royal
North Bucks Branch	Headington	1250 Yorkshire S.Major
Oxford City Branch	Carfax	1296 Cambridge S.Minor
Reading Branch	New College	1296 Plain Bob Caters
Sonning Deanery Branch	Lincoln College	1342 Yorkshire S.Major
Sonning Deanery	Kidlington	1287 Grandsire Triples
South Oxon Branch	Cowley	1260 Plain Bob Minor
V.of WH.Branch	North Hinksey	1260 Plain Bob Minor
W.& W. Branch	St Giles	1260 Plain Bob Triples

The quarter peal with the most footnotes was the P.B.Caters at New College. There were four firsts often, two firsts of caters and first on ten as conductor. Well done the Reading Branch. There was a first quarter by Arthur Evans of Quainton, ringing the Tenor behind at Iffley. I hear that the North Bucks Branch were having difficulties with the weight of Headington bells, perhaps they would prefer Merton College on another occasion! The quarter at Magdalen College was by a joint Thatcham - Newbury Band.

The Sonning Deanery Branch organiser had a surplus of ringers wanting to take part in the Festival. Luckily the Vicar of Kidlington had specifically asked for his bells to be rung to welcome five coach loads of pilgrims from the Banbury Deanery on their way to Oxford. At North Hinksey there were two firsts. A first of Minor on the Treble and the Vof W.H. Branch Secretary's first of P.B.Minor inside. Well done Anne. Meanwhile at Carfax Tower, Don Carter having just rung his thousandth quarter was now claiming his 550th as conductor. The North Bucks Branch wished to associate their quarter peal with Derek Stainsby, Branch Ringing Master. Derek is suffering from arthritis and was unable to ring.

Thanks must go to all of the ringers who took part and especially those who helped out at St.Aldate's and St.Gile's from the City Branch. The bulk of the day's arrangements were by the Secretaries of the City Branch and the Oxford Society, Roy Goodwin and David Woodward, to whom thanks are extended for all their efforts, and to their members for opening up the towers for the visiting bands.

A.G.Pullan

WANTED - A DESIGN!

A COMPETITION: - to design a cover for next year's (1988) Easthampstead Course.

The cover is A5 size.

Entries to Mrs A.Carpenter, 41, Napier Road, Crowthorne, Berks, RG11 -7EJ by 1st April 1988.

The Judge will be Stanley G.Scott, who has designed the last six covers.

TWIGS FROM THE BRANCHES

Banbury Branch:

The Branch Half-yearly meeting was held at Deddington in October. We had a good turn out for the meeting and welcomed Tony Pullan for the first time. There was much discussion on what standard new members should be before being elected. It was unanimously agreed to stick to the Guild Rules. After this 14 new members were elected. The level of subscription was discussed and members felt that the Guild should not increase them until it can offer something for the money. The Branch Dinner will be held at Steeple Aston on February 20th 1988.

A peal was rung at Great Tew to mark the retirement of the Vicar (who is also the Branch Vice-Chairman) on Sunday 27th September. The new Vice-Chairman is Deaconess Ann Shukman.

At Bloxham Alan Griffin now runs a computer ringing practice with a lot of interest. He ties a bell and links it to the computer. You have to ring it by ear to any method on any number of bells.

Branch Practices are:-

16th Jan. Bodicote
20th Feb. Dinner
19th Mar. Rousham
16th Apr. Mollington

Graham Clifton

Bicester Branch

Jumble Sale:- A total of £292.00 was made at the Branch Jumble Sale in aid of the Diocesan Bell Fund. There will be a Toy Sale for the Fund at Brill on 7th November.

The Half-yearly meeting took place at the pretty village of Kirtlington on 26th September. The afternoon started with open ringing at 3 o'clock, followed by a service by the Rev. John Nixon as Kirtlington's own Rector, David Wilcox, was recovering at home after a heart attack. Unfortunately, our organist was among the missing and John Nixon surprised us all by coping with the organ keyboard sufficiently well to help us through two hymns. The lesson was read by Phillip Heritage whilst the sermon was a delightful poem of John Betjanin's called 'The Diary of a Church Mouse'. The Service Collection of £12.80 was donated to the Branch Bell Fund.

New members elected were:- Peter McKenzie - Islip; Anita Cooper - Brill; Keith and Louise Share - Kirtlington; transfer Steve Jeffrey - Bicester

The meeting was chaired by our Vice-President, Rev. John Nixon as, unfortunately, Cyril Kinch - President - was not well enough to attend. Towers represented were:- Brill, Bicester, Launton, Kirtlington, Islip, Ludershall and Stoke Lyne.

The Ringing Master asked for all members to give serious consideration to what they would like to see by way of ringing activity within the Branch. He had some thoughts of his own on this point and would be putting these in the next newsletter. This item would be aired at the A.G.M.

After discussion, it was agreed that an increase for subscriptions to £3.00 would be acceptable, provided the extra was put to paying for the insurance, to ODD BOB (to keep the Guild and Branches in touch) and for the Branches to receive an increase in the share of the sub. This would be reported at the Secretaries Meeting on 2nd October. BRANCH A.G.M - 20th Feb. 1988 at Charlton-on-Otmoor.
Jill Ward

Central Bucks Branch

The Central Bucks Branch has experimented over the years with various dates for its events. For instance the Branch Six Bell Striking Competition used to be in September, it is now in June. Whatever combination we adopt seems to cause congested diaries. The result is that the Winters and Summers seem to be slack periods as far as ringing is concerned.

This year the Summer seems to have been an exception. Could it be that ringers have failed to recognise that Summer has been and gone? Practices have been well attended and I think that the Branch has benefited from the continuing impetus.

Membership stands at an all time high and there is every sign that our new members are committed to ringing and hence to the Guild.

This was demonstrated by the six Tower teams who took part in the Annual Orchard Cup Competition against the Chiltern Branch. Though the weather was wet the afternoon passed pleasantly, there was a good standard of ringing and the Padbury ladies provided a wonderful tea. The event was judged by Douglas Hird, assisted by Nicky King, from the North Bucks Branch. Despite Chiltern only fielding two teams, Aston Clinton won for the nth year in a row. My Freudian Slip in ODD BOB a couple of years ago seems to be true - I called it the Chiltern Cup!

Dates for your Diary:- 13 / 14th Feb.1988 Sponsored Quarter Peals
 2nd May Ringing Day and 8 S/C Quanton
 21st May Guild A.G.M. Benson
 14th May **Branch A.G.M.** Steeple Claydon
 2nd July **GUILD FESTIVAL Dorchester**
 15th Oct. Orchard Cup
 12th Nov. Half-yearly Meeting - Aylesbury
 Terry Wagstaff

Chiltern Branch

It is pleasing to report progress in a number of Branch towers where ringing has previously been at a low ebb. At Great Kimble, two very respectable quarter peals of Doubles were rung on the 9th and 30th September, both involving local ringers. Well done to them. At Cheddington and Weston Turville the continued enthusiasm of the tower captains and ringers is reaping its rewards; the bands at both towers are making steady progress. Jim Richardson of Cheddington is also teaching a band at nearby Slapton. Keep up the good work Jim!

The Branch striking contest was held at Little Missenden on 19th Set., and was ably judged by Charles Botting of High Wycombe and Louise James of Aston Rowant. They gave their results as follows:- Aston Clinton 48 faults; Bledlow 85; Little Missenden 87; Cheddington 179; Although the result was perhaps rather predictable the ringing was generally of a good standard. Perhaps we could see more teams enter next year, and somebody to beat Aston Clinton?

The Branch was represented at the Guild 6-Bell Contest by Aston Clinton, who were pleased to be placed third in their heat at Combe and thereby gain entry to the final. They were less pleased with their performance in the final, however, and were placed fifth.

Our annual contest with the Central Bucks Branch for the Orchard Cup was held at Padbury on October 10th. The entry from the Chiltern Branch was disappointing - only two teams. Aston Clinton were the winners for the sixth year in succession.

The Branch Half-Yearly Meeting was held on 17th October and hosted by Great Missenden tower. Although the attendance was poor it was a worthwhile afternoon. It is pleasing to report that the local ringers have now raised in excess of £10,000.00 towards the restoration of their bells. They carry our congratulations on this achievement and our encouragement towards reaching their target. We look forward to the successful completion of another restoration project within the Branch.

John White

Chipping Norton Branch

Quite a lot has happened in the Branch in the last few months. On 5th September some ringers took part in a Sponsored Cycle Ride around Oxfordshire, organised by the Oxford Historic Churches Trust. One serious casualty was Charles Thornton of Chadlington who sustained a broken collar bone. We wish him a speedy recovery.

On 13th September Cecil Sole, Tower Captain of Hook Norton, died. Our sympathy to his daughter and family.

At the Autumn Meeting on 10th October we were privileged to have both the Deputy Master and the Guild Secretary with us, but alas, not many ringers were present. Four new members from Shipton-under-Wychwood were elected.

At the end of October we said goodbye, for a year, to Joyce and Humphrey Windeyer of Hook Norton who will be visiting all their many relatives in

Australia. We also said thak you and Goodbye to the Rev.P.G.Smith of Ascot-under-Wychwood and Leafield who retired on 31st October after 28 years in these parishes. He was the Branch Chairman for many years.

The bells of the small parish of Taynton are now ringing again after extensive work to the tower and some work to the bells. Taynton, 2 miles to the west of Burfordon the Oxon/Gloucester border, has got a 7cwt ring of six which were augmented fro 4 to 6 in 1937 by T.Bond of Burford.

Our congratulations to Claire and Cliff Tarrant on the birth of a son-Mark David. Quarter Peals are being arranged.

Branch Practices;-	5th Dec.	Shipton-under- Wychwood	7.30-9.00
	9th Jan	Spelsbury	ditto
	6th Feb.	Chipping Norton	ditto
	5th Mar.	Enstone	ditto

Ken Wakefield

East Berks and South Bucks Branch

The Laura Newton knockout striking contest has been running during the summer months as usual. The final for the last surviving four teams was held at Hitcham on October 24, with High Wycombe the winners followed by Chalfont St.Giles, Chesham and High Wycombe 'B'.

On the basis of numbers taking part, this contest must be our most successful Branch activity - each year about 20 teams and thus 120 ringers enter. Its appeal seems to lie in the informality of the arrangements (with the towers left to arrange their play - offs between themselves) and in the fact that it allows ringers to do some competitive ringing in a more friendly and relaxed way than is possible in ordinary striking contests.

The final was followed by our Half-Yearly Meeting at which 21 new members were elected and past and future Branch events were discussed.

Our new social secretary, John Martin, has made his debut by organising a very enjoyable Branch Bar-B-Que in August. The weather was fine and it was well supported by about 70 people.

Our next, and major, forthcoming occasion is the Branch Dinner in November.

Some members of the Branch attended the Hillingdon Joint Meeting (joint between the O.D.G., Middlesex Assoc., London County and Ladies Guild). This is a historic event which has been running in more or less the same format for about 50 years! In the afternoon there was general ringing and a service and in the evening there was a social evening with an excellent sit-down meal and entertainments ranging from a mind-bending 'guess the tower' competition organised by David Struckett to Pass the Parcel and Indoor Crickett! Over recent years the enthusiasm for this event from our Branch has waned considerably and it was encouraging to see a much improved level of support from us this year.

Katharine Firman

Old North Berks Branch

The Branch Half-Yearly Meeting was held at Radley in September. Before the meeting the final of our Striking Contest was held. Abingdon and Appleton were the two finalists and the judges, Ron Thorne and Jim Diserens, declared Appleton the winners. They represented us at the Guild Finals in October and were placed Second, just one fault behind the winners Amersham.

We were pleased to have the Guild Deputy Master, Anne Carpenter with us at our meeting. Anne was for many years a member of the Branch before moving away from Abingdon.

It was felt that a Deputy Ringing Master should be appointed for the Branch to assist Mike Poole in his duties, and Mike Harrison from Appleton agreed to fill this post until our A.G.M. next May. We discussed the Guild insurance for all ringers, and the intended rise in Guild Subscriptions for 1988. The members present agreed that the subscription should rise to £3.00.

The Annual Branch Barn Dance was held at Sutton Courtenay in October, and once again we can report a very successful evening. 108 tickets were sold and after all expenses were paid we made a profit of £76.00. The raffle held during

the interval made a profit of £34.50. The Branch Committee will decide at our next meeting how this money will be used. In past years it has been split between branch funds and the Guild Bell Fund.

We hope to arrange the Annual New Year Day Coffee Morning and Ringing at Marcham from 10.00a.m. - 12 noon. All profits will go to the March Restoration Fund.

The Sutton Augmentation is not yet finished but Whites of Appleton hope to have the two new bells installed by Christmas. Didcot All Saints 3 bells are at present at Loughborough Bell Foundry and the new frame will be in and the bells rehung at the start of November.

Len Cox

Oxford City Branch

ANNUAL BRANCH OUTING:-October 10th dawned dark,dank and dismal. It was the day of the Oxford City Branch Outing and this year ringing had been arranged in and around the Bath area. Certainly Bath was an appropriate choice for a day which began with such heavy downpours of rain. However, by now the weather should have known that it couldn't easily dampen the spirits of the City ringers and at 8.30 a.m. the coach, filled with already boisterous ringers, set off on the tour.

Once again Hugh Deam had provisioned the coach with a variety of snacks and drinks and bundles of tourist literature were also available. It has to be said that this outing was one of the best supported for many years. Forty two ringers and friends descended from the coach in Bath and prepared themselves for a day spent ringing and enjoying the architectural delights of this ancient city.

The towers visited during the day were Batheaston, Bathwick, Bath Abbey, Widcombe and Bathford. Pevsener's "Guide to the Buildings of England" (described most of these churches as dull and uninteresting (the Abbey being an obvious exception). What a pity he never visited the ringing chambers of these churches! Each one was well-looked after and full of fascinating peal boards and other memorabilia.

As with previous trips the standard of ringing was high and a good range of methods was rung. Of course the highlight of the day was Bath Abbey. Climbing 120 steps to the cavernous belfry, one could sense the excitement of having the opportunity to ring at this famous church. The heavy bells (tenor 33cwt) and the long draft proved to be a challenge for the younger ringers and wisely nothing too ambitious was attempted. Everyone had a ring and also ample time to explore the Abbey.

At the last tower, Bathford, the rain stopped and those ringers who managed to climb up to the roof of the tower were treated to a glorious crimson sunset amidst the Somerset hills. It was almost as if the weather was making amends for providing us with such a cold and wet October day.

Our sincere thanks to Len Porter and Hugh Deam for a very successful and well organised outing.

R. Goodwin

Sonning Deanery Branch

St Paul's, Wokingham now have a Faculty and the PCC's agreement that the time is right to have the bells rehung. The bells were dismantled in September. The last practice was held on August Bank Holiday Monday when a recording of the bells was made. Hugh Baxter says that if anyone wants a copy of the recording 'please supply me with a blank tape and I will copy it for you'. The Sonning Deanery's contribution had reached £1678.55 in October. In September Sonning sent £100.00; Easthampstead £50.00 and Hurst £25.00; while in October Anne Yate's Cake Raffle raised £68.00.

On the first Friday in each month the Branch will be holding a branch element-ary 8 bell practice at Twyford. This is for those wishing to gain more experience on 8 or making the transition from 6 bells to 8. Experienced 8 bell ringers are also welcome to help strengthen the band.

Easthampstead visited Bristol for their outing where they rang at six towers including Redcliffe and the Cathedral and enjoyed both good food and the views.

All Saints Wokingham on the other hand went to Bath where the choir from that church were singing Evensong. They had a wet "packed" lunch in a churchyard and missed the 'last orders' at a nearby pub! What happened to the traditional Ringer's Outing?? In addition to ringing two Quarter Peals (one at Bathwick and the second at Bath Abbey) they acquired two American Tourists who seemed to think that 'the way to the Abbey was via therooft'.

The Branch Outing was to be to the Aldershot - Guildford area.

From the Branch News Letter

Reading Branch

There were grave doubts as to whether the Branch Outing would take place, due to lack of response in the Branch. Several churches had weddings and therefore those ringers had to be left behind. Shinfield tower came to the rescue, by bringing several ringers who had not previously rung outside their own tower. They certainly showed how well they had been taught to handle, by producing a good standard of ringing at all the towers visited. We started at Andover where the main concern was whether we would ever manage to get down the stairs again! Winchester Cathedral was next, where we had rather a long wait for the key. It was well worth the wait and everyone enjoyed their ring. Lunch had to be quick to make up time. We next visited Winchester College followed by Twyford, Hants and Bishopstoke. Finishing off a very good day on the 9 at Basingstoke and local hosteleries. Paul Wells should be congratulated for organising the ringing so well. This was in June.

Oct. 31st. Twenty-six people from Reading and Newbury Branches met for a very enjoyable skittles evening at the Angel, Woolhampton. Once again Reading were beaten. In the four games played the score was two each, but Newbury's overall total exceeded Reading's. Look out next year Newbury, we really are looking for revenge.

Joyce Vernon

The repairs to Theale Church Tower have now been completed and the bells are back in action.

CATY after a quiet start to the year exploded into life in early April when they visited the Swindon area and scored three Quarter peals. They have also visited Cambridgeshire and Oxfordshire., on each occasion scoring quarters.

SWALLOWFIELD;- Justine Monk has had to resign as secretary due to work. The new Secretary is Mrs Lynda Smith, 1. Lowlands, The Street, Swallowfield, Reading, RG7 1RB. Tel. Reading 882216

From Branch News Letter

North Bucks Branch

Work is about to start at Milton Keynes Village to repair the tower. These bells remain unringable. Members of the Branch are working with the church so that when the tower is O.K. we can help to get the bells going again. Hopefully that will be in the later half of 1988. Then we can welcome visitors again.

The church at Downs Barnhas been open for a number of months. Six bells have now been purchased and are in store at Loughborough. Fund raising for the 8-bell frame and recasting the Treble of the six has now begun in earnest.

After tower structure repairs, the bells at Emberton are now in full use. A keen, young band continued practices at other towers in the Branch while the tower was out of action. The church now has the benefit of a good service band. One local newspaper correspondent gives the bells a mention nearly every week!

In the combined parish of Olney the "bionic ringer" is teaching a new band. Chas Knight, with his new hip is doing a grand job.

Local bands are so variable that it is difficult to pick out just a few. But final mentions go to Bletchley where the local band are discovering the delights of change ringing and Loughton, where new arrivals have strengthened the local band.

Godfrey Foat

South Oxon Branch

We have been asked to be hosts for two major events in the Guild Calendar in 1988. The first event is the Guild A.G.M and the second event is the Guild Festival.

Dorchester bells are now rehung and go beautifully. Sadly the first quarter we rang was for Doug's funeral and we are very sad, that he is not with us to enjoy ringing his beloved bells. The tower is much improved with a new coat of whitewash, good lighting all round the ringing chamber and the ultimate luxury, wall mounted fan heaters so that we can start having the monthly practices in winter at Dorchester. The Rector of Dorchester, Ray Nicholls, has retired after 13 years. He was most supportive during attempts to raise money for the work. We wish him a long and happy retirement. The bells were reconsecrated on Sunday, 1st November before morning service. The new Tower Captain is Doreen Stonham whose address is 18, Bridge End, Dorchester, Oxford. Tel Oxford 340066

Drayton St. Leonard manages to muster 4/5 for its monthly session and Warborough sent two of its band to Easthampstead. They have also raised £350 for their new bell ropes and with the help of Robin and Sue Dyke, who have returned to the village, are progressing with their change ring-ing. At Chinnor the fabric is in a delicate state but so far nothing has fallen down. There is, however, a spare set of ropes should the stairs disappear while ringing. A quarter peal was auctioned for £20 for fund raising for the church. The local ringers are struggling with Fortune Doubles which is Reverse St Bartholomew with an Old Single instead of a plain lead of Bob Doubles which is used as a Bob.... At Tetworth, on practice nights those attending take it in turns to supply sweets while one of the locals supplies mushrooms as big as a plate! ..From News Letter.

Vale of White Horse Branch

Since the last ODD BOB the Branch has been fairly active. We had our Half-Yearly Meeting at the end of September, when we were joined by the Guild Master on a flying visit from Easthampstead. The main item on the agenda was the Guild Insurance which some members thought would lose membership especially of the regular Sunday Service ringers who probably don't visit other towers at all. Some were also worried that subs. continue to go up each year.

The following week-end Stanford tower entered a team in the Six-Bell Striking Contest (see below). Also in October an outing was arranged near-by in the hope of attracting those who complain of petrol expense if we go too far -sadly that did not work and it was a hard slog for the few who did turn up.

Stanford sent a ringer to help Uffington out at the commissioning of the Rev. -Ashburner as Rural Dean.

Faringdon Tower report that they have had more weddings than ever to ring for this year.

Stanford Tower report- The main event this year was the tower A.G.M. which took place in September. At the meeting it was decided that Nicola Jones would replace Anne Greenly as tower captain as the Greenley family are hoping to move from the village. This left the job of secretary vacant, which was given to me. My address is A. Macaulay, Campdene House, Stanford-in-the-Vale, Oxon. SN7 8HY Tel: 448 Other appointments were made to Martyn Hull and Paul Haskell. We competed in the 6-Bell Striking Contest recently and had a disappointing ring, but it's all good experience (isn't it?). A.M.

Shrivenham Tower report:- A peal of 5040 Doubles (4m) was rung at Old Marston on Sept. 12th. by the Sunday Service Band and included 'firsts' for Teresa Sugden and Barbara Schofield. Also for the wedding of one of their ringers, Debbie New who married Mark Ivens at Woughton on Aug 29th. Congratulations to them both.

Witney and Woodstock Branch

G.L.B.

Yarnton Bells have been taken out for restoration. The last quarter-peal before restoration was rung on September 13th, when 1260 changes of Plain Bob Minor were successfully completed in 47 minutes by; Eleanor Williamson 1, Judy Turvey 2, John Sims 3, Edward Lupton 4, Don Carter 5, Ted Venn (cond.) 6.

Members of Woodstock Tower enjoyed an outing to the Cheltenham area in August. Three towers were visited (Prestbury, Bishop's Cleeve and Leckhampton), and three quarter-peals were rung. The highlight, however, was a picnic lunch on

Leckhampton Hill. And on September 5th 8 Woodstock Ringers took part in the sponsored cycle ride organised by the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust. In spite of the gruelling start in heavy rain, the weather improved and everyone had a good day. Of the proceeds raised, one half will be returned by the Trust to the Woodstock Tower Bell Fund.

Regular practices are taking place in the Branch in Triples Methods, as well as in Surprise Minor and Major; and a special practice was held recently for teaching Plain Hunt.

Catherine Ross (from the Branch Newsletter)

EDUCATION SUB-COMMITTEE COURSES

EASTHAMPSTEAD RESIDENTIAL COURSE - See separate notice.

HANDBELL DAY - OXFORD - This will be for those who have attended the Easthampstead Handbell Course. It will be held on Saturday, 27 February 1988 in all probability. Further information from Len Porter, 28, Asquith Road, Rose Hill, Oxford. Arrangements will be similar to the one held at Bray last year. s.a.e for reply.

STEDMAN - There will be a Stedman Course held in February 1988. Would those who are interested please write to N.J. Diserens, 10, Queens Avenue, Wallingford, Oxon, OX10 0NB. Please enclose s.a.e. for reply.

RINGING UP AND DOWN AND CALL CHANGES - If you are interested in a Day Course on this would you please write to David Strucket, 103, Prince Andrew Way, Ascot, Berks SL5-8NH (Tel. Winkfield Row 884653), stating standard of ringing. Please enclose a.p.s.a.e. for reply.

BASIC CONDUCTING - This is intended for those who, for lack of a capable conductor or in the band, are forced to undertake the 'Bob Calling' for their home tower. Please notify Mrs A.M. Carpenter, 41, Napier Road, Crowthorne, Berks. RG11-7EJ Please enclose s.a.e. for reply.

PLAIN BOB DOUBLES AND MINOR - This course will be run by the Banbury Branch at Bodicote, during February. Enquiries to R.A. Thorne, 3 Broad Gap, Bodicote, Banbury, Oxon OX15-4DE. s.a.e please for reply.

Queries with regard other courses to Mrs A.M. Carpenter - address as above - from December to March 31, 1988 as Miss M.R. Cross will be in the U.S.A.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE LEAFLETS 20p each from Mrs A.M. Carpenter.

Northampton - cont. from page 4

emphasis is placed on this vital step. He says that far too many learners are lost because they are asked to do things which they cannot because of their limited bell control. It showed some imaginative exercises which are fully explained in his publication 'Teaching from Rounds to Bob Doubles', though some of it is almost patronisingly detailed, supplemented with action shots on the video. Reaching perfection in bell control before starting on Plain Hunt was fully stressed, showing details of exercises in shortening the backstroke and ringing a whole pull and stand. Plain Hunt was also attempted starting from different positions in the row. The video shows many important points, though I was rather distracted by the rather less than perfect handling of some of the ringers.

The Seminar finished with a few words from Malcolm Tyler on starting a band from scratch, and the importance of involving ALL the ringers at all times, giving them tasks, homework etc. and engaging their attention fully while others are ringing. This, I feel, need not necessarily apply to a band of beginners, but is relevant to ringers of all stages in established bands.

Bobbie May.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Peals by Sunday Service Bands:-

Old Marston 12.9.87 4 Doubles Methods. Rung by the Sunday Service Band from Shrivenham. First peal 1 First inside 3. Conducted by Gordon Belcher

Beaconsfield 12.9.87 Stedman Triples-conducted by K. Darvill. First peal by the Tenor and first of Triples by 1 and 5. Rung for the 25th Anniversary of the ordination of the Rector of Beaconsfield.

Bray, Berks. 11.10.87 Kent T.B.Major -conducted by G.Firman.First peal by 3, and first in method by 2,4,5,6. Three members of the Fowles family took part.

Golden Wedding Peal

Hughenden 5.9.87 Yorkshire S.Major - conducted by Robert Newton - for the Golden wedding of May and Arthur Newton. Pat and Percy Newton also took part in the peal, and J.Alan Ainsworth and Marion Ainsworth rang their 100th peal together.

Hungerford Tragedy

Hungerford - Before the Memorial Service the local band rang a Quarter Peal Half Muffled of Plain Bob Doubles.

On the following Sunday afternoon ,as a final tribute to the victims of the massacre, a fully muffled (Tenor open at back stroke) peal of Stedman Triples was attempted. Unfortunately this was unsuccessful due to a shift course after two hours ringing.

Reading-St.Laurence - 21.8.87- A Quarter Peal of Cambridge Maximus.

Thatcham - 23.8.87 A Quarter Peal of Cambridge S.Minor

Caversham-St.Peters - 27.8.87 - Reverse Dublin S.Major - rung for the victims of the Hungerford Tragedy. All the band are regular visitors to Hungerford for the monthly Thursday Peal.

First peals in method for the Guild

Edenfield S.Major - Thatcham -31.7.87 - probably the first peal in the method. It had been previously rung in a peal of spliced.

Neville S.Royal -9.10.87 was also rung at Thatcham. Both were conducted by Bill Butler. Alan Ainsworth also conducted two firsts;- Doublebois S.Major at Shorditch-23.9.87; and Burnham S.Major at Burnham-10.10.97. The first peal of Goldings S.Royal for the Guild was rung at Thatcham on 2.10.87.

1900th Peal

Geoffrey K. Dodd rang this at Thatcham on 2.10.87. He also rang his 250th peal with Helen J.piper at Grantham 3.10.87

250th Peal for Guild.

Alan J.Ainsworth rang his 250th peal for the Guild at Amersham 26.9.87.

400th Peal - This was rung by Ian Roulstone at Appleton 18.7.87 Spliced Surprise Royal (4m).

250th Peal - Philip R.J.Barnes rang this at Amersham 26.9.87.

Retirement of Banbury Branch Vice-Chairman. At Great Tew 27.9.87 a peal of Plain Bob Major was rung to mark the retirement of the Rev. H.Colchester , Rector of Great Tew and Vice-Chairman of the Banbury Branch.

Handbell Peals

Grantham C.John called his first peal of Surprise as conductor - Lincolnshire S. Len Porter hasring his fierst in Hand of Royal and of Kent T.B.Major.

Newgate S.Royal Has been rung both at Reading and High Wycombe.

On 7.9.87 at Reading the band rang ' a first by all' of Pudset S.Royal. It was also the 50th together by 1-2,7-8,9-10

On August 1st an Oxford City Branch band rang three quarters - Caversfield - Old Doubles ;Stratton Audley - St.Columb Doubles; Wood Eaton -Fortune Doubles.

Guild Subscription - Did you know that the subscription was 1s.6d (7½p) in 1920..A teacher leaving college would have earned about £2.0.0 and a farm labourer just over onepound?

Quarter Peals by Sunday Service Bands

Blewbury - Grandsire Triples 28.6.87 Bray - Stedman Triples 5.7.87
 Nettledbed - Grandsire Doubles 21.6.87 Cumnoi - Plain Bob Minor 19.7.87
 Padworth - Plain Bob Doubles 28.6.87 by the Mortimer Band
 Shrivenham - Doubles (5m) 6,7,8,covering - 6th rung by Jim Moore for whose
 84 th birthday it was rung.
 Stanford-the-Vale - Grandsire Doubles 6,7,8 covering.-for the engagement
 of Nigel Hull and Dawn Hodgson. Nigel is a member of the local band.
 Tilehurst - Middleton Doubles 28.7.87 Warfield - Plain Bob Doubles 1.8.87
 Wokingham ASS - Standard Eight Spliced Major 30.7.87
 Padworth - Plain BOB Minor 20.8.87 by the Shinfield Band- First of Minor by
 Tara Davis and Jane Weller. Birthday compliment to Kerry May.
 Blewbury Plain Bob Minor 17.7.87 and Kent T.B.Minor 31.7.87

Memorial Quarter- Marston,Oxford-Clifford Pleasure Doubles - 3.7.87 in memoriam
 Clifford Eade and Cyril Wheeler ,former ringers at Marston.

Cowley,Oxford-- St James - Quarter Peal Grandsire Doubles. 21.7.87 Rung for
 the 50th Anniversary of St.Luke's,Cowley which was built to serve the
 growing population of Cowley due to the Morris Works. Four of the local
 band rang in it as did Roy Goodwin and David Pullin who had taught them.It
 was conducted by the latter.It was his first as conductor.

Eynsham - Grandsire Doubles 28.6.87 Rung for the 76th Birthday od C.Bennett the
 local captain.

Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother

Windsor St.John Kent T.B.Major - a birthday compliment to H.M.The Queen
 Elizabeth the Quenn Mother.

First Quarter on Augmented Bells.

Steeple Aston - Grandsire Triples 16.8.87

Garsington - Three of the local Band rang in a Quarter Peal of Plain Bob Doubles
 25.7.87. It was the first by the Tenor.

Bishop Harries - The Quarter Peal rung at Strafield Mortimer on 7.6.87 was
 rung for the consecration of Bishop Harries..

1000 Quarter Peal - Donald B.Carter rang his 1,000 Quarter Peal at Bathwick on
 21.6.87. It was also his 50th this year.

Andrew Mead,who played a very active part in the life of the Newbury Branch
 before he moved to Bristol has been elected Peal Secretary of the G.& B.D.A.

250 Peal -Donald B.Carter rang this at Bloxham 17.10.87 Bloxham S.Major.

21 Spliced S.Minor was rung at Sunningwell 18.10.87 and 21 Spliced Surprise
 Major at Hungerford 19,10.87

Pensioners' Quarter Peal of Cambridge S.Major. This was rung at Caversham 13.8.87
Further Local Quarter Peals

Easthampstead - J.Cubley conducted his 200th Quarter Peal Bob Double

Easthampstead - K.Lovell conducted his 200th Quarter Peal. - Plain Bob Doubles
 on 2.8.87

Lane End,Bucks - 1260 Plain Bob Doubles 9.8.87 - To celebrate the marriage of
 Mandy Whines to Colin Meakes the local tower captain.

450th Handbell Peal - Robert Newton rang this on 14.10.87 - Kent T,B,Maximus.

NEWBURY BRANCH - The new Branch Secretary is Diane Clarke, Wayland,1,Fir Tree
 Paddock,West Ilsley,Berks. RG16 0AY.

GUILD RINGING DAY - 2 MAY 1988

The following are the Towers proposed . Towers marked * are subject to confirmation that the Towers are available. All towers will be open for one hour.

Start Time	Route 1	Route 2
10.00	Steeple Clayden *	Wendover *
10.45	Hillesden	Aston Clinton *
11.30	Buckingham *	Aylesbury *
12.15	Padbury	Bierton *
13.00	Great Horwood	Wingrave
13.45	Little Horwood	Cheddington
14.30	Mursley *	Wing *
15.15	Winslow *	Aston Abbots *
16.00	Granborough *	Hardwick
16.45	North Marston *	Whitchurch
17.30	Quainton	
18.15	Waddesdon	
19.00	Nether Winchenden *	
19.45	Cuddington	

8 BELL STRIKING COMPETITION - 2 MAY 1988

Heats	Long Crendon
	Linslade *
Final	Quainton

1988 GUILD DIARY DATES

13/14 Feb.	Sponsored Quarter Peal Day in aid of the Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund.
12 Mar.	General Committee Meeting (Old North Berks Branch -Cholsey)
2 May	Ringling Day (Central Bucks Branch) 8-Bell Striking Competition (D.Norwich C.B.Major -Quainton)
21 May	AGM (South Oxon Branch - Benson)
2 July	Guild Festival (South Oxon Branch - Dorchester) Guild Barn Dance (Old North Berks Branch)
23-25 Sept.	Easthampstead Residential Ringing Course
1 Oct.	6-Bell Striking Competition (North Bucks Branch)
7 Oct.	Branch Secretaries Meeting (Radley Church Room)
26 Nov.	General Committee Meeting (Witney and Woodstock Branch)

PLEASE ENTER THESE DATES IN YOUR 1988 DIARY.

A.G.PULLAN

ST PAUL'S, WOKINGHAM - GALE DAMAGE

STOPPRESS NEWS (from Branch News Letter)

The high winds of Friday 16th October shifted the top section of our spire by about three or four inches. So no ringing or bell testing is allowed until it is repaired. The Rector is getting quotes as quickly as possible and is intent on trying to get it fixed before the bells are returned, but it is too early to say when the work will actually be completed.

Sonning Deanery News Letter November Issue

MARLOW PARISH CHURCH

NO RINGING UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE - due to structural problems in spire. (Not due to Hurricane!)

Katharine Firman

DIARY OF EVENTS FOR THE NEXT FOUR MONTHS

December	5	C.Norton	BP	Shipton-u-Wychwood	7.30p.m.
		N.Bucks	ly	Stoney Stratford	
		W&W	BP	Combe	2.00p.m.
	12	Oxford	AGM	Stonesfield	3.15p.m.
		C.Bucks	BP	Iffley	
		O.N.B.	BP	Wingrave	6.30p.m.
	17	Chiltern	SP	Sutton Courtenay	7.00p.m.
		18	N.Bucks	BP	Aston Clinton
	19	Sonning	BP	Woughton	
		Chiltern	BP	White Waltham	7.00p.m.
EBSB		BP	Aston Clinton	6.30 - 8.30p.m.	
W&W		BP	Cookham	6.30p.m.	
January	1	O.N.B.		Carol Service at Ducklington	7.30p.m.
				New Year's Day Ringing at Marcham. Bring and Buy Sale	10.00 - 12.00noon
	2	W&W	BP	Cassington	6.30p.m.
				Church Hanborough	7.45p.m.
	9	C.Bucks	BP	Hardwick	6.30p.m.
		C.Norton	BP	Spelsbury	7.30 - 9.00pm
		Reading	BP	Reading St.Laurence	7.00 - 9.00p.m.
	16	O.N.B.	BP	Blewbury	7.00p.m.
		W&W		Walk and Ring	
		Sonning	BP	Warfield	7.00p.m.
Chiltern		BP	Wendover	6.30 - 8.30p.m.	
23	Banbury	BP	Bodicote		
	EBSB	BP			
	S.Oxon	BP			
25	Vof WH	BP	Faringdon		
February	6	W&W	BP	Northleigh	9.30a.m.
				Witney	10.45a.m.
	13/14	C.Norton	BP	Chipping Norton	7.30 - 9.00p.m.
				Guild Sponsored Quarter Peal Day in aid of Guild Bell Fund	
	13	C.Bucks	BP	Little Horwood	6.30p.m.
		Reading	AGM	Mortimer StJohn & St.Mary	
	17	O.N.B.	BP	Abingdon ?	
				Guild F & G.P. sub-committee Meeting at Radley	7.30p.m.
	20	W&W		Mini Outing	
		Sonning	AGM	Binfield	
Chiltern		BP	Cheddington	6.30 - 8.30p.m.	
Bicester		AGM	Charlton-on-Otmoor		
27	Banbury		Branch Dinner		
	V of Wh	AGM	Stanford-in-the-Vale		
March	2			Towers and Belfries Sub-Committee Meeting	Radley 7.30p.m.
		5	W&W	BP	Southleigh
	12			Freeland	3.15p.m.
		C.Norton	BP	Enstone	7.30p.m.
				Guild General Committee Meeting - Cholsey	
	19	Newbury		Car Outing	
		C.Bucks	BP	Hillesden	6.30p.m.
	26	O.N.B.	BP	Cholsey	7.00p.m.
		Banbury	BP	Rousham	
	April	16	W&W	AGM	Wootton
		Banbury	AGM	Mollington	

STOP PRESS The Vof WH practice at Shrivenham has been postponed to Monday, December 7, 1987