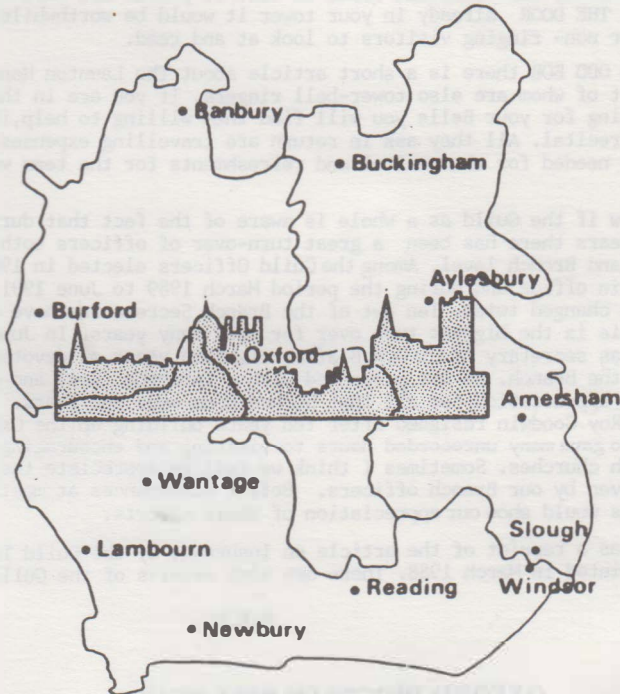


ODD BOB

Newsletter of the

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD



July 1991

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----- ODD BOB - OXFORD DIOCESE - BERKS OXON BUCKS -----

That this edition of ODD BOB is ready for the printers ten days after I returned from the U.S.A. is due to the co-operation of a number of people; The Master and Officers of the Guild whose material awaited me on my return; all the Branch Secretaries who met the deadline I had given them and contributors of articles who did likewise. Also I would like to thank The Editor of the Ringing World who posted the photo-graphs of the Youth Weekend in reply to an S.O.S after it was discovered that a letter posted by Pat Newton had gone astray. Above all our thanks are due to Daphne Pollard who collected half of the material for this copy and processed it through a computer so that I did not have to type it. May I say Thank you for the help you all gave in your various ways.

Among the mail awaiting my return was a copy of THE DOOR - The Diocese of Oxford Reporter for April. The centre page was devoted entirely to ringing within the Diocese. There are some excellent photo-graphs. An excellent article by Bill Butler entitled 'This peculiarly English Pastime' explains for the non-ringer in understandable terms what ringing is and some of its History. Another article describes the Guild and its activities; a third the meaning of some of the technical terms we use. If you do not have a copy of the April THE DOOR already in your tower it would be worthwhile keeping one there for non-ringing visitors to look at and read.

Elsewhere in ODD BOB there is a short article about The Launton Handbell Ringers, most of whom are also tower-bell ringers. If you are in the process of Fund Raising for your Bells you will find them willing to help, if possible, by giving a recital. All they ask in return are travelling expenses for the several cars needed for the recital and refreshments for the team would also be welcome.

I do not know if the Guild as a whole is aware of the fact that during the past three years there has been a great turn-over of officers both at Guild level and Branch level. Among the Guild Officers elected in 1988 only four remain in office and during the period March 1989 to June 1991 some offices have changed twice. Ten out of the Branch Secretaries have also resigned. This is the biggest turn over for very many years. In June Len Cox retired as secretary of the O.N.B after eighteen years of devoted service to the Branch. He was presented with a Tabletop Bell and a cheque for £200 in appreciation for all that he had done over the years. In December 1990 Roy Goodwin resigned after ten years building up the Oxford City Branch. He too gave many unrecorded hours to visiting and encouraging bands in the parish churches. Sometimes I think we fail to appreciate the time and effort given by our Branch officers. Better attendances at meetings and practices would show our appreciation of their efforts.

This issue has a reprint of the article on Insurance by the Guild Treasurer which was printed in March 1988. There are also details of the Guild Display Material.

M.R.C.

OXFORD DIOCESAN BELL FUND

The following is a correction to the Report of the Managing Trustees on p.10 of ODD BOB Issue No.30 (March 1991):

Tower	Estimated Cost	Grant Agreed
Great Missenden	£30,000	£4,500

FROM THE MASTER

It was with regret but understanding that the resignations were accepted at the Guild AGM from our Deputy Master, Anne Carpenter and Hon. General Secretary, Alex Sharpe.

Anne was no stranger to the Guild when she was elected to replace Henry Lawrenson as Deputy Master in 1987, having been a Guild Steward for two years prior to that. During the past 4 years she has attended many branch meetings, and has been much involved in the organisation of the 6 and 8-bell striking competitions. However, Anne may be remembered more for her part in the organisation of the Easthampstead ringing course. Whilst Bobbie May liaised with the college, students and tutors, Anne arranged the towers and helpers for the course, in addition to providing excellent packed lunches each year for all the students and tutors. Alex was new to office when he was elected in 1989, but quickly got to grips with the complexity of the secretary's job, and worked tirelessly to keep abreast of the vast volume of work involved. I should like to take this opportunity to thank them both for their valued contributions to the Guild, and to congratulate their successors Graham Clifton and John Wells on their election. With John taking on the post of Hon. General Secretary, a new Report Editor had to be found, and I thank Angela Croft for agreeing to do this job.

The Revd. Richard Thomas, the Diocesan Communications Officer, preached at the AGM service at Abingdon, giving an interesting sermon which reflected his support for bellringing as an important part of the work of the church throughout the diocese. He also mentioned that 1992 is being celebrated as the 450th anniversary of the diocese, and invited us to make some contribution to the celebrations. Ideas such as a service in the cathedral, a peal or quarter day/week, or a special striking contest have come to mind already, but if anyone would like to suggest any other ways of celebrating this anniversary, I would be pleased to hear from them.

A good many of our members give of their time and energy to organizing events on behalf of the Guild, and at this point I would like to thank all those who have been in any way involved with the organization of striking contests, meetings, the open day etc. Our welcome in Abingdon for the AGM was superb, with a pleasant service, delicious tea and a good meeting place. Helped by fine weather and just the right number of "grabbers" on the ringing day, the May-Day activities were very enjoyable, although I must apologize on behalf of the F & GP committee for setting the price such that there was no reduction for buying a day ticket. (Whoops!). At the time of writing I look forward to another successful day for the Guild Festival and Barn Dance. Thank you to all in the Old North Berks, Witney and Woodstock, Chipping Norton, Sonning Deanery and Reading branches who have organized these events.

It was with pleasure and pride that John Wells, Alex Sharpe, Brian Gatward and I represented the Guild in the procession of officers at the start of the Central Council Centenary service at St Paul's Cathedral on Saturday, 25th May. The service itself was splendid, and I was pleased to see many other Guild members present in addition to our Central Council representatives.

All branches and all 10 and 12-bell towers were invited to send a representative to a recent meeting to discuss the possibility of holding a Guild 10-bell striking contest. The eleven members present at the meeting agreed that they would like such a contest to be held on an annual basis, with entries being invited on a one-per-branch basis. Details of the decisions of the meeting will be put to the General Committee in November, but I think it is very encouraging to see the support and interest in higher number ringing in the Guild, even from branches where there are no 10 bell towers. I hope this is an indication of growing strength of ringing throughout the diocese.

Patricia Newton

NEW OFFICERS AND AN INVITATION FOR 1992 AT THE A.G.M.

This year's Annual General Meeting was held at Abingdon on May 18th when the Guild was the guest of the Old North Berks Branch. Ringing at various towers in the area preceded the service held at St.Nicolas, Abingdon. The service was conducted by the Rev. Richard Thomas who is the Communications Officer for the Diocese. In his address Fr.Richard stressed the importance of good communication in advancing the work of the Church in today's society and expressed his appreciation of the role played by ringers in bringing the Church to the attention of the general population. He also invited the Guild to consider ways in which it might like to mark the celebration of the 450th Anniversary of the Diocese in 1992.

Refreshed by the excellent food prepared by local ringers, the company settled down for the business meeting chaired by the Master, Pat Newton. After a period of silence and prayers for those members who had died during the past year, the meeting proceeded without undue controversy. The Treasurer reported on the reasonably healthy financial position of both the General Fund and the Bell Fund and the meeting accepted the report of the General Committee including the new subscription rates and peal fees for 1991.

Two officers, The Deputy Master, Anne Carpenter, and the General Secretary Alex Sharpe had both indicated their decision not to seek re-election this year. Both were warmly thanked by the Master for their hard work and support during their time in office. The following Officers were then elected for the coming year:-

Master	Mrs P.Newton	Deputy Master	G.J.Clifton
Hon.General Secretary	E.J.Wells	Hon Treasurer	B.J.Gatward
Hon. Librarian	W.Butler	Report Editor	Mrs A.Croft
Peal Secretary	Mrs E.Strucket	Newsletter Editor	Miss M.R.Cross

G.Blundell, Miss M.R.Cross, R.Datson, K.Davenport were elected as Guild Stewards and W.H.Haynes, Mrs B.May, Miss D.Pollard, A.Sharpe, D.Struckett and M.Till were elected to the General Committee.

The list of new Non-resident Life Members elected in 1990 was ratified, although some concern was expressed over the lack of clear details provided by some conductors of the peals involved. In future the rules related to N.R.L.Ms will be strictly applied.

Details of the Guild Festival to be held in Reading on 6th July were announced and the meeting was given a short report on the current concerns of the Central Council by John Harrison, one of the Guild's Representatives.

After presenting certificates for the recent Guild 8-Bell Striking Competition to:

High Wycombe Tower	1st
East Berks /South Bucks Branch	2nd
Tilehurst Tower	3rd

The Master thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting.

John Wells Hon.General Secretary

Facts and Figures cont.

18th Birthday

High Wycombe 1260 Grandsire Triples R.H.Newton (C) 1,
Sheila Bruce 2, P.J.Bruce 3, Meryl Kennedy 4, P.Newton 5
A.Newton 6, R. Nuala Kenedy (1st Q) 8. 18th Birthday complement to Nuala, daughter of 4, grand-daughter of 6, niece of 1 and 7, great niece of 5.

RESTORATION FUND-ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1990

1989 £			1990 £
	Balance brought forward 1 January 1990		
2152.85	Investments	2090.57	
1000.00	Loan - General Fund	1000.00	
568.45	Loan - Reserve Fund	568.45	
<u>3721.30</u>			3659.02
3.00	P.C.C. Donations	2.00	
	Other Donations		
30.00	Donation - Old North Berks Branch	26.80	
	Donation - H.L. Roper	50.00	
121.67	Donation in memory of H. Badger		
	Interest on Investments		
7.16	3.5% War Loan	7.16	
22.58	4% Consols	22.58	
33.24	9.5% Treasury Stock	33.24	
10.16	T.S.B. Savings Account	7.50	
92.09	Lloyds Bank Deposit Account	106.04	
217.82	Central Board of Finance Deposit	309.62	
<u>383.05</u>			486.14
4259.02			4223.96
	Grants		
50.00	East Hagbourne		
300.00	Stowe		
250.00	Inkpen		
<u>600.00</u>			.00
3659.02			4223.96
	Balance carried forward 31 December 1990		
2090.57	Investments	2655.51	
1000.00	Loan - General Fund	1000.00	
568.45	Loan - Reserve Fund	568.45	
<u>3659.02</u>		4223.96	
	Represented by:		
205.58	£205.00 3.5% War Loan	205.58	
500.73	£564.97 4% Consols	500.73	
299.31	£350.00 9.5% Treasury Stock	299.31	
552.07	T.S.B. Savings Account	124.55	
297.59	Lloyds Bank Deposit Account	480.43	
1803.74	Central Board of Finance - Church of England Deposit	2613.36	
<u>3659.02</u>		4223.96	
	RESERVE FUND		
	Balance brought forward 1 January 1990		
568.45	Loan - Restoration Fund		
	Balance carried forward - Loan to Restoration Fund	568.45	
<u>568.45</u>		568.45	

B.J.Gatward IPFA, MBCS
Honorary Treasurer
20.3.91

GROUP PERSONAL ACCIDENT INSURANCE

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

SCOPE OF COVERAGE

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

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

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

BENEFITS PAYABLE IN THE EVENT OF A CLAIM

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

This Insurance Cover has been in operation since March 1987.

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

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

Facts and Figures cont.

The Enthronement of the Right Rev.George Carey as Archbishop of Canterbury

19.4.91	West Wycombe,Bucks	1260	Grandsire Triples
20.4.91	Whitchurch on Thames	1260	Doubles (9m) *
	Shinfield,Berks	1260	Doubles (5m) *
	Swallowfield,Berks	1260	Grandsire Doubles *
*All three rung by PAWS and friends for the enthronement of the 103rd Archbishop of Canterbury.			
21.4.91	Bierton, Bucks	1260	Doubles(2m) -also for Evensong

Civic

3.3.91	Windsor St.John Baptist	1260	P.B.Major - For Girl Guides Service.
10.4.91	Abingdon St.Nicolas	1260	Doubles - On the retirement of Mr.J.Jones as Councillor and on his being made a Freeman of the Borough.
4.5.91	Emberton,Bucks	1260	P.B.Minor -For the Emberton Victorian Weekend.
21.4.91	Pangbourne,Berks	1260	Doubles(10m) -For H.M.The Queen's 65th Birthday - also for Evensong
	Wraybury	1260	Doubles - Sponsored by Building,Cleaning and Graffiti Removals for the Bell Rope fund Also as a Birthday complement to H.M.The Queen

----- THE CENTRAL COUNCIL WEEKEND 1991 -----

For me the Central Council weekend began on Saturday 25th May with a visit to the church of St. John of Jerusalem, South Hackney, one of the few churches in London at which I had not rung. This was a somewhat inauspicious start as no one turned up at the start to let us in. However, after a search of the neighbourhood to find the Rectory the local tower captain was eventually contacted and duly arrived with the key saying that the ringing had not been confirmed. I wondered if this was an example of what the rest of the weekend was going to be like but fortunately it turned out not to be so and everything else that I was involved with was organised very efficiently.

After a dash back to the HQ hotel where I stayed for two nights it was off to St Paul's Cathedral. I was privileged to have been asked to ring in the peal attempt after the Centenary Service and the peal band had been asked to assemble before the service to adjust ropes and ring the service touch. The service itself was fairly well attended although there did seem to be several empty seats under the dome. It was difficult to judge the numbers in such a big place. It was good to see our Guild Officers (smartly dressed!) taking part in the procession. Personally I was disappointed with the service as a whole because of the lack of participation by the congregation. The choir was very good as one would expect at England's premier cathedral but it was more like attending a concert than taking part in an act of worship. The highlight was an excellent sermon by the Dean of St Paul's, the Very Reverend Eric Evans, who admitted to having been a ringer in his younger days.

At the end of the service the peal band crept out during the last hymn as we had to make a prompt start. Although the occasion caused a few nerves to jangle, not least the conductor's, the band soon settled into a good rhythm and a very good peal of Stedman Cinques was completed in 3 hrs 46mins. The bells came round at almost 5 past 10, one of the latest finishes to a peal that I have ever had but I don't think there were any complaints. The beer in the Rising Sun tasted especially good that night.

On Sunday I rang for service on the new bells at St Martin's in the Fields. An excellent job has been done here both with the bell installation and in the ringing chamber. They are now a very clear and easy to handle peal of 12 bells. Then it was off to St Lawrence Jewry to listen to the international striking competition. As I have rung in Australia and several times in the U.S.A. I knew many of the overseas competitors and was able to renew some old acquaintances. The ringing was very varied as one might expect but the England (Cambridge Youths) and ANZAB teams both rang an excellent course of Cambridge. It was clear that they were way ahead of the field and it was difficult to rank them just from listening. In the event the judges put ANZAB marginally ahead. This was a well deserved victory although it has to be said that the team contained only two residents although there were many more in London that weekend.

Unfortunately I missed the Italian ringers who rang last because I had an appointment to keep at Westminster Abbey. This was another treat as I had never managed to ring there during my seven years in London and I was pleased to take part in a well struck course of Cambridge Royal. About 100 Council members took part in the ringing at the Abbey. We had been divided into bands and allocated ten minutes each. My band was first in the second session and as we were able to start early we had enough time for a full course.

Sunday evening was the time for some of the local organisers to let their hair down a bit at a party in the HQ hotel. The occasion was the presentation of the "Cyril" awards for various "achievements" in ringing such as sending in the latest of late peals to the Ringing World or choosing the

the most inappropriate peal composition. I'm surprised that some of the citations have not become the subject of lawsuits! I had to return home on the Monday for family duties and so I missed the 12-bell striking competition and the Dinner but I understand these also went off well and were much enjoyed.

Tuesday was the day of the Council meeting and it turned out to be one of the shortest on record, finishing at just after 3.30 pm. This was largely due to the lack of anything controversial and the fact that none of the committee reports generated much discussion. I don't intend to give a detailed account of the meeting as you will be able to read the official report in the Ringing World. However, I would like to mention two items which are of particular relevance to the Guild.

The first is the long awaited and much discussed code of practice for the preservation of bells. This is an important document produced by the bells sub-committee of the Council for the Care of Churches (CCC) with considerable input from the Central Council. Unfortunately the final draft of this document became available only a few days before the Council meeting and there was not enough time to circulate it to members. However, the CCC wants to publish it as soon as possible and would like the endorsement of the Council. This presented a problem and the solution decided upon is to circulate it to Guilds and Associations and to publish it in the Ringing World with a request for comments to be sent to the Council's Administrative Committee who will make a considered response to this request.

Another paper which was discussed at some length and then deferred to next year's Council Meeting was the report of a small sub-committee on the affiliation and representation of Guilds and Associations. This paper contains many far-reaching proposals such as the introduction of associate societies, the dis-affiliation of all non-territorial societies except the College Youthes and Cumberlands and a change to the number of representatives on the Council which would lead to the Oxford Guild being entitled to 7 instead of 4. Again this document will be circulated and published in the Ringing World. Personally I feel that this paper should be discussed as widely as possible at Guild and Branch level and if possible a consensus Guild opinion obtained. One way of achieving this might be to arrange a special general meeting after the Guild Committee Meeting in November. As a CC representative I would appreciate some idea of the strength of feeling before having to vote at next year's Council Meeting.

Tim Pett
Central Council Representative

Further peals of interest

- | | | |
|---------|---|-------------|
| 3.3.91 | Reading S.Mary 5088 Glasgow S.Royal | B.L.Groves |
| | First in method - 2,3,4,5,6,7 Rung by a local band | |
| 24.2.91 | Reading S.Laurence 5042 Cambridge Max. | I.Roulstone |
| | By the Reading Branch | |
| 9.3.91 | Great Brickhill 5040 S.Minor | R.J.Snack |
| | For peace in the Gulf. First of Surprise on the bells. | |
| | Also for the completion of stonework restoration on the tower and the re-roofing of the church. | |
| 16.3.91 | Dorney, Bucks 5040 Doubles (3m) | |
| | Sponsored for Comic Relief | |

Activity on Handbells

- | | | |
|---------|----------------|------------------------|
| 23.1.91 | Brimpton | 5040 Cambridge S.Royal |
| 27.1.91 | Aylesbury | 1260 P.B.Major |
| 6.2.91 | Widmer End | 5040 Yorkshire S.Royal |
| 13.2.91 | Calcot Reading | 5042 Cambridge S.Royal |

9.
EDUCATION SUB-COMMITTEE

Report 1st March 1990 to 28th February 1991

1. The Education Sub-Committee has met twice in the period 1.3.90 to 28.2.91 in order to review the activities carried out during the year and to plan future events. The meetings took place on 21.9.90 and 23.11.90, both at Radley.
2. The first event arranged during the year was the Junior Weekend, organised by the Master at Milton Keynes. The weekend was based in the local youth hostel and utilised a number of nearby towers. A full complement of about a dozen junior members were put through their paces by Pat and Bob Newton and their helpers, achieving a very successful, if tiring weekend. This was the first venture of its kind for the Guild and it seems to have filled the gap left in the Easthampstead course which cannot easily cater for the younger end of the membership.
3. As always, the major event of the Education Sub-Committee's year was the Easthampstead course. Although this is an annual event there is always much planning, organisation and negotiation to be done to achieve a relatively smooth weekend. The Committee has much to thank Bobbie May for in doing this with a minimum of assistance from others. The arrangements for the whole course were such that, apart from the normal one or two unforeseeable hitches, the seams between the theory, ringing and accommodation organisation were effectively invisible. Early fears that the course would be under-subscribed because of a large rise in the accommodation fees levied by the college were allayed late in the proceedings and the course ran with the usual mix of ability, theory and practice, tower- and handbells and serious and fun sessions. The financial statement of the course included an unexpected surplus of income over expenses. This was directly attributable to the college administration, who had charged the Guild a lower rate per room because expected improvements to the accommodation had not materialised. It was decided that the surplus should be used to maintain the 1991 course fees at the 1990 rate (if possible). The Committee would also like to express appreciation of the support given by Kevin Lovell and Peter Davies in organising the towers and helpers for the course, the Branches who provided the towers for the practical ringing and also the tutors.
4. John Harrison has run at least two courses on raising and lowering in peal and has found that there is a good deal of interest in this important aspect of ringing, one of the courses being by request from two towers at Dorchester.
5. Bob Newton organised a workshop on "Computers in Ringing" on 2.2.91 with Graham John and Philip Saddleton taking the lead. About fifteen interested parties attended, some with their computer systems and their favourite ringing programs. The quiet enthusiasm of the leaders was infectious and the workshop threatened to turn into a full weekend session. It was suggested that there may be a case for holding regular updating workshops to keep pace with this rapidly developing area.
6. Marie Cross held three "Teaching bell handling" sessions at Radley in the summer, by request from a group of ringers in the South Oxon and Old North Berks area. She has also run a "Post-Easthampstead" day for two others, by request.
7. Plans for Easthampstead '91 are well in hand and the college was booked for the only available date in September, the 22nd. Unfortunately this clashes with the Sonning Deanery 6-bell striking contest. Since the course is based in the Sonning Deanery it is clearly inadvisable to hold a major event at the same time as a Branch event. The Sub-Committee offers its apologies to the Sonning Deanery Branch and resolves to try to avoid such clashes in future.

8. An advertisement in "Odd Bob" for a handbell day has resulted in a sufficient number of people expressing interest to make planning such an event worthwhile. Mike Till will be contacting those who expressed interest to arrange a date and venue. The objective will be to improve on the participants' current expertise, either attempting quarter peals of plain bob on higher numbers or attempting the transition from plain bob to surprise major (perhaps also in the form of quarters). A number of experts will also be contacted to assist in this venture.

9. Anne Carpenter still sells a number of ODG Educational Booklets, several of which are due for a reprint. Anne now advertises regularly through the Ringing World. Our thanks are due to Anne for doing this for so long and for providing the necessary storage space!! Thanks are also due to Daphne Pollard for undertaking the necessary typing and printing.

10. This report has described some of the work done and planned by the Education Sub-Committee. Keen observers may have noted that there is a falling-off of the traditional, elementary one-day course which used to be run by the Sub-Committee. This is due to the fact that the Branches have taken over this aspect and are in a much better position to make such local arrangements as are necessary. The assistance of the Sub-Committee is, of course, always available, but it is felt that we can be more productive by providing opportunities which are either outside the resources possessed by an individual Branch or are of interest to a less densely distributed population throughout the Guild. As always, suggestions and requests are welcomed and should be addressed to your nearest Education Sub-Committee member.

BEST KEPT TOWER COMPETITION 1991

The preliminary round of judging in the 1991 Competition to find the best kept tower in the Oxford Guild will begin this Summer. The successful tower will be presented with the trophy (which it will hold for two years) at the 1992 Guild AGM.

The primary aim of the Competition remains the encouragement of good maintenance practices in towers.

There are a few changes to the form of the Competition to reflect the experience gained in the first year of running it. One important change is that towers will no longer be entered by default, so to win the trophy you must complete an entry form! On entering, you will receive a judges check list so that you can see exactly what is being looked for.

Every tower in the Diocese of Oxford is eligible to enter, provided that it contains three or more bells hung for full-circle ringing and no major work by a commercial firm (including builders) has been undertaken in the tower since 1 January 1990. The 1989 Competition winner (Bray) has been declared ineligible in order to open up the Competition to new towers.

The judges (from the Towers and Belfries Sub-Committee) will examine the tower including the ringing chamber, intermediate rooms, the bell chamber and tower access. Although the emphasis will be the condition of the bells and fittings, they will also cover cleanliness, tidiness and safety matters, all of which would feature in the running of a well kept tower.

The preliminary round will produce a list of finalists which will be inspected by a panel of judges to determine the final winner.

So, to enter, please complete the entry form and send it to: Peter Davies, "Narrogin", Longworth Road, Charney Bassett, Wantage, Oxon, OX12 0ET, as soon as possible. Note that the form has a box for you to tick if you do not wish to enter the Competition but would, nevertheless, like an inspection.

11.

How Well Do You Know Your Guild ?

Here are a few questions to test how much you know about the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers. I am sorry that there are no prizes for the first correct answers, but if you can answer most of the questions I suspect you are what can be termed an 'active' Guild member. If you cannot answer them, at least find out what they are so that you can think about what the Guild can do for you and, more importantly, what you can do for the Guild. Answers can be found in the Guild report, ODDBOB, Bill Butler's History of the Guild or by asking someone who might know or at least knows someone who does!

1. When was the Guild established?
2. What are the Guild's objects?
3. How does one become a member and what conditions are there on membership?
4. How large is the Guild and how does it compare with other associations and guilds?
5. How many Branches and towers are there in the Guild? How many towers are unringable?
6. Who are your Branch officers and what do they do?
7. Who are the Guild Officers and what do they do?
8. What is the role of Guild Steward and who is the Steward responsible for your Branch?
9. When are the following events held:-
 - a) the Guild AGM,
 - b) the Guild Festival
 - c) the Guild 6- and 8-bell Striking Competitions?

Have you ever attended any of these events?

10. Apart from the officers, the Guild is managed by a number of committees. What are these committees?
11. What does the Towers and Belfries Committee do?
12. What does the Education Committee do?
13. What is the Guild subscription and how much is retained for use by the Branches?
14. Who and what situations are covered by the Guild Insurance Policy?
15. Who can apply for a grant from the Guild Bell Fund and how is an application made?
16. What is kept in the Guild Library and how can you gain access to these items?
17. Who was the first Guild Master and what was his claim to 'ringing' fame? What other significant characters and events have been involved in the development of the Guild?
18. What is the Guild peal fee and what is it used for?
19. If you need help on one of the following, who should (or can) you contact?
 - a) Teaching a group of learners.
 - b) Learning a new method.
 - c) Advice on the condition of your bells or tower.
 - d) Queries over membership.
 - e) Insurance claims.
 - f) Putting on a ringing course.
20. When are your branch meetings and practices?
21. Who represents the Guild on the Central Council?
22. According to the Guild Rules each Branch must appoint certain officers together with any others the Branch considers necessary. What are these mandatory posts?

O B I T U A R Y

GILBERT A.G.G. THURLOW

GLIMPSES OF A LIFE

Gilbert Thurlow was curate at All Saints, Wokingham before the war. So were many others, but he kept in touch by reading our magazine until his death. He was also a ringer. I met him before I came here, or knew he had been here. As a very junior member of the Cambridge University Guild I saw him as one of that august band who had gone before, but occasionally visited those of us just setting out into the world.

Over the years I bumped into him several times at Guild functions, while his career in the Church took him from Yarmouth to Gloucester and finally to Chichester for retirement. For over over a quarter of a century, he always seemed much the same. He was very approachable, and had a dry but benign sense of humour. His manner and speech were appealingly precise. I remember at a meeting in the late seventies he described the churches we might visit during the Guild week he was to organise in Gloucester the following year. He described with great relish not only the delights of the bells, but the beauty of the architecture, the quality of the teas, the characters of the incumbents. Gilbert saw life very much in the round.

In 1988 when All Saints ringers went to ring a quarter peal at Chichester Cathedral for the Sunday afternoon service during our choir's week singing there, Gilbert was delighted to turn out to meet us and wish us well. He had never met most of the band, but he treated us all as long absent friends.

He was a life member of the Central Council of Church Bellringers, having been its president from 1963 to 1969, a position of respect at the pinnacle of the ringing establishment, held by only a dozen people during the Council's hundred years existence. He remained an active participant, and made articulate and highly pertinent speeches at last years Council meeting. It is sad that having done so much during his life for the ringing exercise, he died a few short weeks before the Council celebrated its centenary in London at the end of May. He will be fondly remembered by those who knew him.

John Harrison

From Wokingham All Saints Parish Magazine

Gilbert Thurlow was a member of the Sonning Deanery Branch from 1934 - 1939 and a non resident member until his death. During his curacy at Wokingham he took an active part in the Branch and was one of the band whose aim was to break the Doubles and Plain Minor Record. Unfortunately war came and band scattered. The following were members of that band; C.Elliott Wigg (later Master of O.D.G.), Gilbert A.G. Thurlow (President of C.C. and Dean of Gloucester); Bernard Castle (Sonning Deanery Branch Secretary from 1946 - 1970) William J. Paice (Sonning Deanery Branch Secretary 1927 -1946. R.Gordon Cross and the writer.

M.R.C.

Richard A. Post: 'Tubby' Post joined the Guild in 1927 as a member of the St. Giles, Oxford band. He was active in ringing in Oxford and District from the start and soon was recognised as one of the 'up and coming' younger ringers of the era. He rang a number of peals in the then 'standard' methods (Grandsire, Stedman, Kent). His first peals for the O.D.G. were rung in 1928 and he conducted his first peal for the Guild (Stedman Triples-Thurstons Four Part) at Buckland in August 1930. At the same time he was very active with the Oxford Society, whose Master he became later.

13.

On December 27 1932 he rang the 4th to the new record length of Grandire Caters 16,271 changes at Appleton. This band consisted of four Appleton ringers, five from Oxford and one from High Wycombe. Writing of this peal in The Master's Report for 1932 the Rev C.W.O.Jenkyn says "What I heard of the ringing in the forenoon and for a short time after, was good indeed, and I have learned from different sources that so it continued throughout". During the 1930s Tubby became one of the regular band in the Oxford area who were practising and ringing peals of Superlative, Cambridge S.Major, and London under the leadership of W.F.Judge.

Throughout the 1930s he remained a member of the St.Giles Band and was active in the Oxford Society. After the 1939 -1945 War he took an active part in the rebuilding of change ringing in Oxford and the surrounding area. He had then joined the St.Ebbe's Band where he played an active part in the Church life. In 1946 Tubby rang in the Record Length of Stedman Cinques at Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford (12663 changes) conducted by W.F.Judge. He ceased to take an active part in ringing shortly after that, devoting all his life and energy to his religious belief and his Lord. He died February 27, 1991 after a long illness.

M.R.C.

Great Linford, Bucks - 5040 Surprise Minor (3m) H/M In memory of Colin Snack, son of Linda and Ron Snack.

26.11.90 1296 Cambridge S.Minor H/M In memory of Colin Snack.

Waltham S.Lawrence 1260 P.B.Doubles - In memory of the Right Rev.George Alderson Quin, former Bishop of Down and Dropmore.

20.1.91 1264 P.B.Major - In memoriam Gerard Rawson, ringer of Windsor, formerly of Selston, Notts -aged 91yrs

Slough, Berks 1260 Grandsire Triples H/M - Rung after the funeral of Major J.W.M.Randall M.B.E.

25.1.91 1320 Grandsire Doubles - In thanksgiving for the life of Gerard Rawson (d. 18.1.91 aged 91) friend and frequent visitor to this tower.

2.2.91 1260 Grandsire Doubles H/M - In memory of Ern Davis buried here this afternoon.

Winkfield, Berks 1259 Grandsire Doubles H/M - In memoriam of Jack Evans (grandfather of the Treble Ringer) laid to rest here this day.

3.2.91 1260 P.B.Doubles - In thanksgiving for the life of Barbara Kock.

Stonesfield, Oxon 1274 Spliced Triples H/M - For evensong in memory of David Betts, a past ringer at S.Michaels, Tilehurst.

22.3.91 1260 Grandsire Doubles H/M - In memory of the Rev. Canon W.Henry Trebble, a former Vicar of Bicester & Caversfield, whose funeral took place at Bicester earlier that day. Canon Trebble, who was a former President of the Bicester Branch of the O.D.G. was laid to rest in Caversfield Churchyard.

Stratton Audley, Oxon 1260 Doubles (2m) In memory of Dennis Jones, Tower Captain.

27.2.91 1260 Grandsire Triples H/M - In memory of Alfredo Campoli, the renowned violinist who died at Thame aged 84.

Thame, Oxon 1260 Stedman Triples H/M - In memory of Ian Biggs

13.4.91 1584 Newgate S, Maximus - Rung open as a tribute to the life of Norman Britton.

Hughenden, Bucks 1320 Cambridge S.Minor - Rung open as a tribute to the life of Norman Britton.

20.4.91

Reading S.Laurence

21.4.91

Sonning, Berks

28.4.91

THE DYSTONIA SOCIETY

A plea from the Dystonia Society was passed on the the Guild from Diocesan Church House. This plea was not for money, but just a request for us to ring during the Dystonia Awareness Week to publicize the work of the Society.

This challenge was taken up by three towers in the Guild. On Sunday, 19th May the bellringers at Thatcham and Bray announced to their congregations that their service ringing was for this purpose, and distributed a total of about 250 leaflets about the society amongst their parishioners.

Michael Eaton of the Dystonia Society attended the morning service at High Wycombe to talk to the congregation and to distribute leaflets. A quarter peal was then rung after the service.

So what is the Dystonia Society?

It is a registered charity which was established in 1983 to support sufferers of the neurological disorder known as the Dystonias. This illness is dominated by involuntary spasms of muscle contraction that cause abnormal movements and posture. It can affect virtually any part of the body of both adults and children.

For further information contact the Dystonia Society on 071-700 4594.

High Wycombe, Bucks. 19 May, 1260 Plain Bob Triples: Sheila M. Bradley 1, Penelope R. Hadrill (1st inside) 2, Patricia M. Newton 3, Rebecca S. Bruce 4, Alastair P. Bruce 5, Christopher Parkinson 6, Robert H. Newton (C) 7, Deborah A. Spragg 8.

LAUNTON HANDBELL RINGERS

The Team was founded in 1951 by the late Frederick Sharpe, the noted bell-historian. Originally based on the village of Launton in Oxfordshire, the members now come from a wide area of Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire, meeting regularly for practices and recitals. The number ringing for any particular event normally varies from eight to ten.

Appearances have included recitals in cathedrals, churches, civic centres, clubs and private functions.

Programmes are chosen to suit the event from a repertoire of over 200 pieces. They usually include a balance of traditional and folk music, popular classics, and music specifically written for or associated with bells. There is a wide selection of music for Christmas.

The music itself is scored in the medieval modes, and played in the 'four - in-hand' style, each ringer holding four bells at one time.

Recitals usually last from 45 to 60 minutes. They are introduced and linked by a commentary from a member of the team who explains the history of the bells, the method of ringing, and the story behind the music being played.

Further details are available from the Secretary:

Miss Joan Harris, 81 North Street, Fritwell, Oxon Tel (0869) 345351

67th Wedding Anniversary

22.4.91 West Hanney

1260 P.B. Doubles To celebrate the 67th Wedding anniversary of Alice and Bob Breakspear. Bob was a former tower captain at West Hanney.

OUT OF AREA OPERATIONS

This operation was not in the Persian Gulf, but on the banks of the Thames, next door to a pub aptly named The Bell.

Guilds and societies can draw us together, and in the case of the ODG, this happens over large distances. The first Guild eight bell striking contest I entered was at Olney, some seventy miles from my home tower of Wokingham and at the other end of the Guild. Unfortunately for many of us, ringing horizons become much shorter when we turn and look out of the Guild. Contact between Guilds, even at fairly close range, is often limited.

It is refreshing, therefore, to report on an event largely independent of the Guild structure which draws competitors on a completely open basis. Richmond on Thames holds an annual music festival during February and March with competitions in everything from piano to violin, from singing to drama and, of all things, bell ringing. The ringing section covers tower bells, hand bells and tune ringing, which provides a nice balance to the proceedings.

Wokingham has entered all sections for the last few years. We have usually called on the help of friends in other towers within Sonning Deanery, but this year the pressures of other events on our own members lead to the need for more support than normal. In fact I was in a minority of one in the hand-bell change ringing team, and only half the tower bell team were Wokingham ringers. The only band which did not need reinforcements was the All Saints tune ringing band.

The venue moves to a different tower each year. As far as we can tell, this is to ensure we sample all the difficult bells in the area. This year it was at Hampton.

We ate lunch in The Bell and as the time for the draw arrived before our puddings did, we despatched one of the pudding abstainers next door to the church to represent us. A few minutes later, a young man rushed in to the group on the next table saying 'we're ringing first'. They turned out to be from 'St Margaret's Westminster'. They rang incredibly fast in the way many young bands do.

Following them into the ringing chamber, we found some of the bells uncomfortably close to the wall, some with very long ropes, and some requiring considerable care to put them into the right place. We were grateful for the practice piece. Concentration held the test piece together, apart from one trip which made a mess of one lead. Ringing always seems worse when you are in the tower concentrating on it. Although we had put up a reasonable performance on the bells, I did not feel confident at this point. We were followed by a local band which included some Hampton ringers, but obviously did not ring together.

We were delighted when the judge awarded us first place by a reasonable margin, especially since over a third of our faults came in the lead with the trip.

Changing ringing on hand bells followed. There was no draw as sadly we were the only team entered. There had been another team in the offing, but it had not been able to muster enough. We encouraged those present to form a scratch team, and the Hampton ringers said they could do it if we lent them one of our spare ringers. This we agreed and sent a delegation to fetch her back from the pub, as we sat down to ring the test piece.

This went very well. We had a stronger band than last year, and the practising paid off. The ringing certainly impressed. The scratch team evaporated and the judge awarded us a distinction, muttering something about negative faults if she subtracted here mark for impression.

What place do distinctions have in a bell ringing contest you may wonder, but remember this is held under the auspices of a music festival, so all the 'real' marks get

changed into distinction, highly commended, commended or 'participated', (no one came that low).

There were three tune ringing teams, with Hampton ringing first. They performed well, but the real battle was between Wokingham and Beddington. Both teams had pushed their standards up from the previous year and played inspired and ambitious arrangements. Both were highly commended, but Beddington took first place for the second year running.

To return to my original thought, this was an open competition within easy travelling range of scores of towers from half a dozen Guilds or Societies, including two Branches of the ODG. It is rather said that so few take the opportunity to enter. Is it that it is not known? It is advertised every year in the RW. Is it at the wrong time of year? Do teams use up all their competitive energy on their own Branch or Guild contests? Or is it that we have all become so conditioned by Guild activities that we simply dismiss out of area operations without a further thought?

Why not have a go next year? If you would like to be sent details at the time, I am sure the organiser, Norman Edwards, (081 941 5867), would like to hear from you.

John Harrison

TEWKESBURY SHIELD

Having won the Tewkesbury Shield last year, the same ringers were keen to defend their title. Consequently the band for the 1991 10-bell striking contest at Tewkesbury Abbey was much the same as that for last year. However, with Jane Cubley being unavailable, it gave the opportunity for the band to be made up entirely of EBSB members this year.

Although we knew the set piece for the contest was to be spliced Plain and Little Bob Royal, we were horrified to see the composition when it eventually arrived only a couple of weeks before the contest, and wondered whether we would be able to cope with the tenors being split for most of the touch!

Surprisingly, all bands completed the set piece on the day without too much trouble, but we did feel that the rhythm of our ringing was not quite as perfect as it could have been. In fact it was described by judges Bernard Taylor and Charles Pocock as being "jazzy". The band was, perhaps, a little disappointed to be placed 2nd this year, but still very pleased to be told that we had rung better than some very strong opposition.

The band:	1.	Sheila Bruce	(High Wycombe)
	2.	Katharine Firman	(Bray)
	3.	Ann Bethell	(Chalfont St Giles)
	4.	Ann Davies	(High Wycombe)
	5.	Christopher Parkinson	(High Wycombe)
	6.	Peter Bruce	(High Wycombe)
	7.	Patricia Newton	(High Wycombe)
	8.	Rex Agg	(Beaconsfield)
	9.	Graham Firman	(Bray)
	10.	Robert Newton	(C) (High Wycombe)

Results:	1.	Gloucester & Bristol D.A.	52 faults
	2.	Oxford D.G.	56 faults
	3.	St Martin's Guild, Birmingham	64 faults
	4.	Lichfield Archdeaconry	66 faults
	5.	Worcestershire & Districts Assn.	68 faults
	6.	Coventry D.G.	85 faults
	7.	Leicester D.G.	105 faults
	8.	Hereford D.G.	130 faults

oooooooo YOUTH ACTIVITIES ooooooooo



Patricia Newton's group at Yattendon. L.to R. Alistair Bruce, Jane Cubley, Erika Smith, Susie Bruce, Fiona Harrison, Paul Bennett, Emily Read, Barbara Payne, Alex Sharpe, Alice Mc Dougall

O.D.G. YOUTH WEEKEND 12 - 14 April 1991

The Youth Weekend was based at Streatley Youth Hostel, near Reading this year. Those people who took part arrived at the hostel at 7pm on Friday and then walked to Streatley Church. Everyone rang during the hour, despite there being 15 of us. Afterwards we returned to the hostel for an introductory lecture. We were shown useful books and Guild publications by Mrs Newton and were briefed on the following day's ringing. This was followed by supper and lights out at 11.30pm.

On Saturday after breakfast we were split into two groups according to ringing experience. Before going out to ring at local churches we had theory lessons based on our abilities. The 'Cambridge' group, which I was in, left at 10am for Compton Church. There we met other ringers who accompanied our group for the rest of the day. We had lunch after ringing at East Ilsley, continued to Yattendon and ended the day at Goring. In the evening several activities took place including handbell ringing, rope splicing and judging taped striking competitions.

On Sunday everyone rang in three groups at three local churches and attended the Service afterwards.

Being the least experienced ringer taking part in the weekend I only got as far as improving in Plain Hunt, while others rang new methods. Nevertheless I found it interesting and beneficial. I think everyone who took part enjoyed ringing in the various Churches and received excellent teaching.

Alice McDougall



Robert Newton's group by Agatha Christie's grave at Cholsey. L.to R. John White, James Pratt, Adam Jenkins, David Read, Anna Bailey, Kevin Lovell, Penelope Hadrill, Becky Bruce, Anne Carpenter, Debbie Spragg, June Saint, Steve Rossiter, Jonathan Carpenter.

STOP PRESS - High Wycombe Juniors won the Junior Striking Competition at Oxford.

Facts and Figures cont.

80th Birthday

20.3.91 Reading S.Laurence

1260 Stedman Triples - Arranged and rung as an 80th Birthday to Pat Lewington.

20.4.91 High Wycombe

5056 London S.Major - Birthday compliments to May Newton (80th Birthday -mother of Robert) and Syd Bailey (former tower captain)

60 Years Service Ringing

9.2.91 Maids Moreton,Bucks

1260 Grandsire Doubles - To commemorate 60yrs of regular service ringing at this church by George W.Holland (Tower Captain).

Congratulations also to George Edmans, President of the Central Bucks Branch who is now 80yrs old and has been ringing for 70 years.

1000 Peals.

Frank Price 11.3.91 White Waltham 5040 Minor(7m) 1000 peal comprising 999 true peals and one subsequently found to be false.

16.3.91 Ipswich 5042 Cambridge S.Maximus -1000th true peal

1600 peal

Peter Bridie 4.5.91 Lavenham,Suffolk 5152 Spliced S.Major (4m)

18th Birthday

13.1.91 Reading S.Laurence

1280 London S.Royal - 18th Birthday complement to Ruth Groves

28.4.91 Reading S.Mary

5120 Bristol S.Major - 18th Birthday complement to Naomi Lewis

PEAL SECRETARY'S REPORT - 1990

My first report as Guild Peal Secretary, for 1990, is not very outstanding compared to 1989. The total number of peals rung in 1990 was 354. Of these 294 were rung on tower bells and 60 on handbells.

As last year, Colin Turner is leading peal ringer with 145 peals to his credit; during the year he achieved his 1,000 peal. Only Colin has managed to ring over 100 peals for the Guild this year whereas last year there were seven.

Bernard Groves is once again leading handbell ringer with 35 peals and is also leading conductor with 50. Two Guild ringers were second and third in the leading peal ringers for 1990, Peter G.C.Ellis 200 and Colin M.Turner 183.

It is nice to see a high number of people ringing their first peal(41). Congratulations to you all.

Leading Peal Ringers	Total peals rung	of which	
		Conducted	Rung on Handbells
Colin M.Turner	145	-	-
Peter G.C.Ellis	83	17	-
Peter Bridie	73	-	-
Timothy G.Pett	73	20	7
Bernard F.L.Groves	71	50	35
William Butler	68	41	-
Geoffrey K.Dodd	65	20	-
John R.Martin	65	39	1
Cathy Holdway	60	-	-
Terry J.C.Streeter	55	1	-
Robert H.Newton	54	9	27
Helen J.Piper	53	-	-
Andrew M.Farmer	53	7	18
Brian Bladon	53	-	-
Patricia M.Newton	50	2	19
Tina Stoecklin	41	-	4
Peter Tombs	40	-	-
Peter Border	36	2	-
Graham C.John	35	-	27
Jennifer Butler	31	-	-
Stephen A.Wheeler	31	9	-
Michael Till	28	-	-
Ian Fielding	27	-	-

As can be seen from the chart below, a lot of people only rang 1 peal in 1990 compared to other years, but there is the usual high number of people ringing more than 10 peals

No. of peals	No. of ringers
25 and over	23
10 - 24	25
5 - 9	34
1 - 4	359
(of which 1	275)
Total	440

In 1990, 103 Guild towers were pealed, with 77 towers out of the Guild. Once again Thatcham was the leading tower.

Leading Towers	No. of peals	Tower	No. of Peals
Thatcham	33	East Ilsley	7
Hungerford	15	Highclere	6
Reading St Laurence	10	Amersham	6
High Wycombe	7	Reading S.Mary	6

There was a high increase of people ringing their first peal, 39 on tower bells and 2 on handbells.

First Peals were rung by:-

Andrew L. Utting, Simon J. Cole, Jennifer A. Instone, Patrick P. McDermott, Angela Croft, Philip L. Roberts, Rachel Holmes, Carol L. Huxter, Philip A. Roberts, Stephen Davies, Michael J. Durrant, Clive Todd, Simon N. Stranks, Graham J. Gill, Kate A. Guest, Ronald Churchard, Terence Wagstaff, Wendy M. Hill Harrop, Alastair P. Bruce, Lucy Weaver, Peter J. Triplow, Gwenda Smith, Adam Rae Smith, Bernard Smith, Jonathan P. M. Beale, Jim J. Reed, Paul K. Chilton, Louise Graham, Michael L. Williams, Pearl Larkins, Carol Robinson, Trevor Woodward, Amy Wood, Alison W. McDonald, Graham Steele, Michael Sherin, Derek Palmer, Jane Davey, Artur Harris.

First on Handbells:-

Naomi Lewis, Kevin Lovell

First Peal as Conductor:-

Stephen Wheeler Patricia Newton (Handbells) Andrew Farmer (Handbells)

PEALS OF NOTE:-

There were 14 methods rung for the first time, and 14 new methods for the Guild.

METHODS RUNG FOR THE FIRST TIME:-

On Tower bells:

Surprise Major: Ascension, Asshstede, Elizabeth of Glamis, Fulmer, Kingwood, Woodrow, Wokingham, X.L.

Delight Major: Atomic, Christmas

Surprise Royal: Evercreech Junction

Surprise Maximus: Mancroft

Delight Maximus: Piggottshill, Restoration

On Handbells:

Delight Maximus: Southdown (previously rung on tower bells)

METHODS RUNG FOR THE FIRST TIME FOR THE GUILD:

On Tower Bells:

Surprise Major: Keystone, Littlecote, Newmarket, Romsey, Yorktown

Delight Major: Rockwood

Surprise Royal: Clyde, Noseley, Pontefract, Ragsdale, Tamworth, Vermuyden Woodspring, Xaymaca

.N.B. The rest of this report in Sept. M.R.C

Elizabeth Struckett

Facts and Figures cont.

Activities on Handbells

17.2.91	Reading	5056	P.B. Major
28.2.91	Widmer End	5056	Spliced S. Major (8m)
3.3.91	Sandhurst	5056	P.B. Major
18.2.91	Calcot Reading	5040	Double Norwich C.B. Major
100	years since first	peal of Double Norwich on handbells	23.2.1891
13.3.91	Wheatley	5120	Oxford T.B. Major
29.3.91	Wiggington, Herts	5040	P.B. Major
14.3.91	Calcot Reading	5040	Yorkshire S. Royal
18.3.91	" "	5088	Bristol S. Major
4.4.91	" "	5120	Spliced S. Major (5m)
8.4.91	" "	5184	Bristol S. Major
11.4.91	Widmer End	5152	Yorkshire S. Major
19.4.91	Wheatley	5184	Kent T.B. Major
29.4.91	Calcot Reading	5088	Spliced S. Major (4m)
1.5.91	" "	5040	Bristol S. Royal
3.6.91	" "	5056	Pudsey S. Major

PEAL RECORDS**Additions for 1990****Tower Bells****I. SURPRISE MAJOR:****First peal in the method:**

Asshtede	Beaconsfield	J.A.Ainsworth	27-1-90
Woodrow	Amersham	J.A.Ainsworth	31-3-90
Ascension	Amersham	H.Neill	24-5-90
Fulmer	Chalfont St.Giles	J.A.Ainsworth	21-6-90
Elizabeth of Glamis	Oakham	J.A.Ainsworth	5-8-90
X.L.	Amersham	J.A.Ainsworth	14-10-90
Wokingham	Wokingham All Saints	E.J.Wells	3-11-90
Kingwood	Checkendon	J.A.Ainsworth	3-11-90

First peal in the method for the Guild:

Keystone	Hungerford	W.Butler	16-2-90
Yorktown	East Ilsley	W.Butler	22-2-90
Newmarket	Hungerford	W.Butler	23-2-90
Romsey	Highclere	B.F.L.Groves	17-5-90
Littlecote	Hungerford	G.K.Dodd	15-11-90

II. DELIGHT MAJOR:**First peal in the method:**

Christmas	Shedfield	J.R.Martin	22-12-90
Atomic	Harwell	B.F.L.Groves	15-12-90

First peal in the method for the Guild:

Rockwood	Thatcham	W.Butler	4-1-90
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III. SURPRISE ROYAL**First peal in the method:**

Evercreech Junction	Evercreech	J.R.Martin	5-5-90
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First peal in the method for the Guild:

Tamworth	Thatcham	W.Butler	19-1-90
Xaymaca	Thatcham	W.Butler	26-1-90
Pontefract	Thatcham	W.Butler	23-3-90
Woodspring	Thatcham	W.Butler	29-6-90
Ragsdale	Thatcham	W.Butler	12-10-90
Clyde	Thatcham	W.Butler	16-11-90
Vermuyden	Thatcham	W.Butler	7-12-90
Noseley	Thatcham	W.Butler	21-12-90

IV. SURPRISE MAXIMUS:

Mancroft	Norwich	J.R.Martin	28-10-90
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V. DELIGHT MAXIMUS:

Piggottshill	Croydon	R.J.Tibbetts	3-2-90
Restoration	High Wycombe	J.A.Ainsworth	24-6-90

Handbells**VI. DELIGHT MAXIMUS:****First peal in the method:**

Southdown	Calcot	B.F.L. Groves	14.2.90
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----- NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES -----

BANBURY BRANCH:- The Branch Striking Competition was held on 6th April at Swalcliffe. Unfortunately, this coincided with the Hereford week-end, so only two towers were able to enter a team. Great Tew were the winners and will now go forward to the Guild 6-bell Competition.

At the A.G.M. in April, all officers were re-elected with the exception of the Ringing Master (now Graham Reeves) and Deputy Ringing Master (now Alison Varney). Ten new members were elected, including seven from Somerton where a new band was started last year.

Several Branch members went to the annual Spring Bank Holiday week-end away, this year centred on Harrogate. There were a few interesting towers and several excellent rings, including Ripon and Bradford Cathedrals and the light eight at St. Wilfrid's, Harrogate. The week-end was very enjoyable and our thanks go to Graham Clifton for organising it all.

Graham Clifton is organising a "North Oxfordshire Ringers" jumper/sweatshirt available in a variety of colours, with a bell logo. Anyone who would like one please contact him. (0869 472773)

Sue Burchell

BICESTER BRANCH:-

1. Once again, a period of relative quiet runs amidst the weekly activity of individual towers. There are some items of interest, however, worthy of mention.

a. The Branch held an afternoon outing in April, when ringing took place at Brill, Combe, Charlbury and Spelsbury. Terry Cowell brought his video camera to the amusement of all concerned and produced some excellent results. Our thanks are extended to those who met us and allowed us to use their bells.

b. Another outing is planned for the 13th July when a number of members and friends will be travelling on a special train from Oxford via Bicester Town to Bedford. Here it is hoped to ring on the two eights as well as see the town.

c. Re-hanging work has been completed on the four bells at Fritwell by Whites. This work was much needed and should have given the local ringers a much easier task in ringing their bells.

d. A broken clapper on the seventh bell at Bicester recently caused some amusement and hard work. Needless to say, the ringer at the time was "Buster Clifton"! However, the thanks of the local band are due to Brian White for the help in executing a rapid repair job.

2. Finally, the following detail of a quarter peal at Ludgershall has been sent for inclusion -

ST MARY THE VIRGIN, LUDGERSHALL
20th May 1991

1260 STEDMAN AND GRANDSIRE DOUBLES

1. MRS P. EAST
2. L. BURNELL
3. MRS R.L. HENSON
4. MRS V. EVANS
5. C.W.J. EAST (C)

Rung to mark the 25th anniversary of the Reverend C.S. Jee's induction as Rector of Ludgershall. Also to mark the first visit to Ludgershall by the Rector's Grandson. The band wish them well.

Richard Stevens

CENTRAL BUCKS BRANCH:- The Central Bucks AGM always precedes the Guild one by one week. From our view point we are lucky that the Cup Final only falls on our Saturday once every five years or so. The Branch A.G.M. was well attended and we were pleased to welcome Pat Newton, Guild Master, and Giles Blundell, Guild Steward.

An A.G.M. marks both the end and a beginning. One end was John Evans standing down as Chairman. The members attending the A.G.M. unanimously passed a vote of thanks to him. Over the years he was Chairman, he brought a crisp approach to our business meetings. He kept them short and to the point. Ron Churchard took the hot seat (well he is a retired fireman!) as the new Chairman.

A notable landmark in May was the celebration by George Edmans, Branch President, of his 80th Birthday. I understand he has been ringing for 70 years. Certainly, he remains very active within the Branch.

Five tower teams plus the Branch Officers' band entered the Branch Six Bell Striking Competition. The judges, Reg Sheppard and Val Mills, while saying that the striking would not disgrace any service band, offered very critical constructive criticism. Clearly, as we have found with other judges, fast striking is preferred to a measured slower pace. The Branch Officers, who were second last year, did not do so well - they came 5th. The runners-up were Haddenham who rang Cambridge.

The Frank Gibbard Trophy was the prize for the fourth year. To identify the winners I am tempted to say look at this edition of ODD BOB last year, or the year before, or the year before. Congratulations to Quainton on winning the trophy again and earning the pleasure of representing the Branch in the Guild Competition.

Terry Wagstaff

CHILTERN BRANCH:- Our A.G.M. was held on April 20th and based on Ivinghoe. Ringing took place at Slapton and Ivinghoe before Evensong. The service and the tea afterwards were both well attended. All the officers were re-elected at the meeting with the exception of Jim Richardson who stood down from his posts as Branch Representative and 100 Club Treasurer. He was replaced in these jobs by Graham Quincey and Arthur White. Particularly encouraging was the number of new members elected - 10. Without doubt the highlight of the day was the evening ringing at Leighton Buzzard which, needless to say, attracted an even better attendance! Some were able to ring on twelve for the first time, while for the more experienced (with help from some guests from outside the Branch) the ringing included Cambridge Royal, Grandsire and Stedman Cinques and Little Bob Maximus.

Stoke Mandeville bells are now back in action after a silence of some nine years. The refurbishment work has involved scraping and painting the frame and fittings, the replacement of worm-eaten woodwork and corroded bolts, the re-facing and re-bushing of clappers and replacement of the ceiling bosses in the ringing chamber. A new set of ropes are on order and the ringing chamber is in process of redecoration. A band of local ringers is under training with practices being held on Tuesday evenings. We wish Graham Quincey every success in his efforts to re-establish ringing at the Branch's lightest eight.

The Branch Striking Competition was held at Ellesborough on June 15th. Unfortunately, apart from Aston Clinton, no other tower was able to enter an 'official' team (containing the minimum of five members from one tower). However Bledlow were able to draft in members from other towers and two members from Aston Clinton made up the numbers for an Ellesborough Team so that the home

tower were able to gain some experience of competition ringing. Roger and Gillian Hazell from Hughenden judged the ringing and gave particular encouragement to the less experienced ringers. The results were:-

Aston Clinton	(Cambridge)	29 faults
Bledlow	(Bob Doubles)	140 faults
Ellesborough	(Call Changes)	176 faults.

It will be refreshing if a band emerges to make a serious challenge to the Secretary's home tower before too long. They are there to be beaten!

John White

CHIPPING NORTON BRANCH:-The Annual General Meeting of the Branch was held at Shipton-under-Wychwood on May 11th. Mr S. Murrell (Salford) was elected Vice-Chairman and Mr K. Wakefield as Treasurer. All the other officers were re-elected.

The meeting expressed its best wishes to Jonathon Watts (Enstone) who had recently undergone surgery.

Three new members were elected to the Guild at the A.G.M. - Mr and Mrs C. Cattermole (Enstone) and Mrs Jean Davison (Salford).

Mr R. Datson and Mrs C. Tarrant had attended the Central Council Course at Sparsholt on the first week-end in June, in the Surprise Major Group, although it taxed the grey matter somewhat, the week-end was enjoyable. Cambridge Major now seems somewhat easier, and Yorkshire was attempted. Provided I can have a pass for the weekend, I personally hope to attend next year!

Two Ruby weddings have been celebrated recently, that of Mr and Mrs R. Datson on 14th April and Mr and Mrs J. MacViper on 5th May.

An enjoyable skittles evening was held at The Fox, Great Barington on 17th March, a change of venue due to The Sun at Hook Norton being unavailable. A small profit was made, half to Branch Funds and half to the Guild Bell Fund. An afternoon's outing had taken place on the 27th April, unfortunately not very well supported, but those who did go had an enjoyable afternoon. We had been warned about the very long draft at Fairford, but were pleasantly surprised to find lots of rope guides so it wasn't so difficult after all.

Two other social events have been provisionally arranged for the summer, an Aunt Sally match and Barbeque on 15th August against Banbury Branch at the Pear Tree, Hook Norton; and also a Cricket Match at the end of August. At the end of November it is hoped to hold a Barn Dance with Witney and Woodstock Branch.

QUARTER PEALS:-

SPELSBURY 13.4.91 1260 Mixed Doubles:

1. Mrs J. Datson	4. K. Mitchell
2. Mrs C. Tarrant	5. K. Wakefield (c)
3. R. Datson	6. Mrs M. Caudwell

Rung as a Ruby Wedding compliment to Mr and Mrs R. Datson. The Tenor ringer is the youngest sister of the Treble ringer and the 2nd the daughter of Treble and Third. The comment was made that the last time these four rang together was the occasion of the second's wedding in October 1986.

CHARLBURY 9.6.91 1260 Mixed Doubles:

1. Gail Leeming	4. M. P. Summers
2. B. Canham	5. M. J. Summers (c)
3. Claire Tarrant	6. I. Baker

Rung as a compliment to Revd. M. Chadwick, Vicar of Charlbury, on being made

an Honorary Canon of Christ Church, Oxford; also for the Silver Wedding Anniversary of the Rev.M. Chadwick and Mrs Chadwick. An enjoyable evening followed in the Vicarage!

BRANCH PRACTICES:-

6th July	Charlbury (6)	7.30 p.m
3rd August	Burford (8)	7.30 p.m.
7th September	Salford (5)	7.30 p.m.
5th October	Hook Norton (8)	7.30 p.m
12th October	Spelsbury (6)	Autumn Meeting 3.00p.m onwards

All are welcome, so please put a note in your diaries now!

Claire G.Tarrant.

EAST BERKS AND SOUTH BUCKS BRANCH:- Saturday 22nd June saw the Annual East Berks and South Bucks Six Bell Striking Competition. This year it was held at Hitcham, a light and, some would say, difficult, six. Altogether seven teams entered, albeit one was 'illegal' in that it consisted of a joint two tower entry! The six 'legal' teams that entered were all stewarded along by Colin Fowles and all rang very well. The judges, Mike Till and Paul Bodenham, both of the Newbury Branch, placed the bands in the following order with the subsequent faults:-

High Wycombe Senior	52 faults
Beaconsfield	77 faults
Hughenden	79 faults
High Wycombe Junior	99 faults
Chalfont St.Peter	122 faults
Chalfont St.Giles	134 faults

We congratulate High Wycombe Seniors on their superb performance and wish them luck in the next Guild Competition. The only disappointing thing of the whole day was that there were not more entries. However, perhaps next year.... Whilst the ringing was going on tea was served in relay fashion but at least it allowed us to have seconds whilst the judges were deliberating at the end of ringing! Thank you to everyone at Hitcham for a super tea. When can we come again!!!! Thanks also to Mike and Paul for Judging the Competition and they joined us in the Branch Practice which followed the Striking Competition.

Final touches, if you will excuse the pun, have been put to the Annual Dinner at Denham on September 14th and all towers should now have posters advertising the 'do'. Please apply for your tickets early and avoid the rush.

Jane Payne

NEWBURY BRANCH:-

BRANCH SIX-MONTHLY MEETING AND STRIKING COMPETITION -13th April: - The turnout for this Spring highlight of the Branch's calendar was pretty good, with six teams competing and 28 sitting down(or standing up) to tea.

The verdict of the judges, John Harrison and Jon Tutcher, was as follows:-

Newbury	48 faults
Thatcham 'A'	54 faults
Thatcham 'B'	87 faults
(Hungerford	99 faults
(Chieveley	
Kintbury	134 faults

Having supped and eaten, the officers huddled round an unfeasibly small

table for a brief business meeting. We welcomed six new members; Alison Bryant, a recent recruit to the flourishing Kintbury Band; Nicky and Jason Evans, who rove around between Chieveley, Peasemore and Beedon; Jonathan Till, a youngster from Midgham; Julie Lloyds, who started ringing at Newbury last year and Ian Park, who recently moved in from Suffolk.

NEWBURY BRANCH V OLD NORTH BERKS :- For the second year running we challenged ONB to sskittles at the Crown& Horns at East Ilsley. At the time of writing I do not know whether they are going to write it up. If their is one in this issue any similarities are purely coincidental.

The Newbury Branch was unfortunately poorly represented. The fourteen that did come were at first intimidated by an impressive turnout from O.N.B. However O.N.B. did the sportsmanlike thing and levelled the ground by forcing five of their number into treachery. Nodoubt the defectors pined for their comrades, as Newbury's performance was consistently short of North Berks.

The score has now been evened, but there are already rumours of a decider. Old North Berks may have won the battle, but the war is not yet over!

KINTBURY STREET FAIR:- Bank Holiday Monday, 27th May saw Church Street, Kintbury bursting at the seams with the Annual Street Fair. You may have heard that this year Kintbury ringers were helping to organise it. Adam Rae-Smith and his team did a fine job mobilising the village and the Branch into making it a success, and from a Fair goers point of view, that's what it was.

Although the proceeds have not yet been calculated, comments have been received from all quarters that this year's was the best yet.

The festivities were enlivened with ringing at several points. The tower was open all afternoon and demonstrations given to several captive audiences, who all clapped enthusiastically. The Kintbury ringers themselves were plying their homemade wines at the top of the Street, so we were very pleased to welcome visitors from Wargrave who beefed up our performance considerably. A further attraction was a concert by the William and Mary Handbell Ringers who played a huge repertoire of tunes to a packed church. Most of the W.& M.s ring at Hungerford Tower, and Tower Captain, Angela Croft reports that she has received several bookings since from appreciative members of the audience. The Scouts and Ringers who jointly arranged the day are sharing the proceeds and the ringers' portion will benefit the Rehangng Fund. The six bells are to be rehung in an eight bell frame (in anticipation of a future augmentation), and if you have rung at Kintbury you will be able to appreciate that these noble -sounding bells are worthy of high grade hardware. Wilst an impressive return from the Fair is expected the Fund has still a long way to go to reach the £25,000 target, and donations to "Kintbury Church Bellringers" would be most gratefully received. If you would like to help, especially if you came to the Fair, do please write to

Adam Rae-Smith,
Kington Cottage,
7, Inkpen Road,
Kintbury RG15 0NR

Paul Bodenham

QUARTER PEAL:-

KINIBURY, BERKS. 27th May 1991	1260 Minor (Cambridge Surprise and P.Bob)
Margaret E.Egglestone	1. Nick J.Clarke 4.
Diane S.Clarke	2. Andrew M.Hudson 5.
Paul J.Bodenham	3. Howard W.Egglestone (C) 6.

To conclude the Kintbury Street Fair 1991

NORTH BUCKS BRANCH:- As Alan has gone to higher things (ie Branch Chairman), I am now your Branch Secretary. Alan's will be a hard act to follow, but I will endeavour to do my best. If you need to contact me my address is:

Andrew King,
9, Walgrave Drive,
Bradwell,
Milton Keynes MK13 9BS

Or you can try phoning on (0908) 316339, though we are notoriously hard to get hold of! If you feel like a ring, I ring at Bradwell on a Wednesday night and I also hope to be at most of the Branch events.

Alan has passed on his list of tower correspondents. If you haven't received any of the recent notices it may be because I haven't got the right details, so please let me know. Please also let me know of any changes to your tower practice nights etc. so we can publish them in the next issue of IN TOUCH.

The new Branch Officers are:-

Chairman	Alan Marchbank
Secretary	Andrew King
Treasurer	Sheila Ware
Ringing Masters	Barry Egglefield
	Ron Snack
Guild Reps	Sheila Watts
	Samantha Hayes-Bradley
News Letter	Ross Tyrrell
Branch Archivist	Doug Hird

Andrew King - From Branch News Letter

QUARTER PEAL WEEKEND:-

13.4.91	All Saints Milton Keynes	1260 P.B. Doubles
	St. Edmunds Maids Moreton	1260 P.B. Minor
	SMV. Thornborough	1260 P.B. Doubles
14.4.91	All Saints Emberton	1260 P.B. Doubles First inside 2
	S. John Evangelist Wicken	1260 Belfast Surprise Major
16.4.91	St Andrews Gt. Linford	1260 P.B. Minor First of Minor 2
14.4.91	S. Lawrence Old Bradwell	1260 P.B. Doubles First attempt 1

BEGINNERS STRIKING COMPETITION:-

There was some anxiety that there would not be enough teams to make this a competition, but within half an hour six had turned up! The Bletchley cavalry arrived with six eligible ringers and consequently were able to make up three teams. These with the beginners from Beachampton, Emberton, and Great Linford made up the bands.

Our judges for the evening, Jonathan King and Nick Bratt, from Leighton Buzzard, proved very astute. They spotted the 'hoax' band, and put it last, and awarded the Chairman's Tankard to the Bletchley 'B' band.

The most serious comments made by the judges was about the unevenness of the striking, but ringing good rounds is one of the most difficult skills in ringing. All who took part did very well (except, perhaps, the band that rang Belfast!).

<u>Results</u>	1. Bletchley 'B'	4. Bletchley 'A'
	2. Emberton	5. Linford + Calverton + Emberton
	3. Bletchley 'C'	6. Belfast Band (made method mistakes)

Tine Marchbank From Branch News Letter

OLD NORTH BERKS BRANCH:- The Branch Striking Contest was held at Sunningwell in March, once again Appleton were the winners and will represent us at the Guild Finals in October.

We were pleased to send 7 juniors to the Guild Course at Streatley and also

pay part of the cost of their expenses, we also held a Junior ringing outing during the summer school half term. Just over 20 adults and juniors visited 4 towers on the outskirts of Oxford. The youngsters all enjoyed the day out and gained some good experience.

The Branch was pleased to act as host to the rest of the Guild at Abingdon on the occasion of the Guild A.G.M. in May. Our own Branch A.G.M., usually held in May, was put back one month until June. At this meeting our Branch Secretary retired after 18 years in office and the Branch members presented him with a table top bell mounted on a wooden base which had been made at the Whitechapel Foundry and a cheque for £200. Most of the towers in the branch had contributed to this.

The new Branch Secretary is:-

Andrew Utting
15, Tower Close,
Marcham,
Abingdon OX13 6PZ Tel. (0865) 391709

Len Cox

OXFORD CITY BRANCH:- It has been a quiet start to 1991. However that does not mean that we haven't been active. Special Branch Practices have been arranged at various towers with a view to concentrating on methods to help ringers of those towers. Jane Marlow, Branch Ringing Master, has worked hard to enlist support for those practices which I am sure have been beneficial.

Marston Ringers went to Cambridge for an outing in April and reports were that a good day was enjoyed by all.

The Branch 6-Bell Striking Competition was held at Marston on 11th May. At one stage it looked as though insufficient teams could be mustered, but eventually four teams contested and the home team were the winners.

Since the Branch A.G.M. in December, members have been collecting aluminium cans. By the end of April the total was 3,600 and this contributed £9.10 to the City Branch Funds. We are sure that this rate of collection can be exceeded. Thanks to Hugh Deam for his efforts.

Thanks are due to the continued hard work put in by John Beale and his family at Wolvercote with the Webb Ivory Mail order scheme. £150 profit had been made and John presented the treasurer with a cheque for the Bell Fund.

The Half Yearly Meeting was held at Garsington on June 8th and it was a pleasure for all members present to see Len Porter back in the chair after being absent from ringing for many months due to illness. Keep it up, Len.

Sadly, two of our members have passed away recently, Reg Gander of Horspath and Jack Sutton of Cowley. A minute's silence at the Half-Yearly Meeting was committed to their memory.

David Lane

READING BRANCH:- March, April and May practices were rather poorly attended. In June we had a change, Handbell ringing and a Bar-B-que. This took place at the home of Ralph Elmes and was really enjoyed by those attending. Tune ringing, method and lapping were attempted and everyone encouraged to have a go. Our thanks to Ralph and Janet.

Congratulations to Jane Weller on her first quarter of Cambridge Royal.

PAWS - Pangbourne and Whitchurch are really getting ahead with their quarters in Doubles methods. They have managed 11 methods including Stedman.

Best wishes to Toni Vernon and Stephen Smith and to Cathy Holdway and John

Martin on their forthcoming marriages.

Eunice Wark

HANDBELL EVENING.

A new venture of a B.B.Q and Handbells evening was held on 8th June at Nettle-bed in place of the normal Branch practice. The idea was to encourage as many people as possible to take part in a 'fun' evening'. The event started at about 4 pm so that early arrivals could take the opportunity to go for walks in the attractive countryside before the main event which was to include as many different handbell activities as possible.

Unfortunately, the weather decided to intervene so attendance was not as good as hoped. Fortunately most people got their outside cooking done before the rain became too heavy, and an enjoyable evening was held ringing methods, at various levels up to Bob Royal with an emphasis on giving everyone the chance to have a go, and tunes of various types.

Our thanks to Ralph Elmes for the use of his 'estate'. We must try it again with better weather.

TILEHURST - This year's Tilehurst outing ventured into Hampshire with ringing at East Tytherley, Sherfield English, St. Michael's Southampton and Bishopstoke, Wickham and Privett. A very enjoyable day was had with quite respectable ringing including the special methods for the day - Hampshire and Privett Surprise Major.

John Wells

1991 HEADLINE YEAR:- Reading Branch is set to host various National and Guild events in 1991.

Firstly, on March 16, St Laurence, Reading will be the venue for a heat of the NATIONAL 12-BELL STRIKING COMPETITION. Reading Branch is entering a team to ring the set piece of Cambridge Surprise Maximus and would like supporters during the day. Whilst there has been a Reading team in earlier years it included out of the branch ringers and was not, therefore, truly representative. This time the competition is stiff, including bands from High Wycombe, Guildford and the Ancient Society of College Youths.

Last year, Guild Master Pat Newton ran a successful YOUTH WEEKEND and this year she is basing the second one on Streatley Youth Hostel from 12-14 April. The Guild Festival will be based on Reading on Saturday, July 6th. A Festival Eucharist will be held at the Minster Church of St. Mary the Virgin in St. Mary's Butts at 11.0am - let's help fill that huge church and raise the roof with our singing - we expect ringers from the far ends of this vast diocese. ... Several towers will be open during the day which will end with a Barn Dance hosted by the Sonning Deanery Branch.

Lastly the Guild SIX BELL STRIKING COMPETITION FINAL comes to us on 5th October. The heats during the afternoon will be at Mortimer St. John and at Padworth with the final at Shinfield. YOUR tower could represent Reading if you win the Branch S/C on September 14th - so start practising now.

From the Reading Branch News Letter
Spring 1991

SOUTH OXON BRANCH:- The A.G.M. was held at Warborough this year. Over 30 members attended the meeting. The same committee was elected for the third year. Peter Nicholas volunteered to co-ordinate the 'Flying Squad' which ring for services at otherwise silent towers.

In May the Branch set off for its annual outing. This year we travelled to the Surrey area. At Bletchingly we rang for the crowning of the May Queen. The last tower of the day was Leigh - apparently pronounced 'lie'. That proved not to be the only strange thing about the tower as we had to stand on pews to ring the bells! Some towers in the branch report their efforts

falter as they cannot find a Saturday when everyone can come.

One Sunday in early June horrendous crashing sounds in Aston Rowant Church told of possible disaster. During the service touch the clapper of the 5th fell out, crashed through a wooden plank and fell on to the clockroom floor centimetres away from the clock mechanism. Fortunately, no other damage was done. The clapper is now securely in place. Checks on the other bells showed that three other clappers were loose and in need of urgent attention. Thank goodness we have a bell maintenance course in July. There will be three apprentice steeple keepers from Aston Rowant on it.

Branch practices and surprise paractices continue to be well attended and we are very pleased to see ringers from other branches. We all wondered what had happened to Stan Day at the last surprise practice - we discovered he had been ringing in Jeanette Barrington's first quarter peal inside - well done Jeanette.

Tina Ruff

SONNING DEANERY BRANCH:-

BRANCH STRIKING COMPETITION:- This year's 6-bell striking competition was held on 20th April at Arborfield and was well attended by 11 teams. The judges were Ken Darvill and Rex Agg and the results were as follows:-

1st	Easthampstead 'A'	38 faults	7th	Wokingham ASS 'B'	96 faults
2nd	Easthampstead 'B'	41	8th	Riverside Ringers*	108
3rd	Finchampstead 'A'	48	9th	Sandhurst	131
4th	Wokingham ASS 'A'	53	10th	Hurst	182
5th	Warfield		11th	Finchampstead 'B'	202
6th	Wokingham S. Paul	78			

*Riverside Ringers was a team comprised of members from towers not represented in the competition.

Congratulations to all who took part, especially to Tara Larkins, who at 11 years of age, called the call changes for the Finchampstead 'B' team.

From Branch News Letter

ST PAUL'S CHALLENGE TROPHY:- This nearly annual contest was held at the Jack O'Newbury, Binfield on Wednesday 27th March. This year we had five teams of up to 9 players representing Binfield, Finchampstead and friends, Twyford with Waltham St. Lawrence, St. Paul's and finally White Waltham.

The contest, over three rounds, was close. Binfield, bowling first and scoring, built up a challengeable score of 216, only to be beaten by the last ball of the evening. Well done Finchampstead and friends - you now have the privilege of organising the next competition. Any suggestions of suitable alleys to Carol Robinson.

Thank you, all who attended and raised £10.50 for the Branch while enjoying yourselves. Thank you for the donated raffle prizes and to Pauline Branson for organising the alley.

Hugh Baxter - Branch News Letter

VALE OF WHITE HORSE BRANCH:- This quarter started well with a Tower Maintenance Course for about 10 people. This was run by Bernard Stone and Peter Davies of the Guild T & B Committee. As well as working with bells they also learned rope splicing. All thoroughly enjoyed the day and said they found it very informative.

Branch Practices continue, some well attended others not so well. Our Annual Coach Outing is on July 20th, ringing in and around Bristol with tea organised at Nailsea. There are sure to be some spare seats if anyone wants to

join us. Contact Anne Jones (0367) 710361.

Faringdon Tower are celebrating another Golden Wedding this year. Fred and Joan Butler were married 50 years ago on June 15th. The tower will be ringing a quarter peal soon.

Stanford Tower point out that they do not practice in August.

Anne Jones

WITNEY AND WOODSTOCK BRANCH:- At this years A.G.M. several of the Branch Officer's posts changed hands. Christopher Wallworth has taken over from Cathy Rowland as Secretary and Roger Barnes becomes Ringing Master. Roger has arranged a full programme of Branch Practices for the year on the second Saturday of each month. Pocket information cards, giving the telephone numbers of Branch officers and dates and places of Branch and Guild events, have been distributed to every member of the Branch. There is even talk of reviving the Branch Striking Contest.

Our Branch organised the Ringing Day and hosted the Eight-Bell Striking Competition for the Guild on 6th May this year. Many thanks to all those who helped to make both events a success.

Woodstock bells have now been removed for restoration. This marks the culmination of ten years of fund raising and campaigning by the Woodstock ringers, first under Ted Venn and latterly Noel Reynolds. The restoration project includes a new cast iron frame at a lower level in the tower, completely new fittings and retuning. The work is being undertaken at Loughborough by Taylors.

The activities of the Branch extend to the most northerly ring of bells in Britain; details of the following quarter have been received:

INVERNESS (The Cathedral) 21 May 1991 1260 Plain Bob Minor

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. David P. Harding | 4. Don Towers |
| 2. Judy Venn | 5. Brian J. Curtis |
| 3. Lindsey C. Cutler | 6. Edward J. Venn (C) |

Rung by past and present members of the Witney and Woodstock Branch, on the day that Woodstock bells were taken down for rehanging.

We also offer congratulations on ringing their first quarter peal to Ruth Barrett of Stonesfield and Mel Leggett of Wootton:

STONESFIELD 22 May 1991 1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Ruth Barrett | 4. Sally A. Franklin (C) |
| 2. Philip J. Curtis | 5. Mel W. Leggett |
| 3. Peter D. McKenzie | 6. David R. Franklin |

Christopher Wallworth

There is a rather nice shield in the tower at Witney which is (or was) held by the winners of the Branch Striking Competition. I think it is high time we polished it up and had a new competition for it. Good striking is the most important aspect of any ringing, whether it's rounds or spliced surprise. To the majority of the population it does not matter what you ring so long as you ring it well, and friendly competition is a good way of helping teams to focus on their striking.

Roger Barnes Branch Ringing Master - Branch News Letter

SOUTH OXON BRANCH cont. STRIKING COMPETITION:- In 1989, the last time the Branch Striking Competition was held, about 15 people gathered outside Wheatley Church. Half an hour later, after three teams had rung, the result was known - a win for Chinnor.

On Saturday 23rd March, more than 50 people gathered outside Brightwell Baldwin Church for this year's competition. There were eight teams representing six towers, with more towers being represented by cheer leaders, observers and supporters.

Each team had to begin and end in rounds, and ring 120 changes of method or call changes (the latter did not have to be called whole pull).

The bells were rung up, the order of ringing drawn, and Val Willard (the judge) safely seated in a car down the road..... The afternoon seemed to speed by. As one team came out, faces revealing the grimness of the ordeal, the next team squared shoulders and bravely entered the arena. At last it was Aston Rowant's turn. They were the last to ring. By now the warmth of the afternoon had gone, but claims of being too cold and stiff to ring were ignored.

Those who had stayed, gathered in the church while Val counted marks. The moment of truth had come, Val gave a short comment on each tower's performance and then gave the marks. ...Chinnor were first, Benson second and Thame 'A' third.

Thanks to John Tchighianoff for organising the competition, Val Willard for being the judge and to everyone who came.

Talking to ringers from other branches I have discovered that they too would like a competition which encourages more teams to take part rather than an exclusive few who comply with the Guild's rules for the six-bell competition. I hope everyone who took part will agree that it was a good day. Maybe there were some people who were disappointed by their performance, but I hope it will not have put them off entering again.

Teams:- Aston Rowant, Benson, Chinnor, Shabbington, Thame (3 teams) and Towersey.

T.A.R. - From Branch News Letter

----- FACTS AND FIGURES -----

New Methods

* 16.1.91	Warborough	5152 Warborough S.Major	T.G.Pett
** 28.2.91	Thatcham	5040 Quidhampton S.Royal	W.Butler
** 2.3.91	Hughenden	5024 Glasgow S.Major	W.Butler
** 15.3.91	Thatcham	5040 Quakers Friars S.Royal	W.Butler
* 16.3.91	Lydney, Glos.	5040 Nunney S.Royal	J.R.Martin
** 26.4.91	Thatcham	5000 Feltham S.Royal	W.Butler
\$ * 27.4.91	Exeter Cathedral	5042 Grandisson S.Maximus	
** 3.5.91	Thatcham	5088 Knightsbridge S.Major	W.Butler
** 17.5.91	Thatcham	5040 Jugsholme S.Royal	W.Butler
* 15.5.91	East Ilsley	5024 Rest Dodd D.Major	B.F.Groves
** 18.5.91	Gloucester Cathedral	5280 Mellor S.Max.	I.Roulstone
** 24.5.91	Thatcham	5040 Monbretia S.Royal	W.Butler
* 16.5.91	Hungerford	5018 Hampshire Alliance Major	P.Border

\$ First peal of Maximus on the ring since its restoration.
Named after Bishop Grandisson of Exeter

* First peal in the method.

** First peal in method for the Guild.

SERVICE RINGING ETC.**Confirmation Services**

- | | | |
|---------|-----------------|---|
| 18.1.91 | Wargrave, Berks | 1260 Stedman Triples - For confirmation service conducted by the Bishop of Reading at which a local ringer, Tori Coombes was confirmed. |
| 13.3.91 | Binfield, Berks | 1276 Cambridge S.Minor |
| 10.2.91 | Great Marlow | 1260 Grandsire Triples - For Service of Baptism and Confirmation with Holy Communion. |
| 12.5.91 | Warfield | 1260 P.B.Minor - For Confirmation Service |
| 24.3.91 | Twyford Berks | 1260 P.B.Triples - For Confirmation Service |

Feast of the Epiphany

- | | | |
|--------|-----------------|---|
| 6.1.91 | Thatcham, Berks | 1280 Lincolnshire S.Major |
| 6.1.91 | Hughenden | 1260 P.B.Triples |
| | Newport Pagnell | 1260 Grandsire Triple - For Epiphany and the Decade of Evangelism |

Conversion of St Paul

- | | | |
|---------|--------|----------------|
| 25.1.91 | Slough | 1264 P.B.Major |
|---------|--------|----------------|

Candlemas

- | | | |
|--------|------------------|---------------------|
| 2.2.91 | Reading St Giles | 1260 P.B.Minor |
| 1.2.91 | Tilehurst | 1250 Pudsey S.Major |

Ash Wednesday

- | | | |
|---------|------------------------------|---|
| 13.2.91 | Stonesfield | 1260 Doubles(3m) |
| | Tilehurst | 1260 Spliced Triples (Grandsire & Oxford Bob)
For Sung Eucharist and Imposition of the Ashes |
| | Windsor St. John the Baptist | 1260 P.B.Major |

St. Patrick's Day

- | | | | | |
|---------|--------------|-------------------|--------|--------------|
| 17.3.91 | Hurst, Berks | 1260 Erin Triples | Slough | 1260 Stedman |
| | Shinfield | 1260 Double(2m) | | Triples |

Passiontide

- | | | |
|---------|-----------------|---|
| 17.3.91 | Emberton, Bucks | 1272 London S.Minor - for the beginning of Passiontide. |
|---------|-----------------|---|

Palm Sunday

- | | | | | |
|---------|--------------------|---|--------|------------------|
| 24.3.91 | Beaconsfield | 1328 P.B.Major | Slough | 1260 P.B.Triples |
| | Wallingford | 1260 Stedman Triples | | |
| | Tilehurst | 1260 P.B.Triples - For special service led by Chaor Youth Club on Palm Sunday | | |
| | Wokingham ASS | 1280 St.Clements Bob Major | | |
| | BeenhamValance | 1260 Grandsire Doubles | | |
| | Abingdon S.Nicolas | 1260 Grandsire Doubles | | |

Maundy Thursday

- | | | |
|---------|-----------|---|
| 28.3.91 | Tilehurst | 1280 Rutland S.Major - For Sung Eucharist on Maundy Thursday. |
|---------|-----------|---|

Good Friday

- | | | |
|---------|---------------|---------------------------------|
| 29.3.91 | Sandhurst | 1260 Grandsire Doubles |
| | Stonesfield | 1260 Doubles(5m) |
| | Finchampstead | 1260 Doubles (2m) Fully Muffled |

Easter Sunday

- | | | |
|---------|-----------------|---|
| 31.3.91 | Bray, Berks | 1260 Grandsire Triples |
| | Tilehurst | 1288 L.B.Major - for Choral Evensong for Easter |
| | Appleton | 1260 Grandsire Triples |
| | Reading St.Mary | 1250 Spl.Surprise |
| | Shottesbrook | 1272 Kent & Oxford T.B. |
| | Pangbourne | 1260 Doubles (5m) |

Easter cont.

31.3.91	White Waltham	1259 Grandsire Doubles -For Easter Communion
	Blewbury	1300 P.B.Doubles - For Easter Praise.
	Witney	1260 Grandsire Triples
		1260 P.B.Minor

Rogation Sunday

5.5.91	Blewbury	1344 Grandsire Triples
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Ascension Day

9.5.91	Hurst	1300 P.B.Doubles
	Amersham	5056 Surperlative S.Major
	Whitchurch,Bucks	5040 Spl.S.Minor
	Croughton Beds	5040 Doubles (22m&ext.)
	Tilehurst	1296 L.B.Major

Pentecost

19.5.91	Lancaster Cathedral	5040 Yorkshire S,Major
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Sunday Service

30.12.90	Stratfield Mortimer	1260 P.B.Doubles - For Parish Eucharist
	St.John Evangelist	
13.1.91	High Wycombe	1260 Grandsire Triples - For Evensong
20.1.91	Sonning	1284 Gainsborough L.B.Major
	Tilehurst	1260 P.B.Triples - Evensong
	Iffley	1260 Doubles (2m) - Evensong
27.1.91	Hungerford	1260 St.Clements B.Minor
	High Wycombe	1282 Cambridge S.Royal -Evensong
3.2.91	Wraybury	1320 P.B.Doubles - Morning Service
	Milton,Oxon	1260 Grandsire Doubles - Patronal Festival
	Bicester	1260 P.B.Minor - Evensong
	Beaconsfield	1260 P.B.Triples
	Thatcham	1280 Pudsey S.Major
	Reading S.Mary	1280 Cambridge S.Major
10.2.91	Reading S.Mary	1260 Berkshire S.Major
	Easthampstead	1280 P.B.Major - By Sunday Service Band in Thanksgiving for the completion of the new roof.
9.2.91	Emberton	1320 Kent T.B.Minor - To celebrate the successful completion of Phase 1 of the Church Restoration -the tower. First by 2,3,4
10.2.91	Marcham,Oxon	1296 Cambridge S.Minor - Evensong
17.2.91	Arborfield	1260 P.B.Minor
	Beaconsfield	1280 Bristol S.Major
	Reading S.Laurence	1260 Mixed Minor - Evensong
10.2.91	Hurst	1260 Gainsborough L.B.Major
24.2.91	Hurst	1260 St Clements C.B.Triples
	High Wycombe	1260 P.B.Triples - Evensong
3.3.91	Hurst	1260 Darlaston B.Triples
	Oxford S.Giles	1264 P.B.Major - Evensong
	Thatcham	1250 Pudsey S.major
10.3.91	Calverton	1296 Darlaston B.Minor
17.3.91	Reading S.Laurence	1284 P.B & L.B. Royal - for evensong
31.3.91	Reading S.Laurence	1250 Spl.S.Major - For Evensong EasterDay
7,4.91	Aylesbury	1296 Cambridge S.Minor -For Evensong
	Emberton	1260 P.B.Doubles
	Oxford S.Giles	1264 P.B.Major - For Evensong
	Reading S.Mary	1260 P.B.Triples - For Sung Eucharist
	Finchampstead	1260 Grandsire Doubles -For Evensong
	Hughenden	1260 Stedman Triples - ForEvensong

Feast of the Annuciation

- 8.4.91 Slough 1312 Yorkshire S.Major
 6.4.91 Witney 5152 Yorkshire S.Major

Sunday Services etc cont.

- 14.4.91 High Wycombe 1260 Stedman Triples -For Evensong
 Tilehurst 1312 Yorkshire S.Major - For Evensong
 Pangbourne 1260 Doubles (9m) - For Evensong
 Sandhurst Immaculate Conception 1440 Kent T.B.Minor - For Evening
 Mass
 Reading S.Laurence 1282 Cambridge S.Royal - For Evensong
- 21.4.91
- 28.4.91 Reading S.Laurence 1280 Yorkshire S.Major - For Evensong
 Dorney 1260 Doubles (2m)
 Gt.Linford 1260 P.B.Doubles - By the local band immediately
 prior to the Service of Thanksgiving for the
 lives of those we love.
- 25.4.91 Bicester 1264 P.B.Major - For Bicester Deanery Service
- Licensing, Inductions etc**
- 18.4.91 Bicester 1260 Grandsire Triples - For the formal licens-
 -ing of Capt.Michael Milne, Church Army, to
 the Bicester Team Ministry.
- 21.1.91 Old Marston,Oxford 1260 P.B.Doubles. For the Induction of the
 Rev.Tony Price as Vicar of Marston.
- 24.1.90 Tilehurst 1260 Stedman Triples - For the service of
 Licensing at Moulscombe, Sussex of the Rev.
 P.R.Seamans, former Curate of St.Michael's Tile-
 Hurst.
- 8.1.91 Sunningwell 1260 P.B.Doubles - For the inauguration of
 Fr.Keith Kinnaird as Rector of Sunningwell and
 Vicar of Radley, H.M.The Queen having signed
 the necessary documents to join the two parishes.
- 24.1.91 Blewbury 1260 Grandsire Triples - Prior to the service
 celebrating the uniting of the parishes of
 Blewbury, East Hagbourne and Upton.
- 18.3.91 High Wycombe 1287 Stedman Caters - For the licensing of the
 Rev.Frank Hillebrand as Vicar of All Saints,
 High Wycombe.
- 15.4.91 Wolvercote 1260 P.B.Doubles - For the licensing of the
 Rev.David Michaels as Team Vicar of St Peters
 Wolvercote.

Quarter Peals of interest

- 18.1.91 Twyford, Berks 1260 Spliced Stedman and Grandsire D.Sullivan(C)
- 25.1.91 Reading S.Laurence 1306 Stedman Cinques - By the Reading Branch
- 15.3.91 Twyford, Berks 1344 Spl. Gemini and Pegasus (as paired Major)
 First by all band except conductor.
- 31.3.91 Old Windsor 1260 P.B.Doubles - First by an Old Windsor band
 for 12 years.
- 4.4.91 Abingdon S.Nicolas 1296 Minor (Cambridge S. & P.B.) A Birthday
 complement to Hilary Ledger and 40th Birthday
 compliment to Robin Rideout. The services of the
 band were purchased at a Christian Aid Promise
 Auction.

DISPLAY BOX

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

The Guild General Secretary

Borrowers must collect and return the material.

CONTENTS OF THE DISPLAY BOX

- * The Oxford Diocesan Guild (1)
History of Formation
- * The Oxford Diocesan Guild (2)
List of Branches - dates formed
- * The Oxford Diocesan Guild (3)
Aims of Guild
Certificate of Membership
- * Bell Founding 1. 2, 3.
- * Bell Frames
- * Tuning 1, 2.
- * Founders Marks (1)
Dorney, Bucks. 1582, Joseph Carter, Reading Foundry
'Church Warden' Ornament, 1672-1694, used by the Knights of Reading.
Rudhalls of Gloucester 1684-1736, Running pattern.
- * Founders' Marks (2)
Gillett and Johnston, 1950, Croydon Foundry.
Pack and Chapman, 1772, Whitechapel Foundry.
Abraham Rudhall, 1684, Gloucester Foundry.
Albert A. Hughes, 1947, Whitechapel Foundry.
- * Bell Inscriptions

1.	1702	Walsgrave, Warwick.	
	1653	Sherbourne, Wilts.	(Fire bell)
		Cullompton, Devon.	(Tenor)
	1666	Damerham, Wilts.	(Third)
2.	1585	Passenham, Northants Stanley St. Leonard, Gloucs. Houghton, Huntingdon.	
	1622	Elsing, Norfolk. Cloford, Somerset.	(Tenor)
3.		Dorney, Bucks.	
4.		Amersham.	(Treble)
- * European Founders

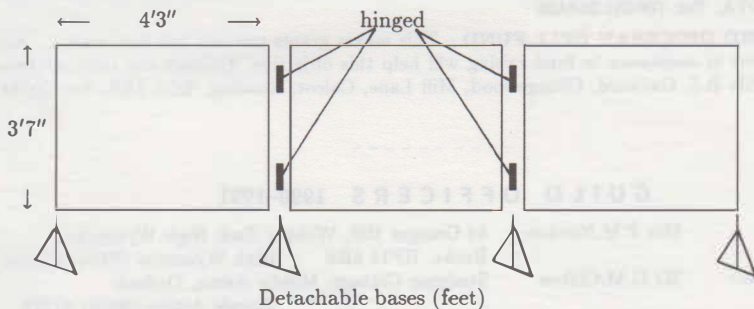
1554	Van Jacop Waghevens, Mechlin, Belgium.
1610	Jan Bergerhuys, Middleburg, Holland.
1663	Gerard Koster, Amsterdam.
- * Bourdon Bells

	Cast	Weight
'Great Paul', St. Paul's Cathedral, London.	1882	16 ³ / ₄ tons
'The Roeland Bell', Ghent	1948	6 tons
'Great John', Beverley Minster	1901	7 ³ / ₄ tons
'Great George', Bristol University	1925	9 ¹ / ₂ tons

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

Display Panels and Feet

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



GUILD FACILITIES

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 be regular service ringing in all the towers within the Diocese where 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:

EDUCATION – In addition to the Easthampstead Ringing Course held in September, ringing courses will be arranged both at Branch and Tower level. These can be one day courses or a series of evenings. Contact Miss M.R. Cross, 6 Radley Road, Abingdon, Oxon. OX14 3PQ Tel: (0235) 520868

LIBRARY – The Guild maintains a comprehensive Library from which books may be borrowed. For details contact Mr W. Butler, 8 The Waverleys, Thatcham, Newbury, Berks. RG13 4AW. Tel: (0635) 62309

BOOKS FOR SALE – At General Committee Meetings and General Guild Meetings, also at some Branch Meetings you will find a travelling bookstall. Books cover a wide field from elementary change ringing to the history of change ringing; tower maintenance and the history of bells.

EXHIBITION DISPLAY MATERIAL – This, together with the necessary stands, is available for tower open days, Public Libraries etc. A full list of the material can be found on page 36. Contact Mr J. Wells, Victoria Lodge, Waverley Road, Reading RG3 2QB. Tel: (0734) 572552

TOWERS AND BELFRIES – 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—with the help of 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. Contact Mr R. Grange, 45 Green Acres, Woolton Hill, Newbury, Berks. RG15 9TA. Tel: (0635) 254436

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

GUILD OFFICERS 1990-1991

Master:	Mrs P.M.Newton	44 Georges Hill, Widmer End, High Wycombe, Bucks. HP15 6BE High Wycombe (0494) 713834
Deputy Master:	Mr G.M.Clifton	Stedman Cottage, Middle Aston, Oxford. Steeple Aston (0869) 47273
General Secretary:	Mr J.Wells	Victoria Lodge, Waverley Road, Reading RG3 2QB Reading (0734) 572552
General Treasurer:	Mr B.J.Gatward	Grangewood, Mill Lane, Calcot, Reading RG3 5RS Reading (0734) 413097
Librarian:	Mr W.Butler	8 The Waverleys, Thatcham, Newbury, Berks. RG13 4AW Thatcham (0635) 62309
Report Editor:	Mrs A.Croft	2 Parsonage Lane, Hungerford, Berks. RG17 0JB Hungerford (0488) 684886

NewsLetter Editor:	Miss M.R.Cross	6 Radley Road, Abingdon, Oxon. OX14 3PQ Abingdon (0235) 520868
Peal Secretary:	Mrs E.Struckett	'Tangletrees', 2 Hatch Ride, Crowthorne, Berks. RG11 6LB Crowthorne (0344) 774228
Guild Stewards:	Miss M.R.Cross	6 Radley Road, Abingdon, Oxon. OX14 3PQ Abingdon (0235) 520868
	Mr G.Blundell	72 Nursery Road, Taplow, Maidenhead, Berks. SL6 0JU Maidenhead (0628) 602194
	Mr R.Datson	Glebe Farm, Spelsbury, Oxford, OX7 3JR Charlbury (0608) 810398
	Mr K.R.Davenport	47 Brookside, Wokingham, Berks. Reading (0734) 786554
Six General	Mrs B.May, Mr W.Haynes, Miss D.J.Pollard, Mr M.Till	
Committee Members:	Mr A.Sharpe, Mr D.Struckett	
C.C.Representatives:	Mr W.Butler	8 The Waverleys, Thatcham, Newbury, Berks. RG13 4AW Thatcham (0635) 62309
	Mr H.W.Egglesstone	37 Rectory Close, Newbury Berks. Newbury (0635) 45906
	Mr J.A.Harrison	2 Murdoch Road, Wokingham, Berks. RG11 2DA Wokingham (0734) 785520
	Dr T.G.Pett	20 St. Amand Drive, Abingdon, Oxon. OX14 5RQ Abingdon (0235) 526033
Sub-Committees:		
Education	Miss M.R.Cross	
Towers and Belfries	Mr R.Grange	
Best Kept Tower Competition:	Mr P. Davies, "Narrogin", Longworth Rd, Charney Bassett, Wantage, Oxon OX12 0ET	
Subscriptions:	Resident Members	£3.75
	Non-resident Life Members	£3.75
Peal Fees:	20p/person	
Annual Report:	£2.00 (£2.25 including postage)	
Badges:	£1.00	
Guild History:	£3.00	

BRANCH SECRETARIES:

Banbury:	Mrs S.Burchell	11 Old Road, Great Tew, Oxford Great Tew (060 883) 255
Bicester:	Mr R.Stevens	Dellow, Blackthorn Road, Launton, Bicester, Oxon. OX6 0DA Bicester (0869) 243920
Central Bucks:	Mr T.Wagstaff	6 Firs Close, Whitchurch, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP22 4LH Aylesbury (0296) 641755
Chiltern:	Mr J.S.White	70 Selwyn Court, Long Meadow, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP21 7EQ Aylesbury (0296) 85822
Chipping Norton:	Mrs C.Tarrant	6 Marlborough Place, Charlbury, Oxon OX7 3SH Charlbury (0608) 811290
East Berks and South Bucks:	Mrs J.Payne	53 Walker Road, Maidenhead, Berks. SL6 2QU Maidenhead (0628) 24490
Newbury:	Mr P.J.Bodenham	Catherine Villa, Station Road, Newbury, Berks. Newbury (0635) 42340
North Bucks:	Mr A.King	9 Wa:grave Drive, Bradwell, Milton Keynes, Bucks. MK13 9BS (0908) 316339
Old North Berks:	Mr A.Utting	15 Tower Close, Marcham, Abingdon, Oxon (0865) 391709

Branch Secretaries cont'd:

Oxford City:	Mr N.D.Lane	Catchmole Cottage, 12 High Street, Wheatley, Oxon. Wheatley (086 77) 4026
Reading:	Mrs E.Wark	31 Brooksby Road, Tilehurst, Reading, RG3 6LZ Reading (0734) 427322
Sonning:	Mrs C.Cappleman	34 Aysgarth, Great Hollands, Bracknell, Berks. RG12 4SD Bracknell (0344) 426695
South Oxon:	Miss T.Ruff	14 North Close, Tiddington, Oxon. OX9 2LT Ickford (0844) 339783
Vale of White Horse:	Mrs A.E.Jones	Kitchener's Close, 47 High Street, Stanford-in-the-Vale, Faringdon, Oxon. Stanford-in-the-Vale (0367) 710361 SN7 8NQ
Witney and Woodstock:	Mr C.Wallworth	5 Parkside, Woodstock, Oxford, OX7 1UR Woodstock (0993) 812187

TOWERS AND BELFRIES COMMITTEE:**Banbury / Chipping Norton Branches**

Mr G.J. Clifton	Stedman Cottage, Middle Aston, Oxford. Steeple Aston (0869) 47273
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Bicester / Witney and Woodstock Branches

Mr R.C. Stevens	Dellow, Blackthorne Road, Launton, Bicester, Oxon. Bicester (0869) 243920
-----------------	--

Central Bucks / North Bucks Branches

Mr A. King	9 Walgrave Drive, Bradwell, Milton Keynes, Bucks. MK13 9BS Milton Keynes (0908) 316339
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Chiltern / North Bucks Branches

Mr A.J. Marchbank	109 Bradwell Road, Bradville, Milton Keynes, Bucks MK13 7AW
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East Berks and South Bucks / Sonning Deanery Branches

Mr J. Davidge*	Rowallan, Back Lane, Chalfont St. Giles, Bucks. HP8 4PD
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Newbury Branch

Mr R. Grange*	45 Green Acres, Woolton Hill, Newbury, Berks. RG15 9TA Newbury (0635) 254436
---------------	---

Old North Berks / Oxford City / Vale of White Horse

Mr B.J. Stone	3 Bell Close, Grove, Wantage, Oxon. OX12 7NP Wantage (02357) 66673
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Old North Berks Branch

Mr P.G. Davies*	Narrogin, Longworth Road, Charney Bassett Abingdon (0235) 868646
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South Oxon / Reading Branches

Mr C. Turner	27 Long Furlong Road, Sunningwell, Abingdon, Oxon. Abingdon (0235) 522335
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* denotes co-opted member.

BEST KEPT TOWER COMPETITION

Mr P.G. Davies, "Narrogin", Longworth Road, Charney Bassett, Wantage, Oxon. OX12 0ET
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O.D.G. EDUCATION BOOKLETS

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Rope Splicing | 6. Sound Control |
| 2. Bibliography | 7. Stedman |
| 3. Plain Hunting and Bob Doubles | 8. Gradsire Doubles |
| 4. Belfry Care and Maintenance | 9. Bob Calling for Beginners |
| 5. Running a Day Course | 10. Handbells - Change Ringing |

20p each from Mrs A.M. Carpenter, 41 Napier Road, Crowthorne, Berks. RG11 7EJ

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- Miss M.R. Cross, 6 Radley Road, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 3PQ
Abingdon (0235) 520868
- Mrs B. May, 4 Halfacre Drive, Spencers Wood, Reading, RG7 1DZ
Reading (0734) 884172
- Mr R. Newton, 44 Georges Hill, Widmer End, High Wycombe, Bucks. HP15 6BE
High Wycombe (0494) 713834
- Mr J. Harrison, 2 Murdoch Road, Wokingham, Berks.
Wokingham (0734) 785520
- Mr J. Wells, Victoria Lodge, Waverley Road, Reading. RG3 2QB
Reading (0734) 572552
- Mr A.J. Griffin*, Rosebank, Bloxham, Banbury, Oxon.
Banbury (0295) 720359
- Mr M. Till, 17 Quarrington Close, Thatcham, Berks. RG13 4YE
Thatcham (0635) 66186

O.D.G. EDUCATION BOOKLETS

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
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20p each from Mrs A.M. Carpenter, 41 Napier Road, Crowthorne, Berks. RG11 7EJ

Facts and Figures cont.**The Announcement of Peace in the Gulf**

- | | |
|--|--|
| 28.2.91 Bradwell, M.Keynes | 1260 Grandsire Doubles - To give thanks for the cease fire in the Gulf. Son of(1 & 6) Christine & G.Abbott; brother-in-law of (3) M.R.Peachey; brother-law of(4)E.L.Fawcett. |
| 3.3.91 Bray,Berks | 1260 Grandsire Triples - For Evensong in thanksgiving for the cease-fire in the Gulf War. |
| 28.2.91 Waltham St.Lawrence
Abingdon St Nicolas | 1260 P.B.Minor - For peace in the Gulf
1260 P.B.Doubles - Arranged and rung to celebrate the cessation of hostilities in the Gulf. |
| Hinton Waldrist | 1260 Doubles(3m) Thanksgiving for the end of the Gulf War. |
| 1.3.91 Linslade, Beds. | 1260 P.B.Doubles - To celebrate the end of hostilities in the Gulf. |
| Winkfield, Berks | 1260 P.B.Doubles - To mark the apparent conclusion of hostilities in the Gulf. |
| 3.3.91 Wokingham S.Paul | 1260 P.B.Minor - To celebrate the freeing of Kuwait. |
| Pangbourne,Berks | 1260 Doubles(3m) - For Evensong. Rung not in celebration of victory but in thanksgiving for the end of the Gulf War and as a prayer for peace. |
| Shinfield,Berks | 1260 Doubles (8m) - Before Evensong to mark the end of hostilities in the Gulf by a joint band from Shinfield,Swallowfield and Pangbourne. |
| Aston Rowant,Oxon | 1260 P.B.Doubles - To celebrate peace in the Gulf. |
| Newport Pagnell,Bucks | 1280 P.B.Major - In thanksgiving for peace in the Gulf. |
| 6.3.91 Whitchurch-on-Thames | 1260 Doubles(4)- In Thanksgiving for peace in the Gulf. |

DIARY OF EVENTS 1991

* Subject to confirmation

B.P.	Branch Practice	S.P.	Surprise Practice
E.C.P.	Elementary Changeringing	A.P.	Advanced Practice
S.M.	Surprise Major	A.G.M.	Annual General Meeting
1/2ly	Half Yearly Meeting	1/4ly	Quarterly Meeting
S.C.	Striking Competition		

JULY

Wed.	3	Chiltern	8-bell	Great Missenden	8.00-9.30
Thur.	4	Banbury	B.P.	Wroxton	7.30
Fri.	5	N.Bucks	B.P.	Simpson (Woughton)	7.30
Sat.	6	O.D.G. FESTIVAL - READING			
		C.Norton	B.P.	Charlbury	7.30-9.00
Tues.	9	Oxford	B.P.	Headington	7.45
Thur.	11	S.Oxon	S.P.	Dorchester [Yorkshire]	7.30
Sat.	13	E.B.S.B.	S.P.	West Wycombe*	
		C.Bucks	B.P.	Nether Winchenden [Stedman Doubles]	6.30
		O.N.B.	B.P.	Drayton	7.00
		W.&W.	B.P.	South Leigh	7.00-8.30
Fri.	19	N.Bucks	B.P.	Buckingham	7.30
Sat.	20	Banbury	A.P.	Adderbury (Major)	7.30
		Chiltern	B.P.	Little Missenden	
		V.of W.H.	All Day Outing		
Sat.	27	E.B.S.B.	B.P.	Marlow	
		S.Oxon	B.P.	Elweme	
Sun.	28	O.N.B.	Branch Committee Meeting - Radley		7.45
Wed.	31	V.of W.H.	B.P.	Ashbury	

AUGUST

Fri.	2	N.Bucks	B.P.	Lillingstone Lovell	7.30
Sat.	3	C.Norton	B.P.	Burford	7.30-9.00
		N.Bucks	Picnic Meeting with Beds.Assn. - Lavenham/Felmersham		
Mon.	5	Banbury	B.P.	Deddington	7.30
Tues.	6	Reading	B.P.	Shiplake*	
Wed.	7	Chiltern	8-bell	Great Missenden	8.00-9.30
Sat.	10	E.B.S.B.	S.P.	Windsor*	
		C.Bucks	B.P.	Stewkley [Grandsire/Stedman]	
		O.N.B.	B.P.	Blewbury	7.00
Mon.	11	S.Oxon	S.P.	Benson [London]	
Tues.	13	Oxford	B.P.	Headington	7.45-9.00
Fri.	16	N.Bucks	B.P.	Shenley (Calverton)	7.30
Sat.	17	Banbury	A.P.	Sandford (Minor)	7.30
		Chiltern	B.P.	Weston Turville	
Sat.	24	E.B.S.B.	B.P.	Langleigh, Bucks.	
		S.Oxon	B.P.	Dorchester	
Fri.	30	N.Bucks	B.P.	Bletchley	7.30

SEPTEMBER

Wed.	4	Chiltern	8-bell	Great Missenden	8.00-9.30
Thur.	5	Banbury	B.P.	Somerton	7.30
Fri.	6	N.Bucks	B.P.	Lavendon (Clifton Reynes)	7.30
Sat.	7	E.B.S.B.	S.P.	Cookham	
		C.Norton	B.P.	Salford	7.30-9.00

DIARY OF EVENTS cont'd.

SEPTEMBER cont'd.

Sat. 7	N.Bucks	1/4ly	Gt.Linford + Tyringham	
Tues. 10	Oxford	B.P.	Headington	7.45
Thur. 12	S.Oxon	S.P.	Benson [2spl. C+Y]	
Sat. 14	Reading	S.C.	6 Bell Striking Competition - Mapledurham	
	C.Bucks		Branch Outing*	
	E.B.S.B.		Branch Dinner - Denham	
	O.N.B.		B.P. + B.B.Q. - Appleton	6.30
	V.of W.H.		Half-Day Outing	
	W&W	B.P.	Standlake	7.00-8.30
Sun. 15	N.Bucks		Tower Reps. Mtg - Emberton Village Hall	
Sept. 20-22	O.D.G.		EASTHAMPTON COURSE	
Fri. 20	N.Bucks	B.P.	Wavendon (MK Village)	7.30
Sat. 21	Banbury	10-bell	Banbury	7.00
	Chiltern	B.P.	Stoke Mandeville	6.30-8.30
Sat. 28	E.B.S.B.	B.P.	Farnham Royal	
	S.Oxon	B.P.	Chinnor	
	V.of W.H.	1/2ly		

OCTOBER

Tues. 1	Banbury	B.P.	Steeple Aston	7.30
Wed. 2	Chiltern	8-bell	Great Missenden	8.00-9.30
Fri. 4	BRANCH SECRETARIES MEETING - Radley			
	N.Bucks	B.P.	Leckhampstead	7.30
Sat. 5	O.D.G. SIX-BELL STRIKING COMPETITION - Reading Branch			
	C.Norton	B.P.	Hook Norton	7.30-9.00
Tues. 8	Oxford	B.P.	Headington	7.45
Thur. 10	S.Oxon	S.P.	Great Milton [Ashstead]	
Sat. 12	Newbury	A.G.M.	Newbury	
	C.Norton		Autumn Meeting - Spelsbury	
	Chiltern/	S.C.	Orchard Cup - North Marston	2.30
	C.Bucks			
	Reading		Branch Outing	
	O.N.B.	B.P.	Marcham 3.30, West Hanney 4.45	
	N.Bucks	S.C.	(vs. Towcester) - T.B.A.	
	W&W		Branch Outing	10.30-6.00
Fri. 18	N.Bucks	B.P.	Drayton Parslow	7.30
Sat. 19	Banbury	1/2ly	Mollington	
Sat. 26	E.B.S.B.	1/2ly	Half Yearly Meeting/Lorna Newton Cup Final - Lane End	
	S.Oxon	1/2ly	Thame	
Mon. 28	V.of W.H.	B.P.	Faringdon	7.30

NOVEMBER

Fri. 1	N.Bucks	B.P.	Gt.Linford (Old Wolverton)	7.30
Sat. 2	C.Norton	B.P.	Ascott-under-Wychwood	7.30-9.00
Wed. 6	Chiltern	8-bell	Great Missenden	8.00-9.30
Fri. 8	Banbury	B.P.	Rousham/Lower Heyford	7.00
Sat. 9	C.Bucks	1/2ly	Aylesbury	
	E.B.S.B.	S.P.	Beaconsfield*	
	O.N.B.	B.P.	Wallingford	7.00
	Reading	B.P.	Whitchurch*	
Tues. 12	Oxford	B.P.	Headington	7.45
Thur. 14	S.Oxon	S.P.	Thame [Pudsey]	

DIARY OF EVENTS cont'd.

NOVEMBER cont'd.

Fri.	15	N.Bucks	B.P.	Tyringham	7.30
Sat.	16	Chiltern	B.P.	Monks Risborough	6.30-8.30
		E.B.S.B.	B.P.	Wooburn	
Sat.	23	S.Oxon	B.P.	Little Milton	7.30
Thur.	28	V.of W.H.	B.P.	Hinton Waldrist	
Sat.	23	O.D.G. GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING - S.Oxon Branch ??Watlington??			
		Banbury	A.P.	Bodicote (Major)	7.30

DECEMBER

Wed.	4	Chiltern	8-bell	Great Missenden	8.00-9.30
Fri.	6	Banbury	B.P.	Swalcliffe	7.30
		N.Bucks	B.P.	Newton Longville	7.30
Sat.	7	C.Norton	B.P.	Kingham	7.30-9.00
		N.Bucks	1/4ly	T.B.A.	
Tues.	11	Oxford	B.P.	Headington	7.45
Sat.	14	Oxford	A.G.M.	Wolvercote	
		C.Bucks	B.P.	Hillesden [D.Oxf./Norwich S.]	6.30
		O.N.B.	B.P.	Wantage	7.00
		S.Oxon	B.P.	Watlington	
		Reading	B.P.	Mortimer St.Mary*	
		E.B.S.B.	S.P.	High Wycombe*	
Mon.	16	S.Oxon	S.P.	Warborough	
Fri.	20	N.Bucks	B.P.	Stoke (Weston)	7.30
	21	E.B.S.B.	B.P. followed by Cheese and Wine - Bray		
		Chiltern	B.P.	Great Missenden	6.30-8.30
Wed.	26	Banbury		Deddington (Boxing Day)	10.30am

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JANUARY

Wed.	1	Banbury		Banbury New Year	
		O.N.B.		New Years Day Ringing - Milton	10.00-12 noon
Sat.	25	Banbury	B.P.	Adderbury*	7.30

FEBRUARY

Fri.	7	Banbury	B.P.	Bloxham*	7.30
Sat.	22	Banbury	A.P.	North Aston (Minor)	7.30

MARCH

Fri.	6	Banbury	B.P.	Great Tew	7.30
Sat	14	O.D.G. GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING - Bicester Branch			
Sat.	21	Banbury	A.P.	Steeple Aston (Major)	7.30

APRIL

O.D.G. Youth Week-End - Date to be fixed

MAY

Mon.	4	ODG RINGING DAY AND 8 BELL STRIKING COMPETITION - Newbury Branch			
Sat.	16	O.D.G. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - V.of WH Branch			