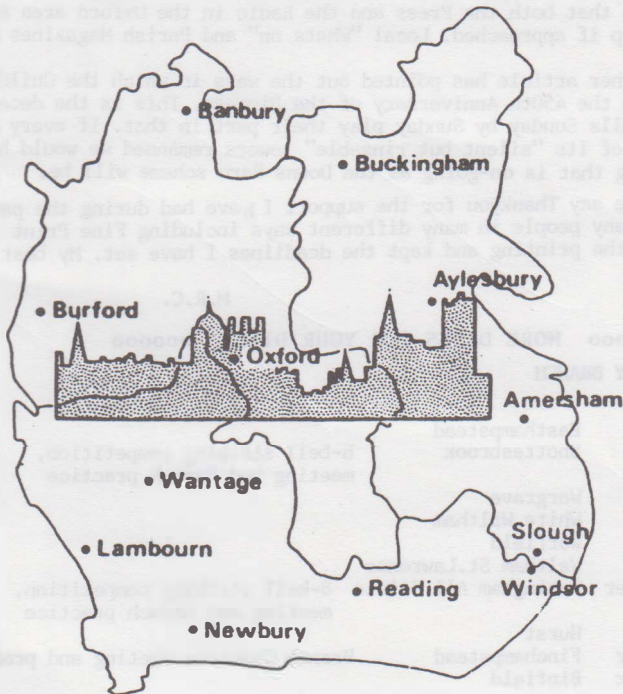


ODD BOB

Newsletter of the

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD



December 1991

Once again there have been many contributors to this copy of ODD BOB and I wish to say "Thankyou " to everyone. Once more Daphne Pollard has stepped in to help by collating the DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - no small task with fifteen Branches as well as the long list of Guild functions. When I look at the Diary I sometimes wonder why people say that the Guild and its Branches are doing nothing. I also wonder how many hours outside their service ringing those people give for the benefit of either their tower or their Branch.

In September and again in this copy I have printed accounts of how towers have set about recruiting and with what success. If you have any ideas or have been successful please can we have them.

The Master in her article has pointed out the ways in which the Guild can participate in the 450th Anniversary of the Diocese. This is the decade of Mission and bells Sunday by Sunday play their part in that. If every Branch could get one of its "silent but ringable" towers remanned we would be doing something that is on-going as the Downs Barn scheme will be.

M.R.C.

S ONNING DEANERY BRANCH

21 March	Easthampstead	
25 April	Shottesbrook	6-bell striking competition, meeting and Branch practice
16 May	Wargrave	
20 June	White Waltham	
18 July	Warfield	
15 August	Waltham St.Lawrence	
19 September	Wokingham All Saints	8-bell striking competition, meeting and branch practice
17 October	Hurst	
21 November	Finchampstead	Branch Committee meeting and practice
19 December	Binfield	

16 January	Sonning	
20 February	To be decided	Branch AGM

----- FROM THE MASTER -----

May I begin this report with a **THANK YOU** to all who responded so quickly to the request from the Diocese to ring our bells to celebrate the release of Terry Waite. The full extent of the response is not yet known, but I have heard numerous reports of quarter peals, special touches and peals having been rung in all parts of the Guild. Hopefully a full report will be collated and issued at a later date, having been copied to the Bishop and to Terry Waite himself. Congratulations to everyone who was involved in any way.

Events such as this can only benefit the "Exercise" in providing publicity for us both within the Church and throughout the wider community. 1992 sees the 450th Anniversary of the Oxford Diocese, and this again should provide plenty of opportunity for us to make an impact. As a Guild we are planning several activities that will be advertised in more detail in the near future.

The Guild Festival Eucharist Service will be held at **Christ Church Cathedral on Saturday, 11th July**, and will have a slant towards the Anniversary celebrations. The Bishop of Buckingham will be preaching. The usual format of ringing during the day and an evening barn dance will be followed, so please put the date in your diary now, and give this event your full support. The Festival will be followed by a month of ringing activities leading up to the 14th August which is the anniversary of the enthronement of the first Bishop of the Oxford Diocese. If a quarter peal or peal could be rung in every tower of the Guild during this period, it would be a tremendous achievement.

Could we encourage all ringers to take an active part in any events organised in their own churches, and if you do arrange some special ringing, make it known to your congregations why you are doing it. Such publicity will strengthen the bond between the ringers and the church, and may help you to find some new recruits.

The Guild is often criticised for not doing anything constructive. At the General Committee Meeting on 23rd November it was decided to embark upon an adventurous new project. To commemorate the 450th Anniversary of the Diocese, we would like to get a ring of bells installed at Downs Barn, a new church in the suburbs of Milton Keynes. Unlike most churches with existing rings of bells, this church would not be eligible for any grant from the Bell Fund, or from any fund which would contribute towards work on historic fabric. A ring of six bells has already been purchased, but about £20,000 is needed to install them in the tower. This is not a vast sum, and I am sure that with your help, and the help of members of the Towers and Belfries Committee to reduce costs where possible, we will be able to see this project through to completion.

On behalf of the Guild, John Wells and I were privileged to attend the Central Council Seminar for Public Relations Officers which was held in the Jerusalem Chamber of Westminster Abbey. Regretably we do not appoint a PR Officer in our Guild, but the information that John and I gained from the course will undoubtedly prove extremely valuable during the coming year with reporting our various activities through the media. Any information regarding contacts with the local radio stations, etc would obviously be of interest to us.

May I take this opportunity to thank you all for your support throughout 1991, and beg your increased support in the coming year.

Patricia Newton

BELL FUND - OVER £4,700 RAISED BY 30 September 1991

The total raised to 30 September 1991 was £4719.89, as follows:

Tower donations	604.00
P.C.C. donations	422.00
Branch fund raising	1455.49
Covenants	308.00
Ringin Day proceeds	511.10
Donations - Re: new Ringing World subscriptions	35.00
Draw profit	1348.50
AGM Collection	35.80

I am pleased to report a good year so far. Tower donations particularly are showing a steady increase. The majority of Branch Fund raising proceeds reach me during November-December and hopefully these will maintain 1990 levels of income.

I must draw special attention to the excellent result of the Bell Fund Draw. The profit figure is actually £25 higher than shown in the official report in the previous edition of ODD BOB. When I came to check the final position, I found that the annual donation of £25 from the Banbury Branch had come to me directly and I had omitted to advise the draw promoters of this. My apologies to them and thanks to the Branch for their generosity once again.

In mid-October I received a cheque for £106.40 from the PCC Treasurer of Holy Trinity Church, Lane End, Bucks. This sum was raised at the retiring collection after the Bishop of Buckingham had conducted a service of dedication of the Tower Screens in the church on Sunday 6 October. Thank you for this special donation and also thank you Lane End ringers for your regular quarterly fund raising.

B J Gatward
Honorary Treasurer

oooooo Y O U T H N O T E S oooooo**Sutton Courtenay -**

Luke Jenkins (aged 11yrs) rang his first Quarter Peal on 22.8.91 1260 Grandsire Doubles conducted by his brother Adam (17yrs). He rang his first quarter of Triples (Grandsire) on 10.11.91 rung Half Muffled for Remembrance Sunday.

Appleton

Jacqui Harrison has now rung Bob Majorinside as well as Grandsire Triples, and Grandsire Caters (8.9.91)
Andrew Triplow also rang his first of Grandsire Triples inside 19.11.91

Dorney

Ben Parcell (aged 14yrs) rang his first peal at first attempt inside - 5040 Doubles (3 extents of Stedman; 24 Grandsire; 15 P.B.) on 30.10.91

Congratulations to Peter Triplow who called a Quarter Peal of Doubles (5m/v) at Peasemore on 30.8.91. The average age of the b was 16 yrs. This was his first as conductor.
His brother Andrew also rang in it.

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1992

The General Committee, meeting at Watlington on 23 November, approved an increase in the subscription for 1992 to £4.50 per member (the 1991 equivalent is £3.75). The Committee was concerned that the reasons for this level of increase should be explained to Guild members and accordingly I was asked to write this article.

The Guild subscription is intended to meet the operational costs of both the Guild and each of the 15 branches, and thus the subscription is apportioned and for 1992 the share is £1.50 for the Branch and £3 for the Guild.

The proposal for the branch share at £1.50 (increasing from £1.30 in 1991) was agreed at the annual meeting of the Branch Secretaries. They felt that this was the minimum level needed to maintain activities, and provide the necessary publicity to members so that meetings, practices and the other events within branches are fully supported. As we all know, postages and other costs outside our control, continue to rise, and directly affect branch finances.

The proposal for the Guild share at £3 (increasing from £2.45 in 1991) was agreed after careful consideration of my report which compared the current financial position for the first 11 months of 1991 with 1990. I forecast that income from 1991 subscriptions will be slightly lower than 1990, partly since 1990 included significant arrears from 1989 and partly since some 1991 branch subscriptions are still to be received.

Payments for 1991, when compared with 1990, show an increase of over £1,100. The main components of this increase are:

- stationery, postages, printing increased by £160 due to increased postal charges and printing costs,
- library expenses up by £300 partly due to the cost of making a suitable box to store the Guild handbells, and partly due to expenses of maintaining our books and publications in good condition,
- insurance premium has increased by £66 to reflect an inflationary increase on the Group Personal accident policy,
- printing 'Odd Bob' has increased by £606 and this item is by far the most significant increase.

The General Committee reaffirmed that ODD BOB is a valuable part of Guild membership, is well received and eagerly read by the members. The evidence for this view is the increased amount of copy provided for each edition. This in turn results in increased costs due to printing the extra pages. It was agreed that the future costs of ODD BOB must be reviewed, but the intention will be to maintain the present number of annual editions. Issues to be considered are the inclusion of advertising, selective tendering for printing, based upon an annual contract, and a review of the material included. The Finance and General Purposes Committee has been requested to investigate the position and implement the necessary actions to ensure that ODD BOB continues to flourish and be interesting to members, with support from the subscription at an acceptable level for 1993.

The General Committee is well aware of concerns that a large increase in the annual subscription will be followed by a decrease in membership and corresponding ringing activity. Surely £4.50 per year (or 9p per week) is a modest price to pay for all the benefits of Guild membership?

B J Gatward
Honorary Treasurer

xxxx GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING AT WATLINGTON xxxx

The Autumn General Committee Meeting was held at Watlington on Saturday, November 23 1991 and was attended by 46 officers and representatives. Prior to the Committee Meeting an Open Meeting was held to discuss Representation of Societies. This was a very useful discussion and resulted in a clear statement of the Guild's view. The general feeling was that the current structure of the Council with representation from a wide variety of societies has served the Exercise well and should not be substantially changed. The question of multiple representation was not seen as a problem and so 'Special Cases' for particular Societies was not relevant since since the only relevant criteria were related to the acceptance of the aims of the Central Council and the size of the society. On this point the feeling of the meeting was that the size criteria should be 75 members or ten churches rather than the proposed 'and'. There was also agreement that the large societies such as our own are in general under represented and that this question should be addressed either by increasing the number of representatives and/or increased use of co-option to committees and the use of the Honorary Member category. The text of the full response is available from the Secretary.

Apart from approving the draft response as produced by the Open Meeting, the Committee meeting itself covered a large number of other items and a summary of the decisions made are as follows.

1. Subscription rates for 1992 will be £4.50 (£3.00 to the Guild and £1.50 to the Branches). For a justification of this increase, please see the note from the General Treasurer. The Non-resident Life Members fee was also increased to £4.50.
2. The proposed Ten-Bell Striking Competition will be held for the first time next year on the day of the A.G.M. (May 16th). The venue will be Abingdon and entries will be on the basis of one band per branch with all the ringers in each band being paid-up members of the Branch represented. The detailed rules will be agreed by the Finance and General Purpose Committee and will be published in good time for the competition. Now is the time to start practising - the first test piece will not be complex (possibly Grandsire Caters in the first instance).
3. The Guild Festival will be held in Oxford on Saturday July 11, 1992 and will form part of the Guild's celebrations of the 450th Anniversary of the Diocese so please book the date now! The format of the day will include a service at the Cathedral in the morning and a Barn Dance at Appleton in the evening with ringing at both City and Branch towers. Details later.
4. The Celebrations of the 450th Anniversary will be marked in many ways and will include a period of celebratory ringing between July 11 and August 14 when it is hoped that peals or quarter peals will be rung in every ringable tower in the Diocese. Two important dates are January 6, the signing of the letters to establish the Diocese and August 14, the Anniversary of the appointment of the first Bishop. It was also agreed that the Guild should mark the occasion by mounting a special project to install a peal of bells. The details of this project will be announced later, but the meeting emphasised that the celebration is for the whole Diocese and not just the ringers. We should therefore be prepared to take part fully in both the local and Diocesan activities.
5. There will be a Sponsored Ringing Day in support of the Bell Fund (and for the Trophy) on February 29, 1992. Details will be forthcoming from the

7.

5. There will be a Sponsored Ringing Day in support of the Bell Fund (and for the Trophy) on February 29, 1992. Details will be forthcoming from the Bell Fund Committee.

6. On the subject of Education Courses, the meeting agreed with the Education Committee to hold two 3-day courses in 1992. The first at Cuddesdon in March and the other at Easthampstead in October. Details of the courses will be found elsewhere in ODDBOB. Notice was also given of a 'Simulator and Computer Day' to be held at All Saints' Wokingham on February 1, 1992 and the Guild Handbell Day to be held in Reading on April 18, 1992.

This is just a summary of the meeting but if anyone would like to know more details please contact your Branch Representatives or myself.

John Wells.

oooooo RINGING FOR TERRY WAITE oooooo

It seems that ringers across the Diocese responded magnificently to the request for the bells to be rung as a celebration of Terry Waite's release and return home. Although it was not always possible for the bells to be rung at 12 noon or at 7.00pm on the Tuesday, many towers managed to ring sometime during the week. The Guild Committee thought that it would be appropriate to find the scale of the ringing so as to have a record of what was done and to send the information both to the Diocese and to Terry Waite himself.

In order to do this, would all those who rang as a celebration of the event please send the details to their Branch Secretary as soon as possible so that they can forward the information to me. The details should include where the ringing took place, at what time and what was rung. We would like details of ALL ringing not just the quarter peals and peals.

John Wells

RELEASE OF HOSTAGES

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 8. 8.91 | Wraysbury, Bucks 1260 P.B.Doubles - For the release of John Mc Carthy and Edward Tracey. |
| 11. 8 91 | Sandhurst Immaculate Conception - For release of John Mc Carthy and Edward Tracey. |
| 25.9.91 | Abingdon St Nicolas 1260 St Clements B.Minor - To celebrate the release of Jackie Mann |
| 29.9.91 | Launton 1260 Grandsire Doubles - as above. |

oooooooo HISTORIC OCCASIONS ooooooooo

DEDDINGTON BELLS - from "In Praise of Bells" by John Camp.

In 1635 the church tower at Deddington, near Banbury, collapsed bringing the bells with it. They were left on the ground for some time until sold to Cromwell's New Model Army for a considerable sum. The proceeds of the sale went to buying beer for the villagers, so earning the village its title of "Drunken Deddington". The church now has a ring of eight bells and has long lived down its reputation.

FROM - A PARSON IN THE VALE OF WHITE HORSE - GEORGE WOODWARDS LETTERS FROM
EAST HENDRED -page 111

Hendred Sept 2nd 1758

"The affair of Louisburgh, (as you observe) has been matter of great joy all over England; the public are informed by every paper, what sort of reception this good news met with in different parts of the kingdom: but as you may have not seen the rejoicing upon that occasion, in any of the public papers, that were made here in Hendred, I will transmit the account in writing. We had the news by the Sunday's post; and as our chief politicians are always impatient for news every post night, I immediately sent it to them at the blacksmith's hard by, where the committee generally sits for the dispatch of business: the worthy members immediately rose, and adjourned to the belfry to which place I also sent them a bucket of ale, with the healths to be remembered: the whole parish was soon got together, and the bells struck up; more liquor was given by other inhabitants, and all the guns in the parish, that had been employed in frightening the birds from the corn, were collected together; and with these they fired repeated volleys from the top of the tower; in short, nothing was heard all night long, but huzzahs, firing of guns, and ringing of bells, to the no small amusement of those, who were not inclined to sleep; some other villages in the neighbourhood, who were not so early in their intelligence of what passes in public, thought the town was on fire, and were coming to our assistance; but being better informed, retired back again, with a full resolution to have the same rejoicings the next evening, at their own parishes; and accordingly they had....."

BANBURY BELLS - from "Banbury in the Coaching Days" by
William Potts.

For several evenings in April 1812 crowds of people waited anxiously in the streets of Banbury for the arrival of the evening coaches, looking to them for news of the progress of the great Reform Bill in the House of Lords. It is difficult to realise the intense feeling which this measure and its resistance created throughout the country. It is only by a study of contemporary letters and literature that we can glean the faintest impression of the feeling it provoked. Here in Banbury it rose very high. On the evening of Saturday intelligence arrived that the Bill had passed the second reading by a majority of nine peers. Immediately there were the greatest rejoicings, the bells being rung. Those of Adderbury had already been set ringing by the coach as it passed that village, and doubtless at many other places on its route it had provoked similar manifestations.

WORLD WAR I

One of my earliest memories of the use of bells to notify that something had happened which was of importance to the village where I lived as a child was the Half-muffled ringing and tolling of the Tenor. This was done everytime one of the village men serving in France or at sea was killed. By this means everyone in the village knew of the loss of another of its men.

M.R.C.

WORLD WAR II - From the Ringing World, November 20th 1942

At the suggestion of the Prime Minister in agreement with the Authorities of the Church, the bells all over England were rung last Sunday to celebrate the victory in Egypt, and through the medium of the B.B.C. some of the ringing was broadcast throughout the world. All the B.B.C. programmes, Home, Empire, European and Trans-Atlantic carried the sound of bells from Westminster Abbey, St. Cuthbert's, Edinburgh, Llandaff Cathedral, Armagh Cathedral and the Parish Church of St. Mary Prestwich, Manchester.....

BURNHAM, Bucks - Ten girls between the ages of 11 and 14, who had trained since outbreak of war, rang the bells of Burnham, and had never heard their bells speak before.

LINSLADE:- At St. Barnabas', the ringers taking part were F. Dedman, W. Insley, Mrs R. Jeffs, W. J. Jeffs, W. T. Jeffs, A. Kemsley, F. Randall, E. Thorp, F. Vickers, and A. Cheshire, an old member of the band who rang the same bell that he rang for the first quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples on the bells over 42 years ago.....

STOKE POGES:- Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Kent T. B. Major were rung as well - changes and firing. The following local ringers were present: Mrs A. D. Barker, Miss Overshott, and Messrs L. Allbrow, A. D. Barker, W. J. W. J. Bateman, W. L. Gutteridge, E. C. Hartley, H. S. Hawkins and W. Henley.



**THE NEW TREBLE
BELL AT
LONG CRENDON**

***** P E A L R E C O R D S *****

ADDITIONS FOR 1990
TOWER BELLS

A. 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.Neille	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

First peal in 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

Wokingham	Wokingham All Saints	E.J.Wells	3.11.90
Kingwood	Checkendon	J.A.Ainsworth	3.11.90

B. 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 method for the Guild:

Rockwood	Thatcham	W.Butler	4. 1.90
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C. SURPRISE ROYAL:

First peal in the method:

Evercreech Junction	Evercreech	J.R.Martin	5. 5.90
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First peal in 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

D. SURPRISE MAXIMUS:

First in Method:

Mancroft	Norwich S.Peter Mancroft	J.R.Martin	28.10.90
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E. DELIGHT MAXIMUS:

First in method:

Piggottshill	Croydon	R.J.Tibbetts	3. 2.90
Restoration	High Wycombe	J.A.Ainsworth	24. 6.90

HANDBELLS

A. DELIGHT MAXIMUS:

First in Method:

Southdown	Calcot	B.F.L.Groves	14. 2.90
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----- O B I T U A R Y -----

F. Thornton 1960 - 1991 - Charlbury

11.11.91 Charlbury 1260 Grandsire and Plain BOB Denise Summers 1, Claire Tarrant 2, B.Canham 3, M.P.Summers 4, M.J.Summers 5, G.Burroughs 6.
Rung Half -muffled as a tribute to F.Thornton, long time ringer at Charlbury.

H.Myers 196? - 1991

I first met Harry and Sue at at Charney Manor on the second Guild Course. At that time there was every indication that he might with Sue's help become a leader in the Witney and Woodstock Branch. After their marriage they lived in Abingdon for a while and rang with the Radley Band. They later moved to Standlake, Sue's native village where her father was tower captain. There they have brought up their children. Harry was tower captain at Standlake from 1979 - 1983. About that time a tumour on the brain was diagnosed and his ringing was curtailed. However he used to bring his three daughters to Radley on practice nights and there they learned to ring. However as time went on those visits had to cease. In addition to ringing tower bells the Myers family did tune ring-on handbells and participated in many concerts and fund raising efforts.

Our deepest sympathy goes to Sue and her family.

M.R.C.

Mrs Betty Dainty 1973 - 1991 - Uffington

Report under Vale of White Horse Branch News.

Bishop Eric Wild - Vice President

Bishop Eric Wild was a Vice- President of the Guild for a number of years - first as Archdeacon of Berkshire and later as Bishop. He supported the Guild by asking relevant questions about the bells in the churches under his care at his annual Visitations.
3.9.91 Reading St.Giles 1260 P.B. Triples Rosemary Scott 1, Toni K.Smith 2, Wendy E.Sandham 3, Dorothy Brookman 4, Joyce Vernon 5, K.J.Wallace 6, S.R.Smith (c) 7, K.W.Vernon 8
Rung Half-muffled for the Requiem Mass of Bishop Eric Wild.

Mary Thomas 1954 - 1991 - East Hagbourne

We are very sad to announce the death of one of our most loyal ringers - Mary Thomas - at the end of September. Mary had lived in East Hagbourne since 1954 - and has rung with us ever since, at practice, and for both Sunday Services. Indeed - she had rung for Evensong only hours before she was taken ill. She is obviously missed by all of us - and through-out the Branch.

J.Powell - From Branch News Letter

OTHER QUARTERS

- 6.8.91 Midgeham 1260 P.B.Doubles - A Thanksgiving for the life of Rowena Monger, mother of Jacqueline Monger (4)
17.10.91 Stoney Stratford 1260 Grandsire Triples - Rung Half-muffled on the eve of the funeral of John Eales, father of P.Eales (8).

Peter G. Davies

[illegible]

13. MEMORIES OF (THE LAST ?) EASTHAMPSTEAD

Friday 20th September 1991 was the long awaited starting date of my first Easthampstead ringing course.

The assembly point was not as you might expect at Easthampstead, but at nearby Warfield. Here we were greeted with coffee and biscuits, and presented with our information pack. This contained important information about the course, method booklets and our coloured name badge. I'd been placed in group two (green badge) along with five other students all keen to master Grandsire Doubles. The other group members came from Aylesbury (two), Chalgrove, Marston and Beedon. Our instructor was Bill Butler, author of several Central Council publications.

Having assembled into our group and met our tutor we headed off to the first tower at Binfield. We arrived to find group one already ringing so we gathered in the fine weather on the lawn beside the church for our first lesson. We were shortly joined by several experienced ringers who had come along to help out for the day. Bill produced a white board from the back of his car and proceeded to explain the technicalities of Grandsire much to the amazement of several visitors to the church. Only the noise of Concord flying by interrupted the lesson. Finally it was our go to practise what we had been taught, each taking a turn to ring. By the time we broke for lunch we had all mastered the plain course and improved our ringing styles.

Lunch was at a pub called The Bell (what else!) directly opposite our next tower at Waltham St Lawrence. We spent the whole of the afternoon practising, this time with bobs being introduced. We then packed up and headed off to Easthampstead where we checked into our accommodation and prepared for the evening meal. This was followed by a short course introduction from Patricia Newton, the Guild's Master, after which we chose from a number of evening options. I was keen to improve on my raising and lowering in peal, a popular option, and joined another ten or so ringers at Winkfield where we set out to annoy the neighbourhood by constantly ringing up and down (not always in peal!). Saturday morning started with lectures, this time covering singles and some of the less obvious points to watch out for while ringing the method. The first practical session of the day was at Whitchurch where we arrived after a long and torturous drive (O.K., so we got lost!). This was followed by ringing at Pangbourne and Bradfield. At each tower we were joined by experienced local ringers ensuring we had a strong band to practise with. Bradfield was our first lock-out. Well, semi lock-out as we did eventually find the key. By this time we were all starting to show signs of exhaustion so it was a well received rest.

We arrived back at Easthampstead just in time for our evening meal, after which came the second round of evening options. This time I thought I'd have a go at something completely new, ringing on handbells. The standard of instruction was again very high and within an hour or so I'd managed to ring a course of Plain Hunt on each combination of bells. To wrap up the evening, and because this was the last evening of the course, a community sing-a-long had been arranged (O.K. if you knew the words!).

Sunday morning started with the service. As there were no "real" (sorry Godfrey!) bells at the college we were called to service by a band of handbell ringers ringing "Complicated Royal". After the service we were invited to consider the aims, now and in the future, of the Guild. Quite an enlightening experience as the purpose of the guild was, prior to this, a bit of a mystery to me.

Following a short break for coffee it was back to the classroom, this time for some practical instruction on rope splicing. Lunch followed and for the final session of the course we were

off to Wokingham All Saints for a go on the ringing simulator. This proved to be quite difficult. Without any other ropes to follow you really do have to listen carefully. Its even more difficult than ringing facing the wall, not that Alan ever asks us to do that of course! (Still haven't decided whether this counts as a tower grab or not.) After refreshments back at Easthampstead we concluded the course with a final word from the organisers. It was here that the rumours circulating during the last couple of days were confirmed — this would be the last Easthampstead. This information was not well received, and after some well presented arguments by students and instructors it was decided to continue with future courses while interest remained. The issue is over the cost, or rather whether the course is good value for money. I think it is, and would recommend it to ringers keen to develop their abilities. While on the subject cost I'd like to thank the branch for contributing towards the fees. I hope funds allow this kind of sponsorship to continue in future years ... and did I learn Grandsire? Well I now know the theory, just need a lot more practise.

Steve Crane (Gt. Linford)

I'VE TAUGHT ANNE CARPENTER TO HANDLE A BELL!

Not many people can make this claim For those who don't know the Deputy Editor of *The Ringing World*, Anne has a reputation for teaching and curing bell handling bad habits in a somewhat direct, though humorous manner.

One of the sessions at the annual Easthampstead Course (organised by the Oxford Diocesan Guild) was a challenge from Anne to be assessed to her 'standard' of bell handling at Finchampstead with tied clappers.

After a discussion on aspects of safety, five volunteers were soon doing an assortment of individual activities including: standing close to and facing the wall practising hand-stroke/backstroke movements, holding a bell rope (with a bell in the down position) and miming the handstroke movements, ringing up and down, setting the bell at hand and back, dodging, inching hands up or down the tail end to ring slowly or quickly.

The three volunteer 'teachers' found themselves with a pupil waring a billowy dress and chewing gum, who periodically looked up, stood back, gripped the rope too hard, separated her hands, had three fingers round the sally, caught the sally too high or too low, didn't pull enough, didn't pull straight, let her hands stop at waist height at hand or backstroke

....

The students couldn't fail to improve or learn — thanks to Anne's ability to communicate, role play and concentrate.

As you would expect, Anne showed the would be teachers the latest 'Bell Club Pack' from Sherbourne Teaching Aids. Will I ever be a "champion campanologist"?

Stella Bianco

BIRTHDAYS

80th Birthday

1.10.91 Iffley, Oxon 1260 Doubles (2m) - To celebrate the 80th Birthday of Laurence Busby, Tower Captain

21st Birthday

20. 9.91 Stowe, Bucks 1290 Doubles (2m) - 21st Birthday compliment to Jonathan Humbert, ringer and organist at this Church.

18th Birthday

19.10.91 Cookham, Berks 5056 P.B. Major - An 18th Birthday compliment to Jennifer Dieppe (2 first inside). Two other members of the band rang their first in this method.

15. EAR RINGS

There I was ringing a church tower bell in a band of hand-bell ringers! Well, that's what it sounded like.

On a surprisingly cold morning on the first day of June I was ringing a solitary bell in the tower of All Saints at Wokingham, and trying to keep in time with a computer. I was on a training course, given by John Harrison, which is designed to make one listen critically to the rhythm of the bells when ringing.

As newcomer to church bell ringing I can well remember how hard I had to concentrate on the mere mechanics of bell handling. My mind used to shut out distractions like the sound of the bells! I did not start with the discipline of listening to the bells, and I found it impossible to hear my bell in the general cacophony.

It took some time before I could pick out my own bell, and then I didn't listen to the rhythm carefully enough. As long as my 'dong' came somewhere between the previous bell and the after bell things sounded fine! So I needed training in how to listen critically to the rhythm of the bells, and how to adjust my striking to keep in rhythm.

John Harrison's training course did the job perfectly. There were just two of us on the course, Andrew Elliston and myself, so we got lots of practice and useful guidance from John. Of course John would prefer a few more on his courses, but we benefited from a larger share of his patient and experienced instruction.

Only one of us would ring at a time, using the only bell whose rope was not looped up near the ceiling. So there were no other ringers to watch, no rope sight to help (or hinder), and only our listening to prevent us from making a mistake. The sound of the bells was produced by the BBC microcomputer that was in the ringing chamber with us.

The computer could produce all the usual ringing methods on whatever number of bells one chose, and of course the ringing of the other bells was absolutely perfect! The computer left a gap at the correct place in the method; all we had to do was ring our bell correctly in the gap.

Our bell had a tied clapper so it did not ring. Some simple electronics and a small light mounted on the frame of the bell picked up when the bell would normally have sounded, and sent a signal along a wire to the computer. The computer then sounded our bell electronically through its loudspeaker. We could elect which bell in the method we wanted to be, and the computer adjusted the tone of our bell accordingly.

The sound of the bells produced by the computer was fairly quiet and high pitched, which is why it sounded like a hand-bell band. It could carry on with its perfect ringing until one was tired (or was perfect!), and nobody outside the ringing chamber was disturbed.

We started by ringing tenor bell in rounds on 6 bells. This was not too difficult once we were in the correct place. (Because there were no ropes to watch it was difficult to know when to pull off one's bell to make it sound in the right place.) Even so we realised how carefully we must listen to the rhythm; we found that we did not spot a deviation from the correct rhythm early enough. It was all too easy to follow too close at handstroke and too wide at backstroke, and then to over-correct this. It was very instructive to listen to our bell oscillating about its correct position in the rhythm.

Next we rang treble bell in rounds on 6 bells. Although we expected this to be very similar to the previous practice, we both found it harder. Maybe it was because we were having to chose the amount of the slight delay when pulling off the handstroke lead, (and slight advancement on backstroke), rather than following the computer's timing.

16.

After this we tried ringing an inside bell to rounds. With a bell sounding before and after our own, our usual errors were even more obvious to our ears. We then got daring and tried plain hunting on an end bell. This I could not do, although I can do it (after a fashion) when ringing with a real band at Sonning, my home tower. As I haven't yet learnt rope sight I thought I was ringing plain hunt at Sonning entirely by listening, but this in fact can't be true.

Not until the end of the course did we notice how much the sound of the rope masked the sound of the bells coming from the computer. It was best to put the computer as close to the ringer as possible without it getting in the way of the rope.

The things I learnt on the course were:

- Listen critically to the bell, but at the same time try and keep relaxed.
- Don't over-correct.
- Listening beats rope sight because it enables you to correct an odd-struck bell.
- Maintain the slight delay on handstroke and the slight advance on backstroke throughout a method.
- What to do with a long tailend; this was a tip from John and nothing to do with the simulator.

We learnt a great deal from this course, and I feel all towers would benefit from having the type of ringing simulator used on the course. The equipment needed is not very expensive; an old secondhand BBC micro can be obtained very cheaply.

Beginners could be taught early on to listen to their bells, and could get plenty of practice at ringing rounds without boring experienced ringers or annoying the neighbourhood. It would probably help beginners if the computer program could be enhanced to make their bell sound slightly different from the others, either by volume or timbre of the note.

Rob Needham

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O.D.G. EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Toc H Conference House
Cuddesdon

WEEK END COURSE

(Residential and non-residential)

MARCH 21-23 1992

Details from: Miss T Ruff,
14 North Close, Tiddington, Oxon. OX9 2LT

Please enclose s.a.e.

oooooo R E C R U I T M E N T oooooo

St Mary's, Witney - A letter to the Editor of the Witney Gazette written by Peter Clarke, a member of the band explained how in the past there had been sufficient ringers to ring all eight bells for services, weddings etc. Now the ringers of Witney face a crisis, as not coming forward to learn this old and fascinating art. Peter Clarke then went on to explain what being a ring -er entailed. He pointed out that those who stay the course will find they have a fascinating and challenging hobby, which will give enormous satisfaction throughout their lives. He went on to write about the friendliness and help from one's fellow ringers during the learning stage. He also mentioned that there was no 'sex discrimination. Finally he concluded by giving the names of Terry Hester and John Coggins who would be delighted to hear from any one who was interested.

The same letter was published in the OXFORD MAIL and in the OXFORD TIMES and the latter had an article stressing the plight of Witney Towe. This produced one recruit.

Since then the publisher of the monthly Witney 'What's ON' has listed the Witney Ringing Society together with the names and telephone numbers of the Master and Secretary. Recently this has resulted in a local schoolboy expressing an interest in ringing.

West Hanney - Some time has passed since Hanney contributed to Tower Talk. but we have not been resting on our laurels. The band is going from strength to strength, both in ability and numbers. A plea for new ringers in the village newsletter was picked up by the WANTAGE HERALD and eventually by Radio Oxford, who interviewed me about why Hanney 'couldn't promise to ring all six bells on a Sunday morning'. After a slow start the hard work paid off and we are currently teaching seven new learners. An eight recruit - Liz Woodhouse - was a ringer at Marston 25 years ago and has come to us 'ready taught'. On Remembrance Sunday Liz rang her first Quarter Peal for 25 years and proved that you never forget how to ring. All the others are progressing quickly and are now starting to ring rounds on a practice night, albeit with some help. The long hours of tied-bell practice have been worthwhile.
From Old North Berks News Letter.

Langley, Bucks - Langley tower held an open day in the late summer in conjunction with the rest of the church. This has boosted the recruitment of learners at a tower which is in a fairly healthy situation already. Now our learners range from junior school to retirement.
From E.B.S.B. News letter.

Somerton, Oxon - Thanks to first rate teaching from Ron Gardner and Graham Clifton of Steeple Aston, Somerton now has a small but determined band of ringers, all of whom are learning to ring for the first time Apart from the occasional visiting team, Somerton has been "silent" for most of the last thirty years. It has also been "dry" for about the same length of time, the only pub having closed in 1965. Perhaps the demise of these two noble village institutions was in some way connected? Local reaction to the revival has been favourable. There are no reports of any one having complained to the P.C.C. (which is just as well as the majority of the ringers are on the P.C.C.) And it is hoped that sufficient interest will be generated to ensure that the next thirty years are far from silent. (The problem of no pub, however, may take a little longer to solve).
From Banbury Branch News Letter.

Can Wendy Fowles, E.B.S.B. Fund Raising Committee have all unwanted wax from your church and elsewhere in order to make more candles for the stall.

SONNING DEANERY BRANCH - QUARTER PEAL WEEK

4th - 10th November 1991

In our annual quarter peal week this year there were 15 successful quarter peals in the Branch, two outside and one in hand. Two days were particularly popular: the Saturday, when Mike Pickup organised another multi-quarter outing, and Remembrance Sunday. Also nine firsts were scored to continue the tradition that the week is a good excuse to try something new.

Hugh Baxter

4.11.91	Wokingham St.Paul's	1260 P.B.Minor -For Bishop John who visited the parish to open the new Parish Centre.
5.11.91	Arborfield	1260 P.B.Minor
7.11.91	White Waltham	1260 P.B.Doubles
9.11.91	Binfield	1260 P.B.Minor
	White Waltham	1260 P.B.Minor
	Hurst	1260 P.B.Triples
	Bagshot,Surrey	1260 P.B.Triples
	York Town, Surrey	1344 P.B.Major
	Arborfield	1320 Cambridge S.Minor
10.11.91	Wokingham St.Paul's	1260 Grandsire Doubles H/M *
	Shottesbrook	1279 Stedman Doubles H/M*
	Wokingham All Saints	1296 Plain Bob Major H/M *
	Easthamstead	1260 P.B.Minor H/M *
	* For Remembrance Sunday.	
	Warfield	1259 Grandsire Caters

1992 YOUTH WEEKEND

3rd-5th APRIL

Based at the ETON DORNEY
CENTRE near WINDSOR

For Guild Members aged between 11 and 16 years.

Details and application forms available from:

Mrs P.M. Newton, 44 Georges Hill,
Widmer End, High Wycombe, Bucks.
HP15 6BE Tel: (0494) 713834

- - - - - NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES - - - - -

Chiltern Branch:- In the Guild 6-Bell Striking Competition in the Reading Branch on October 5th, Aston Clinton represented the Chiltern Branch. They were placed second in the heat at Stratfield Mortimer, and in the final at Shinfield, with the standard of ringing extremely high, achieved a creditable fourth.

However, things were markedly different in the Orchard Cup Competition a week later at Mursley (our annual Contest with the Central Bucks Branch). Having won the Cup for the past nine years in succession, and on thirteen occasions in the Competition's sixteen-year history, Aston Clinton again competed with the "handicap" of ringing Cambridge, only this time the handicap worked! A slightly shaky practice was followed by good rounds for the test-piece, but the method ringing barely survived the first lead and so the conductor decided to call it a day. After waiting and competing patiently for a number of years, Quainton were the winners on behalf of the Central Bucks Branch. Bledlow, who were placed third, were awarded the George Edmans marline spike for the winning team from the losing branch. Little Missenden, the third team from the Chiltern Branch, were placed seventh.

The Chiltern Branch has worked consistently with fund-raising for the Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund over the past ten years or so, and our main event for this purpose, the Pub Games Evening, was once again held at Wendover Cricket Club on November 16th. This year we surpassed all previous records. Over eighty ringers and friends squeezed into the pavilion, forming twenty-two teams representing eleven towers in the branch, one from outside the branch and one composed of our Chairman's working colleagues. The Aston Clinton B team were the winners, retaining the shield for the tower, with Aston Clinton A, High Wycombe and Little Missenden A all equal second. Over £190 was raised for the Bell Fund. Well done everyone!

John White

East Berks and South Bucks Branch:- At Lane End on Saturday 26th october we held the Final of our Lorna Newton Striking Competition. Aply judged by Peter and Richard Saddleton the final of this knock-out competition was held prior to our Half Yearly Business Meeting. The four finalists were Lane End, Chalfont St. Giles A, Slough and High Wycombe B. Slough, unfortunately, were unable to field a band for the final so the tower they defeated, Langley, were invited to enter in their place. The results were as follows:

1st	Lane End	23 faults
2nd	High Wycombe B	28 faults
3rd	Chalfont St. Giles A	29 faults
4th	Langley	45 faults

Our congratulations to all four teams for having got as far as the final in the Competition but particularly to Lane End for winning. Percy Newton presented the Lorna Newton Cup to Colin Hagger, as a representative of Lane End, just prior to the Half Yearly Business Meeting.

The meeting was quite well attended with 11 towers being represented. The meeting congratulated Mark Instone (our Social Secretary and based at Langley) and Vanda Wetherell (Wraysbury) on their engagement. We all wish them every happiness for the future. The business matters were quickly dealt with and the meeting finished at 6.35 and general ringing at Lane End followed.

Thank you ladies of Lane End for a delicious tea. As David, my son, said to his father on returning home, "We've had a real ringers' tea!".

Jane Payne

Reading Branch:- On the second Saturday in September the Branch six bell striking competition was held at Mapledurham. Nine teams entered and after ringing partook of an excellent running tea in Church organised by the Caversham band. The judges, Ken Davenport and Kelvin Lovell, eventually named Caversham the winners with Reading SMV&L as runners up. Three weeks later the Guild six bell final came to the Reading branch when Caversham was placed in their heat at Mortimer S John which meant they were unfortunately eliminated before the final at Shinfield.

Hertfordshire was the destination for the October outing with 2 sixes, 3 eights, and the 10 at Rickmansworth booked — a good balance on paper but who would guess that two of the eights would be clapperless on the day. Nevertheless, the ringing masters worked hard to give 30 people something within their capabilities at each tower with the ringing ranging from rounds to Cambridge S Royal.

The November practice at Whitchurch was moderately well attended with Plain Bob Doubles being the most requested method.

Eunice A Wark

Old North Berks Branch:- On Saturday 14th September the Branch held its practice at Appleton, complete with lessons on ringing by candlelight, as the power in the village had failed us. This was coupled with a Branch barbeque and Aunt Sally but the food was excellently prepared by our very own Chairman, with a little help from the pub. A very good evening was finished off the way it started, when a stray Aunt Sally 'stick' wandered off into one of the floodlights and put the whole pub into darkness. Never mind, we didn't get charged for the light bulb and the evening ended up raising £83.75, from which sixty pounds has been donated to the Bell Restoration Fund.

Our other Branch practices this quarter have been very well attended and the standard of ringing has been very high.

The next major event in the Branch will be the Half Yearly meeting and social at Brightwell on January 11th. This promises to be another good evening so please come along and lend your support. Oh! and don't forget the now traditional ringing on New Years Day morning which this year will be at Milton — 10 til 12 noon. I look forward to seeing you there.

Andy Utting

South Oxon Branch:- The half-yearly meeting was held on the last Saturday of October. Sadly, the enthusiasm for this meeting has diminished and only the "faithful" people and visitors were there. The question of future half-yearly meetings was raised, and will be debated at the AGM.

Branch and Surprise Major Practices have also seen a reduction in numbers, but those who do go along have a very enjoyable and often challenging time.

Despite the shortage of members at these occasions, I am told by Tower Captains that ringing for services and weddings continues. Chinnor — who seem to have more than their fair share of weddings — usually manage to ring a quarter peal for every wedding. Shirley Smith — a ringer at Aston Rowant — achieved her first quarter at Chinnor. The "Flying Squad" continues to ring, and their efforts are much appreciated by the villagers.

Whispers of people thinking about learning to ring give a glimmer of hope that we may soon have some bells ringing more frequently.

Tina Ruff

Witney & Woodstock Branch:- Woodstock Bells

The bells have now returned from Loughborough, and have been re-hung in a new frame set lower in the tower. Commissioning tests took place on 15th November with the assistance of the band from the Cathedral. A local band rang the bells on Monday 18th November to celebrate the release of Terry Waite. The bells have been returned, and sound better than they have for many a long year. There is now a hum on the bells rather than the previous clatter. All eight bells now run smoothly; the tenor can be pulled off without the need for two or three people to assist, the seventh can now be set at the first attempt, and the fourth is no longer oddstruck. There has been a change in the geography of the ringing chamber; all the bell positions have moved 180 degrees round the room. This has been done to allow the tenor to swing in a direction which will reduce the stresses on the tower. Congratulations to Noel Reynolds and to past and present members of the local band for a splendid restoration job.

Regular ringing has now been resumed. Practices are on Thursdays from 7.30pm to 9.00pm. There is still work outstanding on the clock and on the structure of the tower, but it is hoped that ringing will not be interrupted. The dedication of the restored bells will take place when all the work on the tower is complete.

Branch Outing

Fifty members of the Branch, family and friends enjoyed a trip to the Stroud area on Saturday 12th October, a gloriously sunny autumn day. Our first tower was Eastington, where the coach driver astounded us by driving the coach round an island most of us would have thought twice about taking our cars round. Then on to the 10 cwt six at Woodchester, after which a walk from the church to the Ram Inn gave us an appetite for the home cooked food and real ale. At least half a dozen brews were available to choose from, and our beer expert pronounced them satisfactory. After lunch we drove on to Standish, where the official photographs were taken. Three more towers completed the day: Haresfield, Leonard Stanley and Minchinhampton. By general agreement the bells of Leonard Stanley were voted the best of the day. This lovely sounding 14 cwt six is rung from the chancel, which gave some guests who had never seen bells being rung a chance to see what their spouses get up to.

North Leigh

Visiting ringers are now restricted to once every six weeks. This is because of complaints from the present owners of the old vicarage next to the church, who seem to forget they were not forced to buy the house next to the church but now regard it as their inalienable right to object to the bells being rung. Suggested ringing dates for 1992 are: 4th January, 15th February, 28th March, 9th May, 20th June, 1st August, 12th September, 24th October, and 5th December. Ted Patching, the Tower Captain, is keen to have the bells rung on these dates.

Christopher Wallworth

Banbury Branch:- Our coach outing this year was to West London. We rang at various towers alongside the river, starting at Fulham and then the two in Chelsea. St.Lukes', Chelsea, was the interesting tower of the day - with glass on all sides and the sun shining down, it was rather like a greenhouse- The draft is long and the bells are not easy. We then rang at Battersea, Putney (where an irate local complained that he was trying to sleep), Barnes and Mortlake, before partaking of food and drink on the way home plus the mandatory sing-song on the bus.

On September 21st, Tim Burchell and Helen Hadley were married at Swerford. They had both taken part in a peal to commemorate the occasion at Hook Norton the previous week. The wedding was attended by many ringing friends and a quarter was rung prior to the service. The reception was held held at Moreton-in-the-Marsh and the bells started ringing as photographs were taken in the hotel garden near the church. It was rumoured to be the Four Shires Guild performing specifically for the wedding party but actually turned out to be a band of visiting ringers on an outing!

At the end of October, several "North Oxfordshire" ringers ventured to Devon for a ringing week-end arranged by Ron and Anne Thorne. We rang at several towers near Barnstaple including Great Torrington (8), Weave Gifford (6), Appledore (a very tricky 8), and Northam (a very good 8). In the evening two quarters were scored. Ian Roderick was unbeknowingly whisked off to Warkleigh to ring his first quarter peal, which had been arranged to celebrate his 50th birthday. Another "first" quarter was rung at Bishop's Tawton by Andrew Hobbs.

After all our exertions, we retired to 'chez Ron and Anne' for an excellent supper of cider and Lasange plus several superb desserts with Devon cream and more cider..

On Sunday, after Service ringing, Anne provided more refreshments including 'bubbly' and Ian's birthday cake.

Our thanks go to Ron and Anne for a very enjoyable week-end.

Sue Burchell

Deddington: On the 13th July, Deddington Church organised a Country Fayre with all or many village organisations taking part on a 50-50 basis, to commemorate the bi-centenary of the bells being hung in 1791. In addition to stalls, Art and Craft shows and a pageant of costumes that spanned the period 1791 - 1991 Deddington Tower was open. The day commenced with a peal of 5088 Deddington S.Major.

Duns Tew;- Because of Local objections it has been decided that peals will only be rung in exceptional circumstances ie where there is a very good local reason for ringing one. People in the immediate vicinity of the church felt that 3hrs ringing was more than they could stand. There will be no problem with quarter peals.

Steeple Aston: Last Christmas the Handbell ringers raised £400.00 which they divided equally between two charities, the Katherine House Hospice and the Cheshire Home at Adderbury. What will they do in 1991?

Great Tew: Although we manage to ring for almost all Sunday Services, numbers at practices have been dwindling. We decided to arrange a practice once a month, probably the first Friday, when everyone will make a special effort to attend. **Anyone contemplating joining our practice should check with me first**
Great Tew (060 883)255. Sue Burchell

Bicester Branch: FUND RAISING:- A Jumble Sale in aid of Branch Funds is to be held in St.Edburg's Hall,Bicester on November 30th. The Branch is also having a Charity Stall at Bicester Market on Friday, 20th December.

GUILD MARCH COMMITTEE MEETING 1992. This is provisionally booked for Launton on March 14th. It is hoped that the members of the Branch will donate the tea for this event and then we can pass the hat round as donations directly to Islip Bell Restoration Fund.

RESTORATION FUNDS: The Branch Committee is ready to consider other ideas for money raising, both in aid of the Branch Bell Restoration Fund and the Islip Appeal for £20,000.00. The idea of an Open Day with all the towers open is being considered. Bicester ringers have placed a tin in the ringing room of the tower where donations can be placed for the Islip Appeal. How about your tower doing the same.

If you have any further ideas please pass them to the Branch Committee or to the Branch Secretary.

HALF YEARLY MEETING: This was held at St.Edburg's Church, Bicester on Saturday,21st September.A short service was taken by the Branch Vice-President the Reverend John Nixon. The tea and business meeting were held in St.Edburg's Hall. The Branch Secretary gave a joint report which outlined the Branch practices and two outings which had taken place since the last meeting. The Treasurer informed the meeting that there is £484.00 in the general fund and £1418.00 on deposit for the Branch Bell Restoration Fund. Miss Catherine Henson was elected a resident member of the Guild. The Branch Ringing Master gave notice of Branch Practices and the following dates were confirmed.

Saturday, 29th February - AGM at Brill

Saturday,19th September - Half Yearly Meeting at Launton.

A report from Mr W.Haynes on the work to be done at Islip. It is proposed to remove the bells from the tower for tuning and rehangng in the existing frame, renewing most of the existing fittings in the process. Total cost around £20,000 (incl VAT). The meeting decided that an interim grant of £500 be awarded and that further discussion on future grants take place at the AGM in February next. The meeting heard that the Kirtlington ringers had not heard from the Branch Officers. Whilst the meeting felt that the points raised were not entirely fair, nevertheless the Secretary and Treasurer agreed to make contact and sort matters out.

The Secretary brought the attention of the meeting to a letter he had received from the Guild relating to the Guild Restoration Fund Draw. After discussion the branch view is that the present arrangements with a charge of £1.00 per book of 5 tickets is quite adequate.

The Branch Representative gave a brief report on meetings held since the last Branch meeting, details of which had appeared in ODD BOB which had been circulated to all members.

Richard Stevens.

Chipping Norton Branch: At the Autumn Meeting recently we decided that as business meetings were not generally well attended, to move the A.G.M. and combine it with a Branch Practice on the first Saturday in May. It was also decided that the Branch Practice at the beginning of October be combined with the Autumn Meeting on the 2nd Saturday in October, so as not to clash with the Guild 6-Bell Striking Competition. Therefore the A.G.M. will be at Burford on 2nd May 1992, and the Autumn Meeting at Charlbury on 10th October 1992.

25.

Some Branch members joined with some Banbury Branch members on 7th September and had an enjoyable day in London.

September 21st saw the wedding of Tim Burchell and Helen Hadley, both of Hook Norton, at Swerford. A peal of Grandsire Triples was successfully rung at Hook Norton on September 14th, both Tim and Helen ringing their first peal. Also, I think Charlbury ringers were surprised to some extent when we were introduced to Mrs Barry Andrews on Sunday. Congratulations to both Tim and Helen and Barry and Marian (nee Riley). Perhaps we at Charlbury are going to gain another ringer, let's hope so! A quarter is going to be rung in the fairly near future.

Churchill bells are now available, as mentioned in the last issue, and I understand that weekly practices are now taking place. Enstone Church is shut again for restoration work, but the bells are ringable.

A one day course was held on 5th October, mainly concentrating on Grandsire Doubles. The six students who took part, hopefully learned something! Thanks go to Marie Cross for coming to tutor the group and the various helpers.. A Surprise Minor course, concentrating on London, has been arranged for 30th November, which hopefully will be as successful, although it has been harder to find helpers, as the students want something more advanced!

Sadly, November 3rd saw the passing of Fred Thornton of Charlbury. Although not seen in the tower recently, he was always a regular ringer in past years. A Half-muffled quarter of Plain Bob and Grandsire was rung on 11th November, the funeral having taken place the previous Thursday.

On a happier note, Canon Chadwick is now taking a few services again after his heart bypass operation in the summer.

BRANCH PRACTICES:

1991	December 7th	Kingham (8)	7.00 - 8.30pm
1992	*January 4th	Enstone (6)	7.30 - 9.00pm
	*February 1st	Shipton-u-Wychwood (8)	7.30 - 9.00pm
	March 7th	Leafeld (6)	7.30 - 9.00pm
	*April 4th	Chipping Norton (8)	7.30 - 9.00pm

* To be confirmed. Please contact Claire Tarrant on 0608 811290 if you wish to come along. All are Welcome.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1992 May 2nd 1992 Burford (8) 3.00pm onwards

Newbury Branch: Twenty - three members attended the A.G.M. which was held at Newbury on 12th October. Mike Till had reluctantly had to resign as Chairman and into his place was elected Angela Croft. Nick Clarke was also standing down as Ringing Master (apost he had held jointly with Angela) and one Ringing Master was elected to replace them - John Durham.

The Committee has now met to set the Branch programme until Christmas 1992. It goes something like this:-

Fourth Saturday in every month (except August and September) there will be a 'special' practice. In winter they will be advanced practices, and in summer there will be afternoon learners' or 'improvers' practices. A second event every month will be a Branch week-day practice or a social event. More details will be published as soon as they are confirmed.

Christopher Durha (Bucklebury), Dave Thorpe (Hungerford), Peter Tomlin Thatcham are new members of the Branch.

The **Eight-Bell Striking Competition and Ringing Day** will be held in the Newbury Branch on **May 4th 1992.**

Paul Bodenham (News Letter)

North Bucks Branch: The North Bucks Branch has had a fairly quiet quarter. The main event was the Annual Striking Contest against the Towcester Branch of the Peterborough Guild, which took place at Wicken on Sunday 22nd September. As usual the test pieces were Grandsire Triples, Cambridge Minor and Call Changes. Towcester won two out of the three sections and thus carried off the trophy.

The quarterly meeting at Great Linford was nearly held outside as the weather was so good. Six new members were elected. The meeting was preceded by an excellent tea, and followed by evening ringing ranging from Call Changes to Belfast Minor.

The Tower representatives meeting at Emberton was a total washout with only two people attending who were not Branch officers! Many thanks to those who did attend.

TOWER NEWS:

Great Linford - Great Linford bells come out in the first week of the New Year and should be rehung by Easter.

Bradwell: Work on the extension to Bradwell Church has begun. This will provide toilets and a kitchen for the church, together with a raised ringing floor. No dates are yet available as to when ringing will need to be suspended.

Andy King.

Sonning Deanery Branch.: BRANCH 8-Bell Striking Competition.

This year's 8-bell striking competition was held in the pouring rain at St. Paul's, Wokingham and was judged by Tim Pett and Steve Rossiter. Seven teams entered, with ringing varying from rounds through to Stedman Triples. The results were as follows:-

1st	Wokingham All Saints 'A'	23.6 faults
2nd	Warfield	24.2
3rd	Easthampstead 'A'	28.1
4th	Wokingham St. Paul	34.3
5th	Sandhurst	41.8
6th	Easthampstead 'B'	49.5
7th	Wokingham All Saints 'B'	54.2

TEN BELL PRACTICES: Since May Warfield Tower has had an 'Open Practice' on a named Tuesday in May, July, September and November. These practices are intended to get as many as possible competent ten-bell ringers together on the same night, and also to enable the less experienced to ring on ten - something we do not have the opportunity to do very often.

If you would like these practices to continue please support us.

Anne Carpenter (From Branch News Letter.

Central Bucks Branch: Our Half Yearly Meeting has come and gone. We were very pleased to welcome both the Master and the Deputy Master. The turnout for the meeting was reasonable and at times the discussion became controversial. This had the advantage of generating an article from a member in our newsletter.

Some members felt that Branch practices were daunting for beginners. Apparently even adult learners could feel threatened by the "experienced" ringers around them to such an extent that they were put off attending. So, in January we are introducing an additional practice for beginners, those members who can handle a bell and want to progress.

A positive resolution at the meeting was to sponsor a member at the Youth

27.

Weekend and Cuddesdon Weekend Course in addition to Easthampstead..

The rest of the Branch programme has been arranged, or at least the dates and places have been selected, only the final confirmations are awaited. To accommodate the Guild Festival our usual second Saturday in July has been changed to the first. Once again an outing is planned - perhaps this time there will be sufficient seats on the coach for everyone. Hopefully in October the Branch will retain the Orchard Cup in the annual competition with the Chiltern Branch.

I now appear to have come to the end of 1992 without 1991 being over. This year has seen a record membership with, overall, a good core of support at all events.

All that remains for me to do is to wish everyone a happy Christmas and a joyful ringing New Year.

Terry Wagstaff.

Oxford City Branch: Since the last news letter St.Giles' ringers' outing to Salisbury took place on 28th September. It was an extremely wet day - umbrellas were used to fend off splashes from cars through the huge puddles of the town's streets as well as the deluge from the clouds. Nevertheless nine ringers enjoyed a day's outing to Amesbury, Andover, St.Mary Bourne and the three towers in Salisbury.

A Half-muffled quarter of Grandsire was rung by the St.Giles' band prior to the City's Remembrance Service at the St.Giles' War Memorial.

Quarter peals were rung at a number of the Branch Churches to celebrate Terry Waite's release from captivity.

A number of learners are being taught at St.Giles following an advertisement for new ringers and we hope that the tutors' efforts will bear fruit in the strengthening of the number of competent ringers.

David Lane

Vale of White Horse Branch: Our Half-Yearly Meeting in September was probably our last Branch ringing on Uffington Bells before they are taken out early in 1992 for rehangng and the addition of a sixth bell. One new member was elected and one transfer from Chipping Norton Branch - welcome to Emma Owen and Hilary Sullivan. The Branch Practice at Faringdon brought 20 ringers to the tower, likewise the half-day outing around Benson/Oxford area.

Outing dates for 1992 were arranged at the Branch Meeting in the hope that weddings will not now be booked on those days.

FARINGDON TOWER: A quarter peal was rung on Monday November 18th as a Thanksgiving for the safe release of Terry Waite and Thomas Sutherland. 18.11.91 Faringdon 1260 Doubles: Dorothy Weaving 1, N.H.Leslie 2, Doreen Leslie 3, D.A.Leslie (c) 4, C.R.Miles 5.E.Monk 6.

UFFINGTON TOWER: We have very little to report other than the death of one of our ringers, Mrs Betty Dainty, a regular Sunday Service ringer for many years. She died after a long and bravely born illness on Nove.11th. We extend our sympathy to her husband and family. As a mark of respect we rang the bells half muffled for the funeral. Afterwards the bells were rung open to celebrate the safe return of Terry Waite after his long ordeal in captivity.

HINTON WALDRIST: The following quarter peals have been rung:-
12.9.91 1260 P.B.Minor F.White 1, A.Williams 2, N.H.Leslie 3, C.Miles 4, D.A.Leslie 5, M.Harrison (c) 6

14.9.91 1260 P.B.Doubles Doreen Leslie 1, Rachel Townsend-Green 2,
 A.Williams 3, C.R.Miles 4, D.A.Leslie (c)5, N.H.Leslie 6
 19.9.91 1260 Grandsire Doubles: D.A.Leslie (c)1, F.White 2, M.Harrison 3,
 C.R.Miles 4, A.Williams 5, N.H.Leslie 6.
 3.10.91 1260 Doubles (2m) D.A.Leslie (c) 1, F.White 2, Rachel Townsend-Green 3
 C.R.Miles 4, N.H.Leslie 5, M.Harrison 6.
 6.10.91 1260 Grandsire Doubles Doreen Leslie 1, Rachel Townsend-Green 2,
 N.H.Leslie (C) 3, C.R.Miles 4, D.A.Leslie 5, E.Monk 6. For Harvest Festival

STANFORD-IN-THE-VALE: The tower AGM on 29th October resulted in no change in the tower officers. All the new faces since the last AGM (Roger, Laurie, Anthea, Lydia, Lucy, Laura, David and Emma O) were formally welcomed and encouraged to continue their involvement in tower, branch and Guild ringing. (For those readers thinking the two Lauras are probably a typing error you are wrong - we really do have two Lauras, both aged 11, both started ringing on the same day and yes, it is confusing, especially when the poor confused tower captain attempts to call Lucy Laura as well!)

A good turnout from the tower ensured a well supported Branch Outing which was much enjoyed by all of us. The Old Man of the Vale was noted thoroughly enjoying himself, accompanied as he was by FOUR ladies (we understand that the back-seat chat of the three under 12's was quite an eye-opener for a teacher in a boys-only school!).

Stanford ringers were glad to ring on Tuesday 19th November to celebrate the safe return of all the British Hostages from Beirut.

Congratulations go to Anthea who learned to ring at Stanford-in-the-Vale this year and who has at long last managed to get a ring on her home bells at Shellingford!

Anne Jones

RESIDENTIAL RINGING COURSE

Advance Notice

EASTHAMPTSTEAD 1992

Friday October 16

to

Sunday October 18

Further details available in New Year from:

Mrs Anne Carpenter, 41 Napier Road,
 Crowthorne, Berks RG11 7EJ

(Please send foolscap size s.a.e.)

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

New Methods

**	18. 8.91	Henley-on - Thames	5056 Xystus S.Major	J.R.Martin
\$	24. 8.91	Bampton,Oxon	5024 Nicaragua S.Major	J.R.Martin
**	30. 8.91	Dursley, Glos.	5024 Zed S.Major	J.R.Martin
\$	2610.91	Blewbury	5056 Puffin S.Major	J.R.Martin
*	3.11.91	Reading S.Laurence	5040 Dreadnought S.Max	J.R.Martin
*	First peal in method			
**	First peal in method for Guild			
\$	First peal in method. Previously rung in slic ed.			

Other peals worth noting

3. 8.91	Hughenden	5040 P.B.Major	Joyce I.Cornwall
	Rung for the 25th Anniversary of the first Ladies peal of Major for the Guild.. Frances Oglesby (1),Joyce I Cornwall (3) Pearl J.Gibson (4), Doreen Young (7), Gillian N.Hazell(8)		
17. 8.91	Wraysbury	5056 P.B.Major	M.C.Instone
	For the 100th Anniversary of the first peal on the tower (15 Aug.1891) in which William Wilder, the great-grandfather of the 4th (Jenny Instone) and the great great grandfather of the Tenor (MarkC.Instone) rang. It was Mark Instones first as conductor on 8. The band would also like to associate with the peal Les Bailey.		
22. 9.91	Steeple Aston	5040 Grandsire Triples	G.J.Clifton
	First peal on the bells since augmentation in 1987. A thankyou and goodbye to Brother Alan Barnabas from Australia who has been on a three months exchange with our own Rector.		

Sponsored Ringing for St.Lukes Hospital for the Clergy

19.10.91	Arborfield	1260 P.B.Minor
19.10.91	Emberton	1260 P.B.Doubles (£80 raised)
18.10.91	Hungerford	5056 Upware S.Major
25.10.91	Thatcham	5040 Painswick S.Royal
26.10.91	Checkenden	5056 Cambridge S.Major

Service Ringing**Remembrance Sunday**

11.11.91	Oxford St.Giles	1260 Grandsire Triples - for Civic Service at War Memorial H/M
	Radley	1260 P.B.Doubles H/M

Patronal Festivals

31.8.91	Reading St.Giles	1320 P.B.Doubles - for Festival Mass
9.8.91	Caversfield	1260 Doubles (7m/V) Prior to Evensong marking the Patronal Festival
8.9.91	Slough	1260 P.B.Minor - for Patronal Festival Eucharist.
9.9.91	Reading St Mary	1312 Spliced S.Major
7.9.91	Oxford St.Giles	5040 Cambridge S.major

Dedication Service

22.9.91	Slough	1280 Cambridge S.Major - for Dedication Service Eucharist.
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Mission 91

29.9.91	Warfield	1260 Grandsire Triples - For the closing Celebration of Mission 91
19.9.91	Monks Risborough	1260 Doubles (2m) To mark the start of Risborough Mission Week.

Harvest Festival

29.9.91	Hurst	1250 Lincolnshire S.major
	Launton	1260 Grandsire Doubles - also in Thanksgiving for the release of Jackie Mann.
22.9.91	Horley, Oxon	1272 P.B.Minimus - First by band.
	Caversfield	1260 Doubles (5m/v)
6.10.91	Horspath	1260 Doubles (2m)
	Garsington	1260 Doubles (3m)
	Reading S.Mary	1250 Yorkshire S.Major
	Witney	1260 P.B.Minor 7 covering
	Maidenhead	1260 Grandsire Triples - also to welcome Jennifer L.Firman (b 1.10.91)
	Oxford St.Giles	1260 DNCB Major
	Wallingford	1260 Grandsire Triples
13.10.91	Blewbury	1260 Grandsire Triples
	Slough	1344 Grandsire Triples

Confirmation Service

28.7.91	Hungerford	1260 P.B.Triples - For the Confirmation service by the Bishop of Reading.
13.10.91	Bray	1264 P.B.Major - To mark the Confirmation Service held earlier in the day and also to celebrate the birth of Jennifer Louise Firman.
27.10.91	Marston, Oxon	1260 Doubles (2m) - For Confirmation Service.

St. Michael and All Angels

28.9.91	Horspath	5040 Doubles (2m)
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St. Bartholomew

24.8.91	Windsor St John Baptist	5040 P.B.Triples
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St Michael and All Angels

29.9.91	Haddenham	1280 Yorkshire S.Major
	Tilehurst	1260 Spl. Grandsire and P.B. (half lead)

Songs of Praise

1.9.91	Arborfield	1260 P.B.Minor - For Songs of Praise Service.
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Visit of Bishop

28.8.91	Swallowfield	1260 Doubles - To welcome the Bishop of Reading to Swallowfield.
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Baptism, Births etc

1.10.91	Great Haseley, Oxon	1440 Kent T.B.Minor - For the Christening of Daniel P.Rogers.
3.10.91	Reading Eastern Ave.	H/B 1440 P.B.Minor - To celebrate the birth of Paul R.Manley
6.10.91	Tetsworth	1260 P.B.Doubles - A Birthday complement to R.A.Linders and for the Baptism of Timothy Berry.
9.10.91	Calcot, Reading	H/B 5040 Oxford T.B.Maximus - to welcome Jennifer Louise Firman.
19.10.91	Arborfield	1260 P.B.Minor - For the birth of Robert Paul Maney.

CIVIC etc.

91st Birthday Compliment to H.M. Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother.

4.8.91	Reading St. Mary	1260 Stedman Triples
	Tilehurst	1260 Middlesex Triples
	Bray	5088 Spl.S.Major (5m)

Royal Birthdays

15.9.91	Reading St. Mary	5024 Rutland S.Major - For H.R.H Prince Henry
26.8.91	Windsor -Chapel of St George	1344 Grandsire Triples -For H.R.H.Prince Richard of Gloucester

Witney Feast

15.9.91	Witney	1260 Grandsire Triples - The visit-preacher being the Rt.Rev.Richard Harries,Bishop of Oxford.
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Flower Festival

22.9.91	Twyford Berks	1288 Grandsire Triples
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Mothers' Union Centenary

15.9.91	Easthampstead	1296 P.B.Major - Prior to Evening Communion, attended by the Bishop of Reading, to celebrate the Centenary of the Mothers Union East-hampstead Branch. Also a farewell to A.N.Scott
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70th Anniversary of Pangbourne W.I.

9.7.91	Pangbourne	1260 Doubles (5m including Stedman) For the 70th Anniversary of the founding of Pangbourne W.I. Sponsored for the Church Restoration Fund.
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Carnival Silver Jubilee

21.7.91	Burnham,Bucks	1260 P.B.Doubles - For Burnham Community Association Carnival Silver Jubilee.
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Combe Feast

10.8.91	Combe,Oxon	5040 P.B.Minor - For Combe Feast
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Flower Festival

31.8.91	Charlton-on-Otmoor	1260 Doubles (3m) - For the Flower Festival. Also a wedding anniversary compliment to Mr and Mrs I.Grimwood, (daughter of the Tenor ringer B.J.Coggins)
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Farewell

18.8.91	High Wycombe	1260 P.B.Triples - A farewell compliment to Steve Earl, leaving for Theological College in Cambridge- also for the Rev. Derek Honour, Curate.
22.8.91	Sutton Courtenay	1250 Grandsire Doubles - A thanksgiving for the work of Chris Pyke who is leaving the parish to become a Franciscan Friar.
24.8.91	Headington Else.	1260 P.B.Minor - A farewell to Karen
1.9.91	Hook Norton	1260 Grandsire Triples - A farewell compliment to the Revd Martin Connop-Price.

Sixty Years Membership of O.D.G. and 40yrs Service Ringing at Blewbury

20.10.91	Blewbury	1260 grandsire Triples -To celebrate 60years membership of the O.D.G by H.Dunsdon and Claud Corderoy. -Also 40 years service ringing at Blewbury by P.Corderoy.
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ENGAGEMENTS

19. 9.91 Iffley, Oxon 1260 P.B. Doubles - in celebration of the forthcoming marriage between Mary Beable(3) and M. Pheysey
- 23.10.91 Marcham, Oxon 1260 P.B. Minor - To celebrate the Carole Whitting (1) and Mike Poole (6 C) to get married Also to celebrate the same decision by Barbara Payne (2) and Peter Day(4) .
- 14.11.91 West Hanney 1260 Doubles (2m) - To celebrate the engagement of Helen Ramsbottom and Alex Sharpe.
- 30.10.91 Dorney, Bucks 5040 Doubles (3m) - For the engagement of Mark Instone (C) and Valerie Wetheral.

WEDDINGS AND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**61st Anniversary**

22. 9.91 Tilehurst 1268 Norwich S.Minor -61st Wedding Anniversary compliment to Mr and Mrs H.Hiley, parents of Eunice Wark((1) and grandparents of Naomi Lewis (2). Also a farewell to the latter who leaves for Cardiff University.

60th Anniversary

7. 9.91 Pangbourne 1260 P.B. Doubles - 60th Wedding Anniversary compliment to Vi and Gerry Auckland , parents-law of Malcolm Line (1). Rung after the service of blessing.

Golden Wedding

- 27.10.91 Marston, Oxon 1260 Doubles (3m) - For morning service and a Golden Wedding compliment to Mr and Mrs Vic Cardy.

40th Anniversary

- 8.9.91 Cookham, Berks 1260 P.B. Minor - For the 40th Wedding Anniversary of Ernie and Cora Eldridge.
- 27.7.91 Cuddington, Bucks 1320 Cambridge S.Minor - To celebrate the 40th Wedding Anniversary of Ron and Olive Hooper.
- 3.8.91 Pangbourne 1260 P.B. Doubles - for the Ruby Wedding of Doris and Harold Fry - rung following the service of blessing.
- 1.9.91 Chalfont St.Giles 5024 P.B. Major - Ruby Wedding compliment to Ken(6) and Mary Lee. - Also to mark the opening of St.Giles Festival 19991.

Silver Wedding

- 8.9.91 Appleton 1277 Grandsire Caters - A Silver Wedding compliment to Vivian and Mary White
- 17.10. 91 Iver, Bucks 1280 DNCB Major - To mark the Silver Wedding Anniversary of David and Wendy Rowlands.

Weddings

- 26.7.91 Reading St.Laurence 1320 P.B. Maximus - Anniversary compliant to June Winter (4) and D.G. Winter (10) - pre-wedding compliment to John Martin and Cathy Holdway.
- 10.8.91 Bodicote, Oxon 1260 Grandsire Triples - To celebrate the marriage of Emma Saunders to John Dixon in San Francisco, Cal. U.S.A. that day.

- 29.7.91 Sunningwell 1260P.B.Doubles - for the wedding of Susan Bradie and Brian Wells.
- 3.8.91 Langley Marish,Bucks 1260 Doubles(4m)- For the wedding of Claire Ficker and Andrew Clark.
- 4.8.91 Sandhurst St Michael 1260 St.Clement's and P.B.Minor For evensong and to mark the wedding of Pamela [daughter of G.C.Steele(4)] and Robert Brown.
- 14.9.91 Hook Norton 5040 Grandsire Triples - To celebrate the wedding of Tim Burchell(3) and Helen Hadley(i) the following Saturday. It was their first peal.
- 21.9.91 Buckingham 1260 Grandsire Triples - For the marriage of the Vicar's daughter,Catherine M.Bell to Philip G.McKie
- Bierton, Bucks 1440 S.Minor (2m) - For the wedding of Arthur and Beryl Cooke.
- 28.9.91 Northleigh 1260 Doubles - For the wedding of Joy and David Banfield.

FIRST WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

- 8.9.91 West Wycombe 1344 P.B.Major - The Quarter was rung to mark the first Anniversary of the marriage of David and Lyn Clay, married at St Laurence , West Wycombe on Sept.8.1990 the bells being unavailable at that time. Although Lyn was unable to ring herself Eric Silvey who kindly provided the wedding car, stood in at short notice. Thanks to Lyn's father for conducting. To round off the participants Jeni and Angus Dodds were the official photographer and mate for the day. R.M.Jones 1, D.J.Clay (Bridegroom) 2, Jeni Dodds 3, Val Clay 4,A.Dodds 5, E.G.Silvey 6, R.T.Clay 7, J.Young(Bride's father ;C) 8

Births and Christenings

26. 7.91 Slough 1260 P.B.Minor - For the birth of a son (22.7.91) to Michael and Louisa (nee Clement) bellringers in this parish.
- 28.7.91 Steeple Aston 1260 P.B.Doubles (1,2 leading) For the Baptism of Catherine Cooper sister of Helen Cooper (2).
- Kintbury 1260 P.B.Minor - For the Christening of Daniel J.Hennessey, grandson of Diana Smeath(4) and nephew of Rachel Mackonochie (2) and A.Mackonochie (5).
- 5.8.91 Stoney Stratford 1264 P.B.Major - For the Christening of Alexandra Elizabeth Eales.
- 11.8.91 Lane End,Bucks 1260 Doubles (2m) - For Evensong and also to celebrate the birth of Edward Meakes, son of C.Meakes (5 C) on 4.8.91
- 28.8.91 Stanford-in-the-Vale 1260 Grandsire Doubles -For the birth of Sam Brooks (21.8.91) second son of Emma and James.
- 1.9.91 Arborfield 1260 P.B.Minor]
- 2.9.91 Reading 5088 Oxford T.B.Major]
- Both to welcome Sarah L.Feather (b 28.8.91) daughter of Simon and Tricia.
- 19.9.91 Old Windsor 5056 Spl.S.Major (4m) - To celebrate the birth of Tiffany Rose Beer daughter of Kevin and Anne Beer

oooooo GREAT LINFORD REHANG PROJECT - AN UPDATE oooooo

The last time I wrote to you the project was in an embrionic state without DAC approval and no real timetable for the work. However things have moved on considerably since mid October and it is all becoming frighteningly realistic that the bells will be out and on their way to the foundry by January 7th 1992.

Some of you will have heard the article about the project on Radio Bedfordshire Melting Pot program a few weeks ago - just after the program went out we received the Archdeacon's certificate enabling us to proceed.

We are very thankful to the Branch for their donation of £120 and to the Guild who have provisionally granted £2200 to the project. The ringers have raised £3500 from wedding fees and the congregation has gathered a wonderful £5100 with Harvest Appeal. This leaves us needing to raise about £4500 by the end of April next year when the job should finish.

As we have said previously, and perhaps jokingly, the idea of transporting the bells to the foundry by canal would be wonderful. It almost came to be - with British Waterways showing great interest in providing a working boat to make the trip. However at the 11th hour it has not been possible to confirm this as the locks at Tring and Watford will be out of service for renovation at the time we would want to be passing southbound. I am hopeful that we can use the canal for the return trip in early April when the canal is open again.

For the southbound journey we are in need of lorry transport on 7th January - can anyone out there help us please?

It is pleasing that we have been able to involve a local firm in the project also. Sigma Coatings of Buckingham have agreed to provide paint for the frame. As the installation is extremely tight, painting the frame with the bells in situ, is nearly impossible. Sigmas' offer of a paint system as used on off-shore platforms seems the ideal long lasting solution and requires a minimum of preparation for application.

The last ringing of the bells is going to be New Years Eve 1991/1992 and if all goes well the bells will be rededicated on Easter Sunday 1992.

Alex Marchbank

From North Bucks News Letter.

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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

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) 862309

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 ODD BOB July 1991 Page 36. Contact Mr J. Wells, Victoria Lodge, 91 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 P.G. Davies, Narrogin, Longworth Road, Charney Bassett, Wantage, Oxon, OX12 0ET. Tel: (0235) 868646

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, 91 Waverley Road, Reading RG3 2QB Reading (0734) 572552
General Treasurer:	Mr B.J.Gatward	Grangewood, Mill Lane, Calcot, Reading RG3 5RS Reading (0734) 413097
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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) 862309
	Mr H.W.Egglestone	37 Rectory Close, Newbury Berks. Newbury (0635) 845906
	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 P. Davies	
Best Kept Tower Competition:	Mr P. Davies, "Narrogin", Longworth Rd, Charney Bassett, Wantage, Oxon OX12 0ET	
Subscriptions:	Resident Members	£4.50
	Non-resident Life Members	£4.50
Peal Fees:	25p/person	
Annual Report:	£2.25 (+ postage and packing)	
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) 842340
North Bucks:	Mr A.King	9 Walgrave Drive, Bradwell, Milton Keynes, Bucks. MK13 9BS (0908) 316339
Old North Berks:	Mr A.Utting	15 Tower Close, Marcham, Abingdon, Oxon (0865) 391709

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DIARY OF EVENTS cont'd.

SEPTEMBER cont'd.

Sat.	26	E.B.S.B.	B.P.	Cookham	7.00-9.00
		S.Oxon	B.P.	Chinnor	7.00-9.00
		V.of W.H.	1/2ly	Ashbury	

OCTOBER

Fri.	2	N.Bucks	B.P.	Emberton & Clifton Reynes	7.30
Sat.	3	O.D.G. SIX-BELL STRIKING COMPETITION - East Berks & South Bucks Branch			
Tues.	6	Bicester	B.P.	Charlton-on-Otmoor	7.30
Sat.	10	C.Norton	Autumn Meeting - Charlbury		
		Chiltern/	S.C./ 1/2ly Orchard Cup - Little Missenden		
		C.Bucks			2.30
		E.B.S.B.	S.P.	Farnham Royal	7.00-9.00
		O.N.B.	B.P.	Sunningwell	7.00-8.30
		Reading		Branch Outing	
Sun.	11	S.Oxon		Tower Captain's meeting	
Fri.	16	N.Bucks	B.P.	Hanslope	7.30
Oct.	16-18	O.D.G. EASTHAMPTSTEAD COURSE			
Sat.	24	E.B.S.B.	1/2ly	Half Yearly Meeting/Lorna Newton Cup Final - Penn	
		S.Oxon	1/2ly	Wheatley	
Mon.	26	V.of W.H.	B.P.	Buckland	7.30-9.00
Fri.	30	N.Bucks	B.P.	Woburn	7.30

NOVEMBER

Wed.	4	Bicester	B.P.	Middleton Stoney	7.30
Fri.	6	N.Bucks	B.P.	N.Crawley & Chicheley	7.30
Sat.	14	C.Bucks	1/2ly	Aylesbury (P.B. + Yorkshire S.Major)	3.00
		E.B.S.B.	S.P.	High Wycombe	7.00-9.00
		O.N.B.	B.P.	Cholsey	7.00-8.30
		Reading	B.P.	Goring*	7.00-9.00
Fri.	20	N.Bucks	B.P.	Buckingham	7.30
Sat.	21	Chiltern	B.P.	Monks Risborough	6.30-8.30
Sat.	28	AUTUMN GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING - Bledlow			
		E.B.S.B.	B.P.	Iver	7.00-9.00
		S.Oxon	B.P.	Warborough	7.00-9.00
Mon.	30	V.of W.H.	B.P.	Faringdon	7.30-9.00

DECEMBER

Thur.	3	Bicester	B.P.	Caversfield	7.30
Sat.	5	E.B.S.B.	S.P.	Chalfont St. Giles	7.00-9.00
		N.Bucks	1/4ly	Fenny Stratford & Simpson	
Sat.	12	C.Bucks	B.P.	Hardwick (Buxton + Pinehurst Minor)	6.30
		Reading	B.P.	Reading SMV*	7.00-9.00
Fri.	18	N.Bucks	B.P.	Stony Stratford	7.30
Sat.	19	Chiltern	B.P.	Stoke Mandeville	6.30-8.30
		E.B.S.B.	B.P.	Wraysbury	7.00-9.00
		O.N.B.	B.P.	Abingdon, St. Helens	7.00-8.30
		S.Oxon	B.P.	Brightwell Baldwin	7.00-9.00

The following members have gone to university this year:-

Naomi Lewis (Tilehurst) - Cardiff; Jane Weller (Shinfield)
- Edinburgh; Philip Bowman (Radley) - Durham; Peter
Triplow (Appleton) - Birmingham
Rachel Holmes (Hughenden) is now Secretary of the Exeter
University Society.

DIARY OF EVENTS cont'd.

JUNE

Wed.	3	Bicester	B.P.	Middleton Stoney	7.30
Sat.	6	N.Bucks	1/4ly	Emberton	
Sat.	13	C.Bucks	S.C.	6 Bell Striking Comp. - Padbury	2.30
		E.B.S.B.	S.C./B.P.	6 Bell Striking Comp. - Chalfont St. Peter	
		O.N.B.	A.G.M.	Aston Tirrold*	
		Reading	B.P.	Ufton Nervet / Englefield*	7.00-9.00
Fri.	19	N.Bucks	B.P.	Newton Longville	7.30
Sat.	20	Chiltern	B.P.	Slapton	6.00-7.00
Sat.	20	Chiltern	S.C.	Ivinghoe	6.00-8.30
Sat.	27	E.B.S.B.	B.P.	West Wycombe - followed by BBQ	7.00
		S.Oxon	B.P.	Long Crendon	7.00-9.00
Tues.	30	V.of W.H.	B.P.	Stanford-in-the-Vale	7.30-9.00

JULY

Thur.	2	Bicester	B.P.	Stratton Audley	7.30
Fri.	3	N.Bucks	S.C.	6 Bell Competition - Stowe	
Sat.	4	C.Bucks	B.P.	Long Crendon (Grandsire Cates + P.B.Royal)	6.30
				(N.B. This is the 1st Saturday)	
Wed.	8	Reading	B.P.	Reading S Giles*	7.00-9.00
Sat.	11	GUILD FESTIVAL - Oxford			
		E.B.S.B.	S.P.	Chenies	7.00-9.00
11 July-14 Aug. — Ringing to Celebrate the 450th Anniversary of the Diocese					
Fri.	17	N.Bucks	B.P.	Newport Pagnell	7.30
Sat.	18	Chiltern	B.P.	Cheddington	6.30-8.30
Sat.	25	E.B.S.B.	B.P.	Slough	7.00-9.00
		N.Bucks	S.C.	(vs. Towcester) - Newton Longville	
		S.Oxon	B.P.	Berrick Salome	7.00-9.00
Wed.	29	V.of W.H.	B.P.	Uffington	7.30-9.00

AUGUST

Sat.	1	N.Bucks	Joint Mtg with Beds.Assoc. - Weston Underwood & Turvey		
Fri.	7	Bicester	B.P.	Weston-on-the-Green	7.30
		N.Bucks	B.P.	Old Bradwell & Loughton	7.30
Sat.	8	C.Bucks	B.P.	Quinton (Stedman Triples + Cambridge S.Major)	
		E.B.S.B.	S.P.	Windsor	7.00-9.00
		O.N.B.	B.P.	Little Wittenham (3.30-4.30) / Long Wittenham (4.45-5.45)	
		Reading	B.P.	South Stoke*	7.00-9.00
Sat.	15	Chiltern	B.P.	Ellesborough	6.30-8.30
Fri.	21	N.Bucks	B.P.	Bletchley	7.30
Sat.	22	E.B.S.B.	B.P.	Amersham	7.00-9.00
		S.Oxon	B.P.	Dorchester	7.00-9.00

SEPTEMBER

Sat.	5	N.Bucks	1/4ly	Shenley	
		V.of W.H.		Half-Day Branch Outing	
Mon.	7	Bicester	B.P.	Brill	7.30
Sat.	12	C.Bucks		Branch Outing*	
		E.B.S.B.	S.P.	Chesham	7.00-9.00
		O.N.B.	B.P.	East Hendred*	7.00-8.30
		Reading	S.C.	Whitchurch*	
Fri.	18	N.Bucks	B.P.	Buckingham	7.30
Sat.	19	Bicester	1/2ly	Launton	
		Chiltern	B.P.	Bledlow	6.30-8.30

DIARY OF EVENTS cont'd.

MARCH cont'd.

Sat	14	SPRING GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING - Launton			
		C.Bucks	B.P.	Dinton (Cambridge + P.B.)	6.30
		E.B.S.B.	S.P.	Old Windsor	7.00-9.00
		O.N.B.	B.P.	North Moreton* (2.30-3.30) / Didcot* (3.45-4.45)	
		Reading	B.P.	Caversham*	7.00-9.00
Fri.	20	N.Bucks	B.P.	Stony Stratford	7.30
Fri.	20-22	WEEKEND COURSE - Cuddesdon			
Sat.	21	Banbury	S.P.	Steeple Aston (Major)	7.30
		Chiltern	B.P.	High Wycombe	6.30-8.30
Sat.	28	S.Oxon	S.C.	Great Haseley	
Sat.	28	E.B.S.B.	B.P.	Denham	7.00-9.00
		O.N.B.	Skittles v. Newbury Branch - East Ilsley (7.30)	Ringling	6.00-7.00
Tues.	31	V.of W.H.	B.P.	Coleshill	7.30-9.00

APRIL

Fri.	3	N.Bucks	B.P.	Milton Keynes & Woughton	7.30
	3-5	JUNIOR RINGING WEEKEND - Dorney			
Sat.	4	C.Norton	B.P.	Chipping Norton	7.30-9.00
Mon.	6	Banbury	B.P.	Bodicote	7.30
		Bicester	B.P.	Bicester	7.30
Sat.	11	C.Bucks	B.P.	Cuddington (Childwell + Thelwell)	6.30
		E.B.S.B.	S.P.	Long Crendon	7.00-9.00
		O.N.B.	B.P.	Radley	7.00-8.30
		Reading	B.P.	Padworth*	7.00-9.00
Sun.	12	S.Oxon		Tower Captain's meeting	
Fri.	17	N.Bucks	B.P.	Buckingham	7.30
Sat.	18	HANDBELL DAY - Reading			
Sat.	25	Chiltern	A.G.M.	Weston Turville / Aston Clinton - Service at 4.00, ringing until 8.30	2.30-3.30
		E.B.S.B.	AGM/BP	Burnham	7.00-9.00
		S.Oxon	A.G.M.	Thame	
Mon.	27	V.of W.H.	B.P.	Faringdon	7.30-9.00

MAY

Fri.	1	N.Bucks	B.P.	Stoke Goldington	7.30
Sat.	2	Banbury	A.G.M.	Adderbury	
		C.Norton	A.G.M.	Burford	3.00 onwards
Mon.	4	ODG RINGING DAY AND 8 BELL STRIKING COMPETITION - Newbury Branch			
Tues.	5	Bicester	B.P.	Woodeaton	7.30
Sat.	9	C.Bucks	A.G.M.	Linslade	
		E.B.S.B.	S.P.	Marlow	7.00-9.00
		O.N.B.	B.P.	Sutton Courtenay	7.00-8.30
		Reading	B.P.	Henley*	7.00-9.00
Fri.	15	N.Bucks	B.P.	Olney	7.30
Sat.	16	O.D.G. 10-BELL STRIKING COMPETITION - Abingdon			
	16	O.D.G. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - V.of WH Branch			
		Chiltern	B.P.	Wendover	6.30-8.30
Thur.	21	V.of W.H.	B.P.	Hinton Waldrist	7.30-9.00
Sat.	23	E.B.S.B.	B.P.	Hughenden	7.00-9.00
		S.Oxon	B.P.	Chalgrove	7.00-9.00
Fri.	29	N.Bucks	B.P.	Wicken	7.30
Sat.	30	V.of W.H.		All Day Branch Outing	

DIARY OF EVENTS 1992

* 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

 $\frac{1}{2}$ ly Half Yearly Meeting $\frac{1}{4}$ ly Quarterly Meeting

S.C. Striking Competition

JANUARY

Wed.	1	Banbury		New Years Day Ringing - Banbury	10.30am
		O.N.B.		New Years Day Ringing - Milton	10.00-12 noon
Fri.	3	N.Bucks	B.P.	Gt. Linford	7.30
Sat.	4	C.Norton	B.P.	Spelsbury	7.30-9.00
Wed.	8	Bicester	B.P.	Middleton Stony	7.30
Sat.	11	C.Bucks	B.P.	(Beginners)* - Steeple Claydon	2.30
		C.Bucks	B.P.	Waddesdon (St Clements + D.Oxford)	6.30
		E.B.S.B.	S.P.	Stoke Poges	7.00-9.00
		O.N.B.	$\frac{1}{2}$ ly/Br.	Social - Brightwell	3.15-10.00
		Reading	B.P.	Tilehurst	7.00-9.00
Fri.	17	N.Bucks	B.P.	Hanslope	7.30
Sat.	18	Chiltern	B.P.	Great Missenden	6.30-8.30
		Sonning	B.P.	Twyford	
Sat.	25	Banbury	S.P.	Adderbury	7.30
		E.B.S.B.	B.P.	Dorney	7.00-9.00
		S.Oxon	B.P.	Lewknor	7.00-9.00
Mon.	27	W.of W.H.	B.P.	Buckland	7.30-9.00
Fri.	31	N.Bucks	B.P.	Leighton Buzzard	7.30

FEBRUARY

Sat.	1	C.Norton	B.P.	Shipton-u-Wychwood*	7.30-9.00
Thur.	6	Bicester	B.P.	Launton	7.30
Fri.	7	Banbury	B.P.	Bloxham	7.30
		N.Bucks	B.P.	Maids Moreton & Calverton	7.30
Sat.	8	C.Bucks	B.P.	Winslow (P.B.Major + Grandsire Triples)	6.30
		E.B.S.B.	S.P.	Chalfont St. Peter OR Horton	7.00-9.00
		O.N.B.	B.P.	Appleford	7.00-8.30
		Reading	A.G.M.	Checkendon	
Fri.	14	Banbury		Branch Dinner	
Sat.	15	Chiltern	B.P.	Great Kimble	6.30-8.30
		Sonning	A.G.M.	Arborfield	
Fri.	21	N.Bucks	B.P.	Bletchley	7.30
Sat.	22	Banbury	S.P.	North Aston (Minor)	7.30
		E.B.S.B.	B.P.	Boyne Hill, Committee Meeting	7.00-9.00
		N.Bucks		Annual Dinner - Newport Pagnell (The Coach House)	
		S.Oxon	B.P.	Great Milton	7.00-9.00
Sat.	29	SPONSORED RINGING DAY			
		Bicester	A.G.M.	Brill	
		V.of W.H.	A.G.M.	Shrivenham	

MARCH

Fri.	6	Banbury	B.P.	Great Tew	7.30
		Bicester	B.P.	Ludgershall	7.30
Sat.	7	C.Norton	B.P.	Leafeld	7.30-9.00
		N.Bucks	A.G.M.	Whaddon & Calverton	