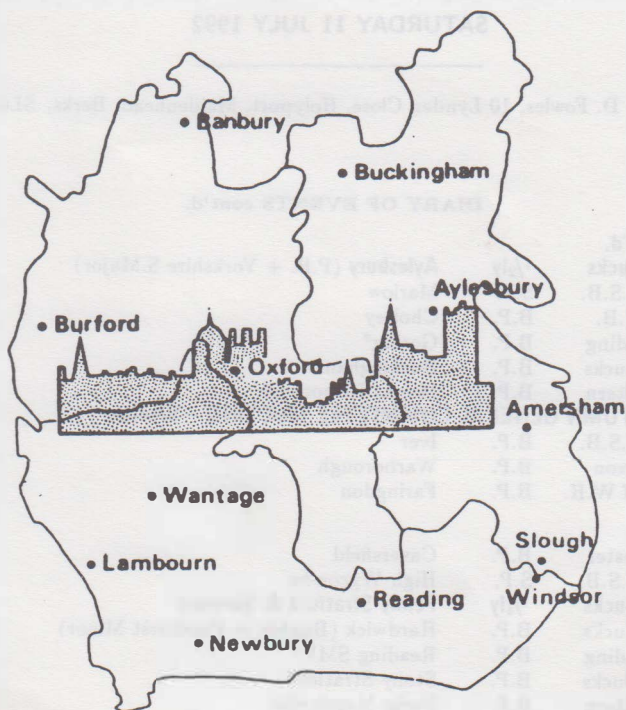


Issue 34

ODD BOB

Newsletter of the

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD



March 1992

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

PLEASE SUPPORT THE
OXFORD DIOCESAN

BELL FUND DRAW

FIRST PRIZE : £100

PLUS NUMEROUS OTHER PRIZES

Tickets Available from: Your Tower Captain
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TO BE DRAWN AT
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD FESTIVAL BARN DANCE ON
SATURDAY 11 JULY 1992

Promotor: D. Fowles, 10 Lynden Close, Holyport, Maidenhead, Berks. SL6 2LB

DIARY OF EVENTS cont'd.

NOVEMBER cont'd.

Sat. 14	C.Bucks	1/2ly	Aylesbury (P.B. + Yorkshire S.Major)	3.00
	E.B.S.B.	S.P.	Marlow	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.	High Wycombe	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
Sat. 19	E.B.S.B.	B.P. +	Social Function - Wraybury	
	O.N.B.	B.P.	Abingdon, St. Helens	7.00-8.30
	S.Oxon	B.P.	Brightwell Baldwin	7.00-9.00

THE MASTER'S REPORT

1991 has been an eventful year for bellringers, for the country and the world. On January 15th war broke out in the Gulf when British and American forces combined to drive Saddam Hussain's Iraqi invaders out of Kuwait. There was talk of ringing in the country being stopped whilst the war was in progress, as a mark of respect to those being killed and injured. So well planned and successful was the attack, that within a few weeks peals were being rung around the Guild to welcome our victorious soldiers.

There was some celebration when Middle Eastern hostages John Mc Carthy and Jackie Mann were released, but the response came from ringers when the Archbishop of Canterbury's envoy, Terry Waite, was released after 1763 days in captivity. A request from Richard, Bishop of Oxford, that as many bells as possible should be rung to celebrate Terry Waite's return was met with a magnificent response. Peals, quarter peals and special touches were organised and rung throughout the Diocese at very short notice.

Sadly the national recession continues, and this may have contributed to the downward trend in the number of Guild members. Hopefully the balance may be redressed in the coming year when we will be celebrating the 450th Anniversary of the Diocese. Events planned for the year should provide good advertisement for the Guild and for bellringing in general. There could be plenty of opportunity for encouraging new recruits, so that we may strive towards our aim of getting all bells in the Diocese rung every Sunday.

The Education Committee continues to run a very successful course at East-hampstead each year, and will be embarking upon a new venture in 1992 with a course based at Cuddesdon. Whilst these courses provide a valuable opportunity for students to get to know fellow ringers from around the Diocese and to benefit from a concentrated period of practice under the instruction of experienced tutors, Branch officers and tower captains should be encouraged to arrange training sessions in their areas. Education committee members would be pleased to assist where required.

I should like to thank the members of the Education committee and those of the Towers and Belfries committee, and all Guild and Branch officers for their support, and for the time and effort they give so willingly to improve the ringing standards and the bells within our Guild.

Anne Carpenter (Deputy Master for four years) and Alex Sharpe (Hon. Secretary for two years) resigned from office at this year's AGM. We thank them both for their tremendous contributions to the running of the Guild, and wish them well in the future. The vacant posts were filled by Graham Clifton and John Wells, bringing with them a wealth of talent and prior experience in Guild and Branch affairs, and quickly getting to grips with their many tasks. We look forward to a successful year as we work together for the benefit of the Guild in 1992.

Patricia Newton

----- 1992 CALENDARS -----

Thank you to everyone who provided photographs or text for the 1992 Guild Calendars, and to Branch Secretaries and all other members who helped in selling so many copies. 660 calendars were sold, making a profit of about £650.00 for the Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund. I still have a few for sale at the reduced price of £2.00

Patricia Newton

HONORARY GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

At the time of writing this report, I am only just over halfway through my first year in office and have not completed one cycle of the Guild's annual activities. I have learnt a lot since last May and realise that there is still much more to come. I must thank my predecessor, Alex Sharpe, for his invaluable help in ensuring that the change in secretaryship was as smooth as possible as well as for his efforts as Secretary over the last two years. I would also like to pay tribute to all the hard work done by the Branch Secretaries. Without their help, the post of Guild Secretary would be an impossible task and the many Guild events would not be the success they often are.

During the year, the Guild was invited to respond to two important sets of proposals, the Code of Practice on the Conservation, Installation and Repair of Bells and Bellframes issued by the Council for the Care of Churches and the Proposals on the Representation of Societies produced by the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.

With regard to the first of these, we were given very little time to respond to what was a controversial set of proposals. In view of their wide experience in the field, the Towers and Belfries Sub-committee was asked to formulate a rapid response on behalf of the Guild. This response, which urged the Central Council not to endorse the Code of Practice, was approved by the Finance and General Purposes Sub-committee on behalf of members and forwarded to the Central Council. Many other Societies also expressed their reservations and the Central Council Administrative Committee did not endorse the proposals and urged the Council for the Care of Churches to reconsider them.

There was more time to consult members on the proposals on the Representation of Societies and an Open Meeting was held at Watlington on November 23rd which resulted in the formulation of an agreed response to the proposals. This response, which expressed general satisfaction with the present structure of the Central Council but questioned the fairness of the number of representatives allowed to larger societies such as ourselves, was endorsed by the General Committee and forwarded to the Central Council.

1991 also saw the celebration of the Centenary of the Central Council and the Guild was represented in the procession of officers at the Centenary service at St. Paul's Cathedral on May 25th by the Master, the General Secretary, the General Treasurer and the past General Secretary. The service was a memorable occasion and was attended by the Guild's Representatives on the Central Council and many other Guild members.

To turn to the major events of the Guild Calendar, the Ringing Day and Eight-Bell Striking Competition were held in the Witney and Woodstock Branch on May 6th and was again a very successful event. The set touch for the Competition was 210 Grandsire Triples and heats were held at Bampton and Clanfield with the final at Witney. High Wycombe tower were the winners with EBSB branch and Tilehurst tower the runners up.

The AGM was held at Abingdon on May 18th and very well organised by members of the Old North Berks Branch. During his address, the Diocesan Communications Officer, Rev. Richard Thomas, invited the Guild to consider ways in which we might like to help celebrate the 450th Anniversary of the Diocese in 1992. This question has occupied the officers, committees and members during the year and plans are now well advanced for those celebrations. These include the Festival to be held in Oxford, a month of celebratory ringing and a major project which hopes to assist in the hanging of the bells in the ecumenical church at Downs Barn in Milton Keynes. At the meeting there were a few other changes in the officers apart from the Secretaryship for which Alex Sharpe did not seek re-election. Anne Carpenter

5.

stood down as Deputy Master and was succeeded by Graham Clifton; Ken Davenport was elected to the vacant Steward post, taking over the area covered by Anne Carpenter in 1990, and Angela Croft took over as Report Editor.

The election of 14 Non-resident Life Members was ratified by the meeting whilst the number of resident members and the membership trend is given below:-

	1989	1990	1991
Honorary Members	35	40	
Ringing Members (including Life Subscribers)	2209	2194	

The Festival was held in the Reading Branch on July 6th with the service at St. Mary the Virgin, Reading followed by lunch in the Church House. Ringing in nearby towers was followed by the traditional Barn Dance (including the Bell Fund Draw) at Wokingham. Attendance was better than the previous year but discussions on the future of the Festival continue.

The Six-Bell Striking Competition was held in the Reading Branch with 11 Branches represented in the heats at Padworth and Stratfield Mortimer (St. John). The final at Shinfield produced the unusual result of a dead heat for first place between High Wycombe representing the EBSB Branch and Easthampstead representing the Sonning Deanery Branch. Appleton from the Old North Berks Branch were third.

The General Committee met twice during the year; at Great Linford in March and Watlington in November, each attracting the usual c50 members. The major decisions were related to the Central Council proposals mentioned above and the increase in subscription to £4.50. The later was seen to be necessary in order to maintain Guild services, especially the production of ODDBOB. There was also a major discussion on the arrangements for the 450th Anniversary Celebrations.

The second Youth Weekend was based at the Streatley Youth Hostel on 12th-14th April and was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. This event seems certain to continue as a major Guild activity.

The annual Guild weekend was again at Easthampstead on 20th-22nd September. Attendance was slightly down on previous years but a very successful weekend was enjoyed by all involved. There was a very strong opinion expressed during the weekend in favour of continuing at Easthampstead if at all possible. It has been decided to return the Easthampstead in October 1992 and also to run another weekend course at Cuddesdon in March 1992 as part of the exploration for alternative venues.

The Branch Secretaries Meeting was held in October with the usual range of topics being discussed. These meetings are extremely useful in maintaining communication within the Guild. Three Branches have had changes of Secretary. In the Old North Berks Branch, Len Cox retired as Secretary after 16 years in the post with the grateful thanks of the Branch and the Guild for his hard work and dedication. Len's successor is Andy Utting. Alan Marchbank stood down as Secretary of the North Bucks Branch and was succeeded by Andy King whilst Christopher Wallworth has taken over from Cathy Rowland as Secretary of the Witney and Woodstock Branch.

The judging for the second Best Kept Tower Competition was started but the final judging will take place early in 1992.

John Wells.

GENERAL FUND - ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1991

1990

£	RECEIPTS	£
	Branch Subscriptions	
241.50	Banbury	164.15
133.10	Bicester	104.60
435.35	Central Bucks	371.80
172.35	Chiltern	235.20
138.00	Chipping Norton	165.00
754.95	East Berks & South Bucks	683.55
301.30	Newbury	289.10
473.80	Old North Berks	499.80
409.90	North Bucks	387.10
218.20	Oxford City	235.05
403.85	Reading	461.10
379.50	Sonning Deanery	414.05
219.80	South Oxon	164.15
75.90	Vale of the White Horse	81.60
343.95	Witney & Woodstock	335.50
-----	-----	-----
4701.45		4591.75
135.00	Non-Resident Life Subscriptions	90.00
179.00	Sale of Reports	144.25
51.00	Sale of Badges	71.24
36.00	Sale of Guild History	25.00
616.90	Peal Fees	648.35
15.30	Donations	61.00
-----	-----	-----
5734.65		5631.59
	PAYMENTS	
29.00	Expenses - Master/Deputy Master	82.85
106.15	Expenses - Secretary/Treasurer/Stewards	121.75
536.06	Stationery and postages	330.78
179.44	Printing	450.49
	-----	-----
20.00	Expenses - Library	985.87
1466.49	Insurance	400.10
570.00	Purchase of Guild Reports	1938.23
1215.30	Printing 'Odd Bob'	561.00
20.00	Central Council Affiliation Fee	1821.42
85.00	Ringling World - Donation	20.00
221.60	Ringling World - Notices Account	100.00
122.00	Hire of halls for meetings	190.35
308.45	Share of administration expenses of Bell Fund	127.00
51.77	Repairs (in accordance with rule 14)	324.18
803.39	Excess of Expenses over Income	.00
		-836.56
-----	-----	-----
5734.65		5631.59
-----	-----	-----

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1991

GENERAL FUND

Balance Brought Forward 1 January 1991	2880.44	
Excess of expenses over income	-836.56	
	<u>-----</u>	2043.88

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Balance Brought Forward 1 January 1991		1325.06
Easthampstead Course Fees	3586.00	
Less Expenses	4028.76	
Add Adjustment 1990 Course	70.00	
	<u>-----</u>	-372.76

Youth Weekend Fees	382.00	
Less Expenses	401.29	
	<u>-----</u>	-19.29

Leaflet Sales	59.80	
Less printing costs	155.20	
	<u>-----</u>	-95.40

837.61

2881.49

REPRESENTED BY

Cash at bank	1131.49
Loan to Restoration Fund	1000.00
Loan to Central Council Rescue Fund	750.00
	<u>-----</u>

2881.49

B J Gatward IPFA, MBCS
Honorary Treasurer
6.3.92

RESTORATION FUND - ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1991

1990 £		1991 £
	Balance brought forward 1 January 1991	
2090.57	Investments	2655.51
1000.00	Loan - General Fund	1000.00
568.45	loan - Reserve Fund	568.45
3659.02		
2.00	P.C.C Donations	2.00
	Other Donations	
26.80	Donation - Old North Berks Branch	60.00
50.00	Donation - H.L.Roper	
	Interest on Investments	
7.16	3.5% War Loan	7.16
22.58	4% Consols	22.58
33.24	9.5% Treasury Stock	33.24
7.50	T.S.B Savings Account	1.77
106.04	Lloyds Bank Deposit Account	47.58
309.62	Central Board of Finance Deposit	326.87
486.14		439.20
4223.96		4725.16
	Grants	
	Nil	
4223.96		4725.16
	Balance carried forward 31 December 1991	
2655.51	Investments	3156.71
1000.00	Loan - General Fund	1000.00
568.45	Loan - Reserve Fund	568.45
4223.96		4725.16
	Represented by :	
205.58	£205.00 3.5% War Loan	205.58
500.73	£564.97 4% Consols	500.73
299.31	£350.00 9.5% Treasury Stock	299.31
124.55	T.S.B Savings Account	191.30
480.43	Lloyds Bank Deposit Account	588.01
2613.36	Central Board of Finance - Church of England Deposit	2940.23
4223.96		4725.16
	RESERVE FUND	
	Balance brought forward 1 January 1991	
568.45	Loan - Restoration Fund	
	Balance carried forward - Loan to Restoration Fund	568.45
568.45		568.45
	B.J.Gatward IPFA, MBCS	
	Honorary Treasurer	
	6.3.92	

GROUP PERSONAL ACCIDENT INSURANCE

Group Personal Accident Insurance Cover for Guild members has been in operation since March 1987 and since that date a number of claims have been settled.

I have negotiated with Ecclesiastical Insurance Group to widen the scope of cover by extending the age ranges. I am able to report that the lower age range has been revised from age 11 to age 9. The upper age range remains unchanged at 80 years. Ecclesiastical insurance Group's latest letter states :

" I am afraid that this form of insurance by its nature is very limited for elderly people, and we would not feel able to extend the existing provisions any further. I would just emphasise that the age limits do apply under the Group personal Accident insurance only. There is no age limit under the Public Liability insurance, nor would there normally be any age limits under the Public Liability insurance effected by individual Parochial Church Councils. In our view there is no effective reason why elderly persons should not take part in ringing (provided that they are fit to do so); they are simply not eligible for the benefits which younger people may claim in the event of injury."

SCOPE OF COVERAGE

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

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

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

BENEFITS PAYABLE IN THE EVENT OF A CLAIM

Age Range (years)	Temporary Total Disablement	Permanent Disablement	Death
16 - 70	£100 per week up to 104 weeks	£10,000	£10,000
9 - 16	Nil	£500	£500
71 - 75	Nil	£1,000	£1,000
76 - 80	Nil	Nil	£1,000

CLAIMS AND QUERIES CONCERNING THE OPERATION OF THE INSURANCE

Claims and queries should be directed in the first instance to the Honorary General Treasurer, Mr B J Gatward, Grangewood, Mill Lane, Calcot, Reading, RG3 5RS (0734 413097).

Claims must be confirmed in writing.

Please remember that it is a condition of all policies that claims must be reported to the Insurers as soon as practicable. A claim which is not notified within a reasonable time may be rejected.

FROM THE EDITOR:--May I say a big 'Thankyou' to everyone who contributed to this copy of ODD BOB by the deadline that I set. The result has been with help from Daphne Pollard, those who used the type and margins required, it has been produced in four days since I flew back from Little Rock. I am also grateful to Fine Print who have promised to have the copies ready for distribution at the March Committee Meeting so saving well over £60 in postages.

M.R.C

---- RE-DEDICATION OF WOODSTOCK'S BELLS ----

Sunday, February 2nd was a special day for the town and people of Woodstock as that was the day the rehung bells were re-dedicated.....

The re-tuning and re-hanging of the bells was made possible with the support of the congregation and townspeople of Woodstock. Not long after the new band of ringers was formed in October 1981, it was realised that the bells needed to be re-hung. Suspicions that the bells were somewhat out of tune also became apparent. The then Rector of Woodstock, the Reverend E. Gregory A.W. Page-Turner, readily agreed to support a restoration appeal, though initially it was left to the ringers to raise funds. For two years the ringers worked alone, then the PCC authorised a full restoration programme for the fabric of the church that included a complete renovation of the bells.

During the ten years it took to obtain sufficient funds and overcome all the problems, ringers raised funds in many ways. A sponsored parachute jump was the most spectacular. More traditional ways used to attract cash into the bell fund included a district Open Day, a quarter peal day, a sponsored peal, and (of course) jumble sales. The project brought the new band together and enabled the various talents of the members to be fully utilised.

As with all things, a great many changes took place over the project's ten years. Ringers came and went; usually because of their jobs. New recruits were attracted to the belfry; some stayed, some did not. But without the enthusiasm and support of all ringers (past and present), the project would have foundered. A significant contribution also came from the Oxford Diocesan Guild, with advice and generous grant aid.

Now Woodstock possesses a fine peal of bells, it is to be hoped that the bells will continue to be rung by a local band and on a regular basis. Noel Reynolds is the Tower Captain and he will be pleased to receive the support of the present ringers, the church and the town. I am sure he will be delighted to meet anyone interested in learning the art of campanology. Practice night is on Thursday from 19.30 to 21.00. Sunday ringing is in the morning at a time dependent on the service.

E.Venn

11.

This year has seen more activity in the Guild Library than at any other time since I took over the post in 1988. Several enquiries have been made regarding the history of bells in various churches in the diocese, and a number of members have borrowed volumes of the Ringing World to get their individual or tower peal records up to date.

The library has also benefitted from a very generous gift of books from the William Fussell collection, previously housed in Slough belfry. The books were deteriorating under the fluctuating conditions in the ringing chamber, so the Slough ringers have placed them in the Guild Library on indefinite loan. They have agreed that, like all the other books in the library, they will be available for members of the Guild to borrow. The books are:

Church Bells of the West Ridig, J Eyre Poppleton 1904
Church Bells of Cornwall, E H W Dunkin 1878
Church Bells of Sussex, Dr A D Tyssen 1864
Church Bells of Lincolnshire, T North 1882
Church Bells of Huntingdonshire T N Owen 1899
Church Bells of Kent, J C L Stahlschmidt 1887
Church Bells of Hertfordshire, North and Stahlschmidt 1896
Church Bells of Leicestershire, T North 1876
Church bells of Rutland, T North 1880
Church Bells of Norfolk, J L'Estrange 1874
Church Bells of Suffolk, J J Raven 1890 (Two copies)
Church Bells of Gloucestershire, Revd H T Ellacombe 1881
Church Bells of Warwickshire, Tilley and Walters 1910
Church Bells of Essex, Deedes and Walters 1909
Church Bells of Staffordshire, Revd C Lynham 1889
Church Bells of Cambridgeshire, J J Raven 1881
Church Bells of Dorset, 1904
Cathedral Bells of Exeter, Revd H T Ellacombe 1874
Surrey Bells and London Bellfounders,
J C L Stahlschmidt 1884
Ancient Church Bells in England, Revd E A Downman 1898
English Bells and Bell Lore, T North 1888
Parish Church of St Lawrence, Ludlow, G Woolley 1893
Elements of Campanalogia, H Hubbard 3rd edition 1868
Our Own Bells, F N 1866
The Bell, Revd A Gatty 1848
520 Peals of ODG, 1881-1894
A Book about Bells, Revd G Tyack 1898
The Tower and Bells of Evesham, E A B Barnard 1910
Bells of England, J J Raven 1906
Moulton Church and its Bells, S Madge 1895
Practical Remarks on Belfries and Ringers,
Revd H T Ellacombe 1871
Papers on Bells circa 1850

These books provide a valuable addition to the library, filling many gaps in our collection. We are most grateful to the ringers at Slough for leaving them with us on long loan.

12.

Other additions to the library during the year were:

Treble Bob Minor Methods	(blue lines)	36pp
Treble Bob Minor Methods (2)	"	32pp
Alliance Minor Methods	"	29pp
99 Plain Minor Methods	"	30pp
Collection of Doubles and Triples Methods	"	54pp
Non-CC Approved Doubles Methods, M J Hiller 1991		35pp
Doubles Methods and Variations M J Hiller 1990		52pp
Quarters of Triples M J Hiller 1991		48pp
A Touch of Ringers 1991		20pp
Eight Doubles Methods (ODG Leaflet No 11) 1991		12pp
History of Highclere Bells G K Dodd 1991		24pp
Horse Bells 1988		36pp
Church Bells of Norfolk Part I P Cattermole 1991		32pp
Schedule of Regular Maintenance (CC Publ'n) 1991		20pp
Ancient Society of Crypt Youths of Gloucester		
P Conway-Jones 1990		18pp
Development of British Bell Fittings		
T S Jennings 1991		168pp
Inspired by Bells F Foden 1991		158pp
Churches of Sheffield Branch of the Yorkshire		
Association Helen C Turner 1989		28pp
Notes on Change Ringing for Handbell Ringers 1990		40pp
History of Bells and Ringing at Aylesbury		
J S White 1990		8pp
First 100 Years 1887-1987 (Chester Guild) 1988		60pp

The addition of all these books means that the library is growing at a considerable rate. Branch newsletters, notices and minutes of meetings all add to the volume of material. At present the books occupy nearly all of one fourteen foot wall of a room, whilst the ephemera is stored in a number of boxes and not displayed. The time is rapidly approaching when a permanent home will have to be found for all this material; not many modern houses will be able to accommodate it. The General Committee will have to give serious thought to this problem.

Finally, I reported last year that the General Committee had approved the purchase of a new fitted box for the Guild handbells. This has now been obtained, and the bells can now be transported in complete safety. Please apply to me if you wish to borrow them.

William Butler
Honorary Librarian

----- BEST KEPT TOWER COMPETITION -----

Judging of the First Round is now completed with a
Final Round of five towers. Judging will take place
for the Final Round will be taking place on

April 4, 1992

The towers concerned have been notified. The finalists
are: -

Steeple Aston	Thatcham	Tilehurst
Wokingham All Saints	Chalfont St.Giles	

Elizabeth Struckett

ATTENTION GUILD PEAL CONDUCTORS

To the peal conductors who always send me the money before publication – thank you very much, it makes my task much easier.

Liz Struckett
ODG Peal Secretary

Tel. (0367) 710303 or (0836) 355467

QUARTER PEAL REPORT (ANALYSIS) 1991

Quarter peals have been extracted from the Ringing World up to and including February 28th, but with , I suspect, a quantity of the Christmas and end of year quarters yet to come.

With this in mind the numbers coincide quite closely with last year's totals, being only 6% down on last year's record number.

The 972 quarters were rung in 203 (217) towers, with 51% rung on Sundays and for special services, which is slightly more than the norm. Eighty-four people rang their first quarters in 54 towers and there were 14 first time conductors, the proportion of men to women being almost identical to last year's, in both cases. Cuddington produced 4 first quarter pealers and Cheddington, Bradwell and North Leigh 3 each.

In memoriam quarters numbered 39 and included tributes to David Ward, Gerard Rawson, Ian Biggs, Jack Sutton, Nolan Golden, besides the usual Remembrance Day quarter peals. In a happier vein ringers celebrated the Rupy Weddings of Jean and Bob Datson, Jim and Jean Green, Gordon and Pat Runham, Peter and Edna Green and a remarkable 75th Wedding anniversary at Sandhurst. Willie Haynes celebrated 40 years membership of the O.D.G., A. Dunsden and C. Corderoy 60 years each and George Holland 60 years as of ringing. Eightieth birthdays abounded with compliments to Bill Sidwell, Pat Lewington, Cliff Bennett, Laurence Busby, 85 years for Jack Tomkins and 91 for Gladys Barker, many of them still active ringers, showing surely that ringing must be good for you: Royal quarters also acknowledged the Queen Mother's 91st Birthday.

The Exercise celebrated Peace in the Gulf, more amazing at the time than in retrospect, the enthronement of George Carey as Archbishop of Canterbury, the Centenary of the Mothers' Union, the release of the hostages and three unique editions of the Ringing World carried substantial numbers of quarters in recognition of Terry Waite and his release: I was beginning to wonder why so few people rang quarters on Sunday that month until the significance of that November Day dawned on me.

TOTALS IN THE BRANCHES:- Banbury 27 (39) Bicester 29 (19) Central Bucks 26 (35) Chiltern 22 (28) Chipping Norton 18 (16) E.B.S.B 165 (166) Newbury 37 (49) North Bucks 49 (54) Old North Berks 88 (75) Oxford City 122 (76) Reading 179 (214) Sonning 132 (184) South Oxon 22 (180) Vale of White Horse 9 (20) Witney and Woodstock 46 (41) showing a decrease in most of the Branches.

THE TOTALS consisted of: Singles 2 (5) Minimus 3 (6) Doubles 319 (334) Minor 172 (188) Triples 172 (218) Major 227 (221) Caters 19 (19) Royal 25 (30) Maximus 9 (5) Unclassifiable 1 (2)

The most popular methods this year were shown to be Plain Bob 319 (326) Grandsire 174 (211) together making up just over 50% of the total. One hundred and thirty seven quarters of combined methods were rung, averaging 4 rather than 2 with often 11, with an extension of this to minor being on the increase. Most rung were Bob Doubles 118 (116), combined Doubles 117 (130) Grandsire Triples 95 (122) dislodged for the first time as the most popular single method rung, Bob Minor 78 (94) Bob Major 64 (59) Grandsire Doubles 55 (-) and Bob Triples 35 (-) and there was a 22% increase in quarters of Stedman. Surprise Quarters were up on last year's numerically and the difficulty of the methods increased, especially on higher numbers,

Cambridge forming only 36% of the total (47). Besides Cambridge the most popular surprise Major methods were Yorkshire 17 and Bristol 13; Royal Yorkshire 3 London 4; Maximus included quarters of Yorkshire, Bristol and Newgate with a near doubling of quarters in Maximus. Single method Surprise included Adelaide, Berkshire, Wembley, Fordham, Grundisburgh, Trafalgar, Idle, and Cotoneastre and an increase in the incidence of Belfast and Glasgow 'over the 8' especially in spliced.

Handbell ringing seem to have settled down after last year's epidemic.

LEADING TOWERS:- Reading St. Laurence 39, Tilehurst 33, High Wycombe 28, Oxford St. Mary Magdalen 24, Beaconsfield 21, Finchamstead 18, Chalfont -S- Giles and Slough 17, Reading St Mary's, Highendden, Abingdon St Nicolas, Oxford St Giles each with 16.

Bobbie May

-----ST. NICHOLAS, ISLIP, OXON-----

After obtaining the Faculty with the help of our Branch Secretary, Richard Stevens of Bicester were removed the bell wheels and clappers of Islip bells. I then finished the job; removing all the accessories and opened all trap doors for lowering the bells.

On Monday, March 2nd 1992 Whites of Appleton arrived with their lifting gear and with the help of Terry Hester of Witney and my daughter Teressa all eight bells were lowered by 4.40 p.m. All eight bells are going to Appleton where bells 3 - 7 are having new headstocks and clappers fitted. Then all eight bells are going to Whitechapel for retuning. They are to be back in the tower for Sunday September 13th for their re-dedication at 11.15.a.m. Everyone who can join us will be very welcome.

We have a target of £20,000.00 to raise by that date and we are just half-way. Anyone who would like to make a donation to the Islip Bell Fund please send it to:-

Willy Haynes,
Brinsmore House,
Oddington,
Kidlington OX5 -2QZ

An Open Week-End is being held as this goes to ODD BOB. The Bells are on show. On Saturday we held an Auction of the clappers and accessories not needed again and these have brought £475.00. The total for that day from the sale of mugs, (made by Barbara Payne) and donations was £750.00

The Bicester Branch has given £1000.00; The O.D.G. Bell Fund £2750; and the Baron Bell Fund £1500.

Willy Haynes

----- IN A LIGHTER VEIN -----

A bell-ringer from Hampstead
Tried to ring up a bell with his teeth,
The bell got away, and broke up the stay -
His end was chaotic, but brief!

Jon Norton
Shellingford

IN MEMORIAM

VIC CATON

- 27.11.91 Clewer, Berks. - 1260 Doubles (2m) . In memory of Vic Caton, our friend, colleague and brother on what would have been his 46th birthday but who sadly collapsed whilst ringing for Sunday Service on 13th October and died shortly afterwards.
A.R.Regale-Day (1st Q) 1, Kate M.Jennings 2, V.J.Mitchell 3, J.N.Brooks 4, R.Caton (C) 5, N.R.Philips 6
- 13.11.91 Nettlebed, Oxon. - 1260 P.B.Minor - In memory of Bill Carr, Churchwarden of St.Bartholomew's, Nettlebed.
- 8.12.91 Alford, Lincs. - 5040 Cambridge S.Minor - In memory of Cyril Lewis.
- 30.11.91 Maidenhead - 1260 Grandsire Triples H/M - In memory of Mrs E.V. Bannister, faithful worshipper at this church, All Saints, Boyne Hill.

LUIS STENNING

- 30.11.91 Beaconsfield, Bucks. - 5040 Grandsire Triples H/M.
K.J.Darvill (C) 1, Claire Edwards 2, D.J.Baker 3, C.P.Darvill 4, D.McKenzie 5, C.Buswell 6, J.R.A.Muller 7, E.Williams 8.
Rung H/M in memory of Luis Stenning, a ringer at this church.
- 24.11.91 Great Linford, Bucks - 5040 Surprise Minor. In loving memory of Katherine Marchbank and Colin Snack.

WALTER HUGH AVERY - LANE END.

With the recent death of Walter we shall miss from among us another faithful member of our Church congregation. A life-long worshipper at Holy Trinity, Walter was born in Lane End and lived in Church Street all his life - a former pupil of Wycombe Grammar School and an employee of Broom and Wade, until reaching retirement age - a very familiar figure round the village. He was a skilled bell ringer learning the art of campanology in his boyhood and in adult life a dedicated member of Holy Trinity band of ringers including teaching and encouraging new young learners. For a period of time he was responsible for the winding of the clock and maintenance of the bells.

Last year -1991 - Walter ("Walt" to his friends) was made an honorary member of the East Berks and South Bucks Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild. Over the past year he suffered failing health and lapse of memory, but very often he was with us at the 9.15 Holy Communion Service on Wednesday mornings. May he Rest in the Peace of the Lord.

LANE END, BUCKS 2 Feb. 1260 Doubles (2m): Josie McCloy 1, C.Hagger 2, P.Rose 3, L.Sears 4, C.Meakes (c) 5, A.Watts 6. Rung half-muffled before the funeral of Walter Avery, aged 81.

HUGHENDON, BUCKS: 5 Jan 1992 1280 Double Norwich C.B.Major: A.Newton 1, P.Newton 2, R.Biggs 3, Rachel Holmes 4, Joyce Cornwall 5, Gillian Hazel 6, R.Hazel 7, D.Cornwall (c) 8. In memory of Walter Avery.

FACTS AND FIGURES cont.

HANDBELL PEALS

- | | | |
|----------|-------------------|---|
| 6.11.91 | Widmer End, Bucks | 5088 Wembley S.Major |
| 17.11.91 | Calcot, Reading | 5058 Lincolnshire S.Major |
| 8.12.91 | Sandhurst | 5040 Minor (4m) Most methods by all the band. |
| 4.12.91 | Reading Calcot | 5040 Cambridge S.Royal |
| 18.12.91 | Widmer End | 5056 Spliced S.Major (8m - 142 changes of method. |

17.

XX
THE CROSS AND STABLE CHURCH, DOWNS BARN,
***** M I L T O N , K E Y N E S *****

F U N D R A I S I N G E V E N T S

***** A B A R N D A N C E *****

WILL BE HELD

ON

SATURDAY, MARCH 28th

7.30 - 11.30p.m.

LIVE MUSIC

LICENCED BAR

TICKETS£2.50 Adults
£2.00 Children (3 -16yrs)
£8.00 Family Ticket

This is being held at the Cross and Stable Church on Downs Barn

***** A C A R T R E A S U R E H U N T *****

WILL BE HELD

ON

EASTER MONDAY, APRIL 20th

START - 12 noon

FROM

THE CROSS AND STABLE CHURCH,
DOWNS BARN

ENTRY FEE - £5.00 per car
(including 4 free soft drinks per car)

For information concerning both DANCE and TREASURE HUNT please
ring 0908 668347 or 0908 677143

XX

Patricia and Robert Newton are now resident at

The White House

Plowden Park

Aston Rowant

Oxon. OX9 5SX

Tel. Kingston Blount [0844] 52926

BATS AND CHURCHES

Bats and churches have a long association, there can be few churches in the south of the country which are not used by bats at some time of the year.

Although the signs of bats using churches are mainly observed during the summer when bats are most active, some species will occupy churches all year round. However, roosts are not necessarily occupied constantly, as colonies frequently move, using a number of roost sites, although a colony tends to occupy the same series of roosts each year.

The crucial time for bats and a time when the largest colonies occur, is the three month period from June to August when females from a large area congregate at a favoured nursery roost to have their babies. Bats are mammals and give birth to single live young which are suckled for up to seven weeks. This roost will have been chosen for its warmth, amongst other factors. It is at this time when the mothers are most sensitive to disturbance, too much of which will cause them to desert the roost, leaving the babies to their fate. When weaning is completed, the adult females leave, usually in early August, the juveniles follow later, at the end of the month, although some may stay on until October.

In general many churches are too cold for breeding colonies, although a suitable void beneath a south facing roof may present a warm site. More frequently, they are used by smallish numbers of non-breeding individuals who do not need such warm roosts; numbers can vary through the summer, quite often increasing in August or September, after the breeding season.

Colonies may be living in the roof area and under the eaves, not accessing the interior of the building and are rarely noticed. Bats can enter churches through gaps in doors or windows and via the eaves, finding roost sites behind wall fixtures, pictures, crevices and, most commonly, the gap between the roof beams and chancel arch, the access points being marked by droppings on the wall beneath. Droppings scattered throughout the church indicate that bats are flying around before going outside to forage for insects. These droppings are entirely harmless with no odour.

Bats most likely to roost regularly in churches are Pipistrelles and Long-eared; these are small bats, weighing from 4-9 grams, with wingspan up to 24cm, but most species of British bat have been recorded. Pipistrelles tend to roost in crevices or behind fixtures, whereas Long-eared prefer to cling to timber surfaces.

All bats in the British Isles are insectivorous; their food ranging from midges, gnats etc. for the smaller species, to large moths, roosting butterflies and beetles for larger species.

Bat populations have declined dramatically in recent years, one of the factors being loss of roost sites, causing bats to be more dependent on buildings for roosting. They are fully protected by the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981. This severely limits any action that may be taken against them. Incumbents are advised that any activity which may intentionally kill or injure bats or deny them access to their roosts is likely to be illegal. English Nature must be consulted before undertaking any activity that may affect bats and will provide free advice on the problem. Volunteers from a local 'Bat Group' will be willing to investigate the matter and suggest a cost-effective solution.

David Endacott
Oxfordshire Bat Group
8th January 1992

I Know a Man Who Does

From time to time, someone questions the need for a Central Council, or even for a Guild. After all, the real work is done in the towers, so we don't need anything else. I do not subscribe to this simplified view. I believe we need both, and that the central bodies are vital means of sharing and distributing experience and know how. I was made very much aware of this after attending the Central Council Seminar on Using Simulators in Teaching Ringing.

If you read the last two editions of *Odd Bob* you will know I have used a simulator for the last year or so. Not only our own ringers at All Saints Wokingham, but others in Sonning Deanery and a select few on the Easthampstead Course, have been able to sample the experience. I went to Knowle to exchange experiences and maybe learn a little. I should have been less complacent. People have used simulators in ways I never considered, and the models on the market are more versatile than what I have.

About thirty people gathered in Knowle, just off the M42, on 8th February in a comfortable, but none too warm hall by the church. Phil Gay welcomed us on behalf of the Education Committee and explained the basics for those who had never met a simulator, (though probably half of us had already used one). We were then taken up the tower to see some action, including a demonstration of how to use a simulator to help a learner over the hurdle of ringing with other bells.

Down below again, we heard, unrehearsed, from a 'victim' who had been taught from scratch using a simulator. He spoke very positively about the experience, though as he admitted, he had never tried to learn the conventional way. From first handling a bell, he had always been able to hear his bell. The clapper was tied to protect the neighbours, but he was ringing it for real inside. He was able to ring with other bells much earlier in his training, since the simulator is eternally patient and can be relied upon to turn up for the learner practices. He first touched a rope a year before the seminar, and he was confidently covering for triples when we grabbed the tower afterwards. In fact the first time he rang with the rest of his home band, he rang a competent 120 behind to qualify for Guild membership. This bears out the common experience that using a simulator encourages steady even ringing.

After lunch, we split up and used two towers so that everyone could have a reasonable period on the end of the rope. Those looking on probably learnt as much as those doing the work. Finally, we all reconvened for a wash up and to swap notes.

All in all, there was a most impressive collection of equipment, (the largest number of simulators ever assembled in one place?). We saw examples of all three of the current offerings. Both the builders of simulators were there. Peter Cummins, the father of the simulator concept, brought along two, and a pair of hand bells wired for simulator use. The one owned by the tower at Knowle is also a Cummins machine. David Bagley not only brought simulators, but also a small portable bell which was set up in the hall. This proved a severe test of handling skill for those of us not used to very light bells (11b) and small wheels. He also had a BBC computer capable of running

several different simulation programmes. One of these, by Nigel Goodship, is similar to the one I use to teach people to listen to errors in the rhythm.

We have all got used to computers which can make more or less pleasant beeps, whether they be ringing simulators or star wars games. You might, though, have been surprised to hear one sounding like Worcester Cathedral bells. In fact, by suitably juggling the technology, the machine can add matching trebles to hear sixteen.

Ringers came from many different Guilds, from Yorkshire to Kent. I am sure they all found it worth while and will go back and spread the ideas they got. At least one person took back one of the Central Council simulators to try in his own tower. The CC has one of each type available for loan. That way people who may be unsure can try it first before buying. If you want to use this service, ring Phil Gay on 0782 750038.

The simulator is probably the greatest step forward in ringing teaching since the blue line. Every tower could use one. They are easy to obtain and fit and the experience of using them is growing rapidly.

If you missed the seminar, or felt it was too far, you can have a second bite at the cherry. We are running another day in the ODG on 9th May at Wokingham. We don't expect quite such a galaxy of equipment, but we are hoping for some extra examples of how computers can be used in training. If you would like details, contact either me on 0734 785520 or Bob Newton on...

John Harrison

----- Y O U T H N E W S -----

HIGH WYCOMBE JUNIOR BAND STRIKES AGAIN!

The band that won the UNDER 18 STRIKING COMPETITION last year added to their list of achievements a quarter peal of Plain Bob Doubles. Rung at Penn on Wednesday, 26th February, this quarter was sponsored as part of the "Leap Year" ringing and raised £75.00 for the Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund. Congratulations to them all on this fine performance.

PENN,BUCKS - February 26,1992 1260 Plain Bob Doubles

1. Susan M.Bruce (aged 12)
2. Penelope Hadrill (15)
3. Deborah A.Spragg (14)
4. Rebecca S.Bruce (14)
5. Alastair P.Bruce (cond.- 17)
6. James Whiteside (13)

FIRST QUARTER - Aged 9

J.A.Haseldene (aged 9) rang his first Quarter Peal at Long Crendon on Nov.14.1991. He rang the Treble to 1260 P.B.Doubles.

VALE OF WHITE HORSE BRANCH SECRETARY RETIRES AFTER THIRTEEN YEARS

At the A.G.M. of the Vale of White Horse Branch at Shrivenham on February 29, 1992, Mrs Anne Jones stood down as Branch Secretary, a position she had held for thirteen years. Increased responsibilities elsewhere had helped her to decide it was time to pass on the duties to someone else.

Unknown to Anne, the Branch had made a collection and during the Business Meeting, the Branch Chairman, Anthony Williams, presented Anne with a hand-bell mounted on a wooden plinth carved from part of the old Uffington Bell-frame, together with a certificate of authenticity and a large thankyou card. The presentation was duly recorded by at least three photographers present.

The Guild Master, Mrs Patricia Newton, was present and spoke highly of the work Anne had done for the Branch, the smallest in the Guild. Anne had kept the Branch alive with its regular activities and had represented the Branch and its members well at Guild meetings. Pat Newton commented that the Branch secretary was the key person in any Branch, providing the link between the Guild and its members at Branch level, and by her length in office, Anne had achieved this magnificently.

All future matters relating to Branch activities should be directed to the new Branch Secretary, Anne's number one daughter:-

Mrs Jacqueline O'Hagan,
Brubell, 13, Chapel Road,
Stanford-in-the-Vale, Faringdon, Oxon. SN7 8LE
Telephone: Faringdon(0367) 718334

A D V A N C E N O T I C E

OPEN DAY - SWINDON AREA

20 PLUS TOWERS OPEN

SATURDAY 5th SEPTEMBER 1992

IN AID OF

ALL SAINTS, LYDDINGTON, WILTSHIRE, BELL FUND

All Saints Church has a history of over 700 years. It is situated just off the ancient Ridgeway Path, in the North East corner of Wiltshire in the Diocese of Bristol. The wooden frame in the tower which holds the ring of five bells has rotted, and the bells can no longer be rung. When it is replaced with a new metal frame, the existing five bells will be retuned and possibly a new treble will be cast.

The cost of this work is £40,000 although this figure will be reduced by using local volunteer labour.

Ringers from the Oxford Diocese will be most welcome to join the "Tower Grab" around Swindon when all the proceeds will go to the Lyddington Bell Fund.

Tony Pullan
Tower Captain - All Saints, Lyddington

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

BANBURY BRANCH:- Almost all towers with members responded to the call to ring in celebration of the release of Terry Waite and several quarters were rung in his honour.

The Boxing Day ringing at Deddington and the New Year's Day ringing at Banbury were both well attended.

Several Branch members, together with others from Chipping Norton and Witney and Woodstock Branches, rang two ten-bell quarters at Swindon and Thatcham at the end of December. and a Banbury Branch band rang a quarter of five-spliced surprise major at the beginning of February.

Social events included a skittles match with the Chipping Norton Branch at Chipping Norton in November, although only seven Banbury Branch members attended; the Branch Annual Dinner held at St. Mary's Centre, Banbury in February, attended by forty-five people. Handbell ringing provided the evening's entertainment.

Please Note:- We have changed practice night at Great Tew to Monday. We are hoping to meet fortnightly. Anyone intending to join our practice should check with me. **Sue Burchell 060 883 255**

BANBURY BRANCH EVENTS:-

March 21 Surprise Practice at Great Tew at 7.30p.m

April 6 General Practice at Bodicote at 7.30p.m.

April 18 Easter Saturday - General ringing at Brailes at 7.30p.n (to be confirmed.

May 2 Branch AGM Adderbury - Ringing 3.00p.m. - Service 4.00p.m. followed by tea and meeting.

BICESTER BRANCH:- The Branch held its AGM on Saturday, 29th February 1992 at Brill. There was only one change in the Branch Officers - Valerie Evans has stood down as Treasurer and is replaced by Terry Cowell. Many thanks to Valerie for her work over the years.

The project to rehang the eight bells at Islip is going ahead and the bells are now out of the tower. The Branch has now donated a further £500.00, making a total of £1,000.00 given from the Branch Bell Restoration Fund. The AGM heard that the re-dedication service has been fixed for Sunday, 13th September next at 11.15a.m.

The Secretary gave notice that a special train is being organised from Oxford via Islip and Bicester Town on Saturday, 2nd May 1992 with Peterborough and Spalding as its ultimate destination. The Secretary invited support for this event, and said he hoped to arrange some ringing in Peterborough for participants.

Other news from the Bicester Branch includes the following:-

31st December 1991 - A peal of 14mv Doubles to mark sixty years Guild membership by Cyril Kinch.

18th January 1992 - A peal of Grandsire Triples to mark Cyril Kinch's 80th birthday. Congratulations to Lorraine and Paul Garrett on their first peal.

Richard Stevens
Branch Secretary

CENTRAL BUCKS BRANCH:- When at Christmas I wrote the piece for the Guild Report I started by saying 1991 "Tried hard, could have done better." By

some mystic thought transference 1992 started off well and promises to be a vantage year.

I am sure much research has been done on what differentiates a good year from a bad. Despite the recession (that never was) and the hefty rise in subscriptions the money has been rolling in. Some 30% of the Branch is now paid up. One result is that I can settle the outstanding Guild Levy!

I met John White on Saturday while out shopping. He informs me that an easy tower, Cheddington, will be used for the Orchard Cup Competition. Never fear John, there is no hope of you getting the cup back, it is screwed firmly down in the tower at Quainton. We will be competing for the Quainton monuments in October, Dick likes the cup but not the monuments. Winner collects - in a ten ton lorry.

It is always sad to hear of villagers complaining about the bells. Due to problems at Cuddington our April Branch Practice will now be at Marsh Gibbon. A few years back in Whitchurch, evening ringing was acceptable, but, Sunday morning service ringing always brought a complaint. I know we are a poor set of ringers though not that bad. It was only resolved when the household moved away.

Though it looked doomed to failure, like the previous one, the January beginner's practice finally blossomed. Our thanks to Ed Houghton for leading the theory. (Carole and I had memories of Ed taking us to one side and teaching us the rudiments of change ringing.) Those attending appreciated his knowledge and patience. One helper who has been ringing method since 1986, was heard to comment "so that is what it is about". Just shows we never stop learning. Another beginner's practice will beheld on Saturday 11th April. Anyone interested please contact me for details.

The Branch practice the same evening, despite the ice and fog, was also an enjoyable ringing one. The aforementioned helper/student by some fluke won the Branch Monthly ODD draw. So a good start to the year which it is hoped will continue.

Terry Wagstaff
Branch Secretary

CHILTERN BRANCH:- The first two monthly practices of the year have been well attended. Great Missenden was visited in January, and in February, we had the pleasure of a trip outside the Branch to High Wycombe. Most of those present were able to at least attempt plain hunting on nine or ten bells, and rang very well for the experienced, the ringing progressed as far as Little Bob Maximus, although the best ringing was probably the course of Sterdman Caters. Thanks are due to High Wycombe for allowing our visit.

It is pleasing to see the band at Cheddington making steady progress. Most of those taught to handle a bell some eighteen months ago are now plain hunting or even attempting method ringing inside.

Would all Guild members please note that our schedule of Saturday practices has been altered and is now substantially different to that published in the December issue of ODD BOB.

John White
Branch Secretary

AMENDMENTS TO CHILTERN BRANCH MEETINGS

March	21st	Great Kimble (6)
June	20th	Bledlow (8) Branch Striking Competition
July	18th	Little Missenden (6)
August	15th	Slapton (5)
September	19th	Ellesborough (6)
October	10th	Cheddington (6) Half Yearly and Orchard Cup Striking Competition

The starting and finishing times of each meeting remain unaltered.

CHIPPING NORTON BRANCH:- It was hoped that this report could be started with the news that the Branch had managed to ring two sponsored quarters today for the Guild Bell Fund. However this was not achieved. A band at Spelsbury managed theirs, but ours at Charlbury unfortunately got off to a false start (after about 300 changes), and then we managed 600 of St. Simons, before changing to Grandsire. Unfortunately that fired up about 100 changes from the end. Nevertheless, we managed over 1260 changes altogether. In the Branch we hope to have raised enough to retain the shield for a fourth time.

A one day course concentrating on London Surprise Minor was held on November 30th, which was beneficial to all students. Thanks go to Miss Cross for coming to tutor, and of course to other helpers and help from towers outside the Branch. On the same day in the evening there was an enjoyable skittles match at the Oxford House in Chipping Norton, a small profit being split between the two branches.

February has seen 4 new ringers at Charlbury, all over 21, so we hope that they will progress and become regular ringers.

A quarter peal was rung at Spelsbury on 6th January to mark the 450th Anniversary of the letters patent forming the Diocese, in which Rhonda Mitchell rang her first quarter.

BRANCH MEETINGS:-

April	4	Chipping Norton(8)	B.P.	7.30 - 9.00p.m.
May	2	Burford (8)	A.G.M.	3.00 p.m. onwards
June	6	Kingham (8)	B.P.	7.00 - 8.30p.m.
July	4	Churchill(8)	B.P.	7.00 - 8.30p.m.

ALL ARE WELCOME.

Claire Tarrant
Branch Secretary

BRANCH QUARTER PEALS

Spelsbury 6.1.92 1260 Plain Bob Minor; Rhonda Mitchell 1, Maureen Sparling 2, R.Datson 3, Claire Tarrant 4, K.Mitchell 5, K.Wakefield(C)6.
First quarter 1.

For the 450th Anniversary of the granting of the letters patent forming the Diocese.

Charlbury 1.2.92 1260 mixed Doubles; Denise Summers 1, Claire Tarrant 2, B.Canham 3, I.G.Baker 4, M.J.Summers (C) 5, G.Burroughs 6.

For the blessing of the marriage of Barry and Marian Andrews, who were married in November.

Spelsbury 6.2.92 1260 Plain Bob and Grandsire Doubles; Rhonda Mitchell 1, Jean Datson 2, Maureen Sparling 3, K.Mitchell 4, K.Wakefield (C) 5, R.Datson 6.

For the 40th Anniversary of the Accession of H.M.Queen Elizabeth II.

Spelsbury 29.2.92 1260 Grandsire and Plain Bob Doubles; R.Datson 1, Christine Harris 2, M.Austin 3, Maureen Sparling 4, K.Wakefield (C) 5, D.Wetherall.

Sponsored for the Guild Bell Fund.

EAST BERKS AND SOUTH BUCKS BRANCH:- A Cheese and Wine Party was held at Bray following our December Branch Practice and it was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. Colin Fowles organised a game to get us all guessing and there were ample supplies of food and plenty to drink. All the proceeds from this went to the Bell Fund.

In February we held our Committee Meeting at Boyne Hill, Maidenhead and at this we heard about the proposed augmentation at Amersham. The meeting gave its approval, as required by the Bell Fund Committee, and wished Alan Ainsworth and his team Good Luck with this project. The Draw took place for the Lorna Newton Striking Competition, in front of the meeting, to show that no 'seeding' or 'fixing' takes place. This is an amicable competition and is meant to be friendly, at least in the first couple of rounds!

Jane Payne
Branch Secretary

NORTH BUCKS BRANCH:- 1992 looks like being a good year for us in the North Bucks Branch, with several projects planned or under way. The main project will undoubtedly be to install the ring of bells in the Cross and Stable, Downs Barn, one of the new ecumenical churches in the city of Milton Keynes. The local ringers have already planned some fund raising events which include a Barn Dance on the 28th March, a car treasure hunt on Easter Monday, an open day at the end of May when we hope to have all the Branch towers open.

Work is under way at Great Linford where the bells are being rehung by Whitechapel in time for an Easter Dedication, and at Bradwell where the church is being extended and will provide a raised ringing room. The ringers at Bradwell are holding a Pub Quiz night in aid of the Building Fund to which all towers are invited to enter a team of 4.

News has also reached us that work is soon to be undertaken on Lathbury tower. This three year schedule of works could mean that the bells, unringable over 10 years, could be ringing again. Watch this space!

The 23rd January was the 25th Anniversary of the founding of Milton Keynes. Seven quarter peals were rung to mark the event. Thanks to Monty Gilbert for organising the ringing. Details of the quarters areas follows:-

- 23 Jan St. Lawrence, Bradwell: 1260 mixed doubles; I. Green 1, T. Fawcett 2, Jill Joyce 3, M. Petchey 4, D. Joyce (C) 5, G. Abbott 6.
All Saints, Milton Keynes Village: 1260 Plain Bob and Grandsire Doubles. Nicki King 1, Ann Gilbert 2, R. Casserly 3, R. Snack (C) 4, M. Gilbert 5, A. Marchbank 6.
All Saints, Loughton: 1260 Mixed Doubles; Anne Stainsby 1, D. Stainsby 2, Jo Nevill 3, A. Faiers 4, B. Winstanley (C) 5, M. Wilder 6.
Holy Trinity, Old Wolverton: 1260 Plain Bob Doubles; Jo Nevill 1, J. Cantin 2, A. Gates 3, F. Mynard 4, M. Nimmo (C) 5, Lynne Bentley 6.
25 Jan All Saints, Emberton: 1260 Grandsire Doubles; Jo Nevill 1, Sheila Ward 2, P. Haslam 3, Sheila Watts 4, G. Foatt (C) 5, M. Gilbert 6.
St. Thomas, Simpson: 1260 Grandsire Doubles; Margaret Harrison 1, P. Tribble 2, J. Lonsborough (C) 3, B. Winstanley 4, B. Baldwin 5, T. Smith 6.
St. Mary Shenley: 1440 Cambridge S. Minor; F. Daniels 1, Anne Stainsby 2, B. Smith 3, M. Gilbert 4, D. Stainsby 5, A. Marchbank (C) 6.

The other main event this quarter was our Sixth Annual Branch Dinner. Thanks to Pat Newton for being our guest speaker. The evening was enjoyed by all. Godfrey Foat devised a novel way of raising money for the ODG Bell Fund in the form of a sweepstake to guess the length of the speeches. The 12 minutes and 31 seconds from the loyal toast to Pat sitting down again raised £27.00 for the bell fund.

Andrew King
Branch Secretary.

OLD NORTH BERKS BRANCH: First of all there are a few congratulations due this quarter. Congratulations to Elunid (our Treasurer) and Nick Hallas on

the birth of their baby girl Kathryn Rhianydd, who was born on 17th February. Both mother and baby are doing fine. Also congratulations go to Helen and Alex Sharpe who were married on 6th January and Barbara Payne and Peter Day who were married on 16th February.

On January 11th we held our Half-yearly Meeting and Branch Social at Brightwell. This was well attended and everyone had a lovely time. I must thank the Brightwell ringers for all the hard work that they put in, especially the lovely meal that they provided.

Our other two Branch practices this quarter were not very well attended, but on each occasion we did manage to ring the special method.

Andy Utting
Branch Secretary

OXFORD CITY BRANCH:- At the Branch A.G.M. in December, Anthony Hughes relinquished the post of Hon.Treasurer. In his final report he stated that the funds were in a healthy state and his comparison with his commencing the post ten years earlier was very interesting. He was thanked by the Chairman, Len Porter, for his 10 years as Treasurer. He is succeeded by Jane Marlow. Jane had indicated her desire to step down as Ringing Master and in her place Roy Goodwin was elected.

It was proposed at the A.G.M. that three members, Philip Walker (St.Giles), Alec Gammon (Marston) and Laurie Busby (Iffley), who each had in excess of 30 years annual subscriptions, who had passed the age of 65 and who were still active ringers be allowed to continue membership, as a mark of respect, without further payment of subscription. This was approved with acclaim.

Wolvercote held their 40th Annual Bellringers' Service in November. A 40th Anniversary cake was cut with due ceremony. Members were then entertained with a slide show given by Brian Lowe of his charity ride from Lands End to John O'Groats.

On November 24th 1991, John Gawne-Cain, Vicar of St.Giles rang in a Quarter Peal arranged as a farewell to him. He has been appointed to Uffington and members of St.Giles went to Uffington to join the congregation at his institution by the Bishop of Oxford. Some of the ringers then rang the last touches on the bells prior to their removal for rehangings.

Unfortunately, ringing at Kidlington has had to be curtailed. A crack that appeared in the spire in September 1990 has meant that now ringing is confined to service ringing, practices and weddings. It is hoped that repairs will be carried out in the spring by Dawson and Lewis of Bristol.

Eight bell practices are continuing at Headington on the second Tuesday of each month. It is hoped that they will be well supported.

A number of quarter peals were rung for Terry Waite's release. Also towers arranged general ringing where it was not possible to arrange quarters.

On the lighter(!) side, how many bell ringers does it take to change two light bulbs? St.Giles ringers will tell you **NINE** - one to take charge, two to give unsolicited advice, one to hold the old bulb, one to hold the new bulbs, three to hold the ladder still and one (expendable) learner to climb the ladder. (Is he the one over the eight?). Two new light bulbs have been left in the bellringers' pigeon hole so the hint was taken.

David Lane
Branch Secretary

READING BRANCH:- December's practice at Mortimer SMV barely attracted a dozen ringers but there had been freezing fog all day and warnings not to travel unnecessarily. Those who made it enjoyed both the Ringing Master's undivided attention and the greater comfort of the ringing chamber which

had been redecorated since our last visit. In January, Tilehurst was the practice venue with much greater support while February saw the A.G.M. at Checkendon. A full choir for Evensong and a splendid tea had been laid on by the local ringers preceded the well attended meeting at which we welcomed the Guild Master and Deputy Master, and our Steward - the Guild Secretary and Treasurer already being present as Branch members! A photo competition, together with a raffle and the Service collection yielded over £120 for the Bell Fund. There were no major changes of officers and it was decided to continue our third Thursday surprise practice and last Friday practice on higher numbers which continue to be well supported.

Eunice Wark
Branch Secretary

SOUTH OXON BRANCH:- All quiet in the South Oxon Branch - apart from Sundays and practice nights! I'm not going to predict what is going to happen, because that is a sure sign it won't!

Tina Ruff
Branch Secretary

SONNING DEANERY BRANCH:- The new Branch Secretary is

Pam Elliston, 142 Butts Hill Road, Woodley, Reading RG5 4NS
Tel 0734 695967

WTINEY AND WOODSTOCK BRANCH:- Sunday, February 2nd was a very special day for the town and people of Woodstock, as that was the day the re-hung bells were re-dedicated. Despite thick fog and an early service, the church was packed with the combined congregations of Woodstock and Bladon. A Baptism followed by Holy Communion and prayers for Candlemas preceded the re-dedication and blessing of the bells by the Bishop of Dorchester. Ringing took place immediately after the service, with those visiting ringers able to attend being made especially welcome. A quarter peal was rung during the afternoon.

WOODSTOCK, OXON: 2.2.1992; 1260 Plain Bob Triples

Lindsey C. Cutler 1, Judy F. Venn 2, Catherine Ross 3, Sally A. Franklin 4, B.J. Curtis 5, J.E. Sims 6, E.R. Venn (C) 7, D.M. Holmes 8.

Rung following the service of re-dedication.

BRANCH A.G.M.:-

The Branch AGM will be on Saturday, 11th April at Bampton. The afternoon begins with ringing at 3.00p.m., followed by the service at 4.00p.m. A charge to cover the cost of tea will be made on the day. Please give names and numbers for tea no later than Friday 3rd April to:

Margaret Barnes, 4, Pound Close, Ducklington, Oxon OX8 7TH
Tel. (0993) 706198

Christopher Wallworth
Branch Secretary

VALE OF WHITE HORSE BRANCH:- Our A.G.M. took place at Shrivenham on Feb 29th and we had several changes of officers. Anthony Williams is still Chairman, with Bill Mitchell as Vice-Chairman. Jackie O'Hagan has taken over as Secretary as I have now retired. Teresa Sugden is Branch Representative. Ringing Master, Dennis Leslie is staying on, as is our Bell-Fund Raising Committee, Norman and Doreen Leslie and Ann Stevens also stays as Treasurer. We had 27 members, visitors and would be members present which is a very good turn out for a small branch and we elected 12 new members and re-elected 2. The only 'marl' on the day was a local resident who complained to the Vicar, who in turn asked for the ringing to stop shortly before we were due to end anyway.

I would like to point out two changes in our Diary Dates, July's Branch Practice will now be at Shrivenham on Monday 27th and the October practice at Buckland will be on Wed. 28th. Our Outing this year is to be earlier than usual, and we are going to the Stroud area on May 30th.

at Buckland on Wed.28th . Our Outing this year is to be earlier than usual and we are going to the Stroud area on May 30th.

At least two towers took part in the Sponsored Ringing for the Bell Fund but results are not yet known.

Unknown to me the Branch had acquired a Handbell with my name on the leather and a plinth to stand it on made from wood from the old Bell Chamber at Uffington. It was a lovely gift that I will treasure and display to remind me of all the years I had spent 'nagging' the Branch. Thank-you very much - it was a lovely surprise. Now in my retirement I seem to have plenty to do - thanks to Jackie and Nicola!! Guess what I am knitting!!

You will see elsewhere - Shellingford are hoping to have some work done on their bells and are to start their fund-raising off with a Barn Dance after the Guild A.G.M.

Anne E.Jones

UFFINGTON TOWER:- During the past few weeks the work of removing the bells from the church has taken place. English Heritage having stipulated that the old bell frame had to be preserved, meant that it had to be raised up and set on steel girders high up in the tower. White's of Appleton started the project by first enlarging the trap door from the ringing chamber into the centre of the church. This was then followed by removing the third bell, the rest of the bells soon followed. Once they were down in the church, two twenty-one foot long girders had to be hoisted into place almost up to roof level to act as lifting beams. The job then began to lift the old frame up to within two feet of the roof, it was then suspended on chains until two more girders were installed at a lower level. The old frame was then lowered on to these beams, there to remain for posterity.

The next part of the work involves installing a steel grillage which will support the new cast bell-frame and bells. Freeman's of Uffington will transport the bells to the bellhangers workshop for preparatory work to be done. After this they will go to the Whitechapel Bellfoundry for tuning and the casting of a new Treble bell. Upon returning to Appleton they are then set-up, tested and then brought back to Uffington and re-hung.

This whole operation will take about six to eight months culminating in a glorious re-dedication and thanksgiving service. It should be noticed that some of our own ringers have helped with certain parts of the work. Our village school children were also able to witness the removal of the bells, something they are unlikely to see again in their lifetime, bearing in mind that the bells are only removed from a tower about once every hundred years.

Several interesting objects have been found in the course of the work, namely a glass bottle, a gimlet, kitchen knife with a horn handle, part of a shoe or sandal plus numerous blacksmith's nails. All these items will be kept in our museum. An added item of interest, the firm of Whites of Appleton have been involved with Uffington Bells since 1824 and possibly before that.

Yes we have bats in our belfry, a small colony was discovered and carefully placed out of harm's way. We also have several Tortoiseshell and Red Admiral Butterflies which have been removed for safekeeping.

W.Mitchell

STANFORD TOWER:- We have been struggling on for a while because we have a pregnant Tower Captain, a Secretary out of action with a 'poorly' foot and a Deputy Captain acting for several weeks as the back-end of a cow. We did manage to do some sponsored ringing last week though. We have four new members elected at the A.G.M. and Lydia has come back after a lapse of twenty years.

Jackie O'Hagan

29.

----- FACTS AND FIGURES -----
RETURN OF TERRY WAITE

18.11.91	Abingdon St.Helens	1260 Grandsire Triples
	St.Nicholas	1260 Doubles (3m)
	Aston Rowant	1260 P.B.Doubles
	Bradwell	1260 P.B.Doubles
	Chalfont St.Giles	1260 Grandsire Triples (Sunday Service Band)
	Cowley, Oxford	1260 Doubles (2m)
	East Hagbourne	1260 Grandsire Triples
	Faringdon	1260 Grandsire Doubles
	Finchampstead	1260 Doubles (2m)
	Great Horwood	1260 Grandsire Doubles
	Haddenham	1264 P.B.Major
	Marston, Oxford	1260 P.B.Doubles
	Tilehurst	1274 Grandsire Triples
	Wokingham St.Paul's	1260 P.B.Doubles
	Amport Hants	5040 London S.Minor
	Hughenden	1260 Grandsire Triples
	Reading St.Mary's	1250 Yorkshire S.Major
19.11.91	Abingdon St.Nicholas	1260 P.B.Doubles
	Haddenham	1260 Grandsire Triples
	High Wycombe	1252 Yorkshire S.Major
	Lane End	1260 Doubles (2m)
	Long Crendon	1260 P.B.Doubles
	Loughton	1260 P.B.Minor - following cele- bratory ringing at Calverton, Beachampton and Passenham.
	North Hinksey	1260 P.B.Doubles
	Oxford St.Giles	1260 Grandsire Triples
	Sandhurst St.Michael	1260 P.B.Doubles
	Slough	1260 P.B.Caters
	Steeple Aston	1260 P.B.Doubles
	Stoke Mandeville	1260 Grandsire Triples
	Warfield	1260 Stedman Triples
	Windsor St.John Baptist	1260 Grandsire Triples
	Appleton	1260 Grandsire Triples
	Bicester	1260 Grandsire Triples
	Blewbury	1260 Grandsire Triples
	Stonesfield	1260 Doubles (2m)
	Yarnton	1260 Grandsire Doubles
	Binfield	1260 P.B.Minor
	Hungerford	1260 P.B.Doubles
	West Wycombe	1260 P.B.Doubles
20.11.91	Dorchester, Oxon	1260 Grandsire Triples -Rung prior to Service of Thanksgiving.
	Lewknor	1260 P.B.Doubles
	Reading St.Giles'	1260 P.B.Triples
	Whitchurch-on-Thames	1260 Doubles (2m)
21.11.91	Aston Tirrold	1260 Grandsire Doubles
	Stowe Bucks	1260 P.B.Minor
	Wolvercote	1260 P.B.Minor
22.11.91	Great Tew	1260 Grandsire Triples -Also as a retirement compliment to the Rev. H.Colchester, Vicar of Great Tew.

23.11.91	Wallingford	5024 P.B.Major
	Chalfont St.Peter	1296 Cambridge S.Minor
	Stratfield Mortimer St.John	1260 P.B.Doubles
24.11.91	Linslade	1260 P.B.Doubles
	Waltham St.Lawrence	1260 P.B.Doubles
	West Hanney	1260 P.B.Doubles
	Witney	1260 Grandsire Triples
	Wraysbury	1320 P.B.Doubles
	Caversfield	1260 Doubles (3m/v)
	Easthampstead	1260 P.B.Minor
	Pangbourne	1260 Doubles (4m)

PEALS NEW METHODS

* 8.11.91	Thatcham	5000 Antrim S.Royal	
**16.11.91	Bicester	5056 Idle S.Major	
** 2.11.91	Croydon	5184 Spliced S,Maximus	I.Roulstone
**16.11.91	Wolverhampton	5040 Eldon S.Maximus	B.F.L.Groves
* 21.11.91	Hungerford	5024 Zeals Knoll D.Major	B.F.L.Groves
* 29.11.91	Leicester Cathedral	5042 Churchfields D.Max.	J.Ainsworth
* 15.11.91	Thatcham	5006 Yeovil S.Royal	W.Butler
	(Believed to be first peal in method - previously rung spliced)		
* 7.12.91	Norwich St Peter Mancroft	5042 Tailor Paul S.Max.	
* 20.12.91	Thatcham	5000 Offerton S.Royal	W.Butler
	Believed to be the first peal in the method.Previously rung spliced		
* 7.12.91	Stratford-on-Avon	5040 Ditchat Manor S.Royal	J.R.Martin

PERSONAL RECORDS:-

1000 PEAL

W. Butler 20.12.91 Thatcham Offerton S.Royal - W.Butler has circled Thatcham towe 28 times!

1000 PEAL FOR THE GUILD

C.M.Turner 2.12.91 Kempsford Glos 5040 Hexham S.Minor
R.Newton 24.11.91 Widmer End 5056 P.B.Major H/B

1000 HANDBELL PEAL

R.Newton 24.11.91 Widmer End 5056 P.B.Major H/B

900 PEAL

P.G.C.Ellis 14.12.91 Wroxton, Oxon 5040 Doubles (25m)

100 PEALS as conductor in 1991

P.G.C.Ellis 24.11.91 Little Milton 5040 S.Minor (7m)

LEAGUE TABLE - TOWERS WITH MOST PEALS

Position in National List.	TOWER	NUMBER OF PEALS
13	Hughenden	530
25	Appleton	432
44	Windsor St.John the Baptist	355
45	Thatcham	353
65	High Wycombe	292
69	Drayton,Oxon (Berks)	286
76	Reading St.Laurence	272
77	Henley-on-Thames	271
81	Oxford St.Ebbe's	269

Taken from The Ringing World. List compiled by the Rev.K.Felstead.
Several of these towers have had peals rung on the bells since then.

CIVIC etc.

- 21.10.91 Beaconsfield 1344 Trafalgar S.Major - To commemorate the Battle of Trafalgar.
- 14.11.91 Windsor St.John Baptist 1260 Grandsire Triples. - A 43rd Birthday compliment to H.R.H.The Prince of Wales.
- 23.11.91 Hughenden 1280 Pudsey S.major -In aid of B.B.C, Children in Need Appeal.
- 70th BIRTHDAY

Reg Foster 14.11.91 St.John the Baptist Windsor -1260 Grandsire Triples

10.11.91 Stoke Poges - 1260 Grandsire Triples.

60 YEARS MEMBERSHIP

CYRIL KINCH - Bicester

- 31.12.91 Caversfield; 5040 Doubles (14m/v): William Haynes 1, Richard C. Stevens (C) 2, Philip J.Curtis 3, Walter A.Lee 4, Rev.John D. Nixon 5.
- Specially arranged and rung as a compliment to Cyril Kinch, who has now completed 60 years membership of the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers. He was taught to handle a rope by the late Frederick Sharpe in 1930 at St.Laurence's Church, Caversfield.

FAMILY QUARTER PEAL

- 22.11.91 Cheddington,Bucks 1260 P.B.Doubles - A specially organised family quarter as a 70th Birthday compliment to Eileen Gell, ringer at this church. Carolyn Turner 1, Mary Holden 2, S.R.Holden 3, Barbara Holden(C) 4, P.G.Holden 5,C.P.Turner 6.

NOTEWORTHY QUARTERS

- 24.11.91 Aston Tirrold 1260 Grandsire Doubles - First Quarter for a Sunday Service for several years.
- 29.10.91 1259 Grandsire Caters - First on bells since rehanging and augmentation.
- 4.11.91 Reading St.Giles 1272 Spliced Plain and Little Bob - In Thanksgiving for the life of Nolan Golden.
- 19.10.91 Hungerford 1260 P.B.Doubles - sponsored for St. Lukes Home for the Clergy.

SILVER WEDDING

- 11.12.91 Sutton Courtenay 1260 Grandsire Triples - For the Silver Wedding of M.Alice (3) and A.A.Auckland.

WEDDING Anniversary

- 7.12.91 Caversham 1296 Cambridge S.Minor - To mark the 28th Wedding Anniversary of Janet and Ralph Elmes.

BIRTHDAYS

- 22.12.91 Reading St.Mary 5024 Spliced S.Major - 60th Birthday compliment to Jim Diserens.
- 23.11.91 Beaconsfield 1280 Yorkshire S.Major - Birthday compliment to Kelly Cartwright
- 18.11.91 Charlbury,Oxon 1260 Grandsire Doubles - Birthday compliment to M.J.Austin (1st in method) 3.

SUNDAY SERVICE RINGING etc.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

29.9.91 Finchampstead 1320 P.B.Doubles

ALL SAINTS DAY

1.11.91 High Wycombe 1260 Stedman Triples - For Patronal
Festival Eucharist.
Tilehurst 1280 Superlative S.Major
4.11.91 Tilehurst 1260 Grandsire Triples H/M - For the
Requiem Mass for All Saints.
1.11.91 Henley-on-Thames 1264 P.B.Major - For All Saints

ADVENT

1.12.91 Bicester 1260 Grandsire Triples - For Christingle
Service on Advent Sunday.
Thatcham 1260 Grandsire Triples - For Advent
Carol Service.
Birstall, Yorks 5056 Tellurium S.Major - For Advent Sunday
Bray 1260 Grandsire Triples - For Advent Sunday
Oxford St.Giles 1376 Pudsey S.Major

ST.NICHOLAS DAY

8.12.91 Abingdon St.Nicolas 1260 St.Nicolas - for the St.Nicolas
Festival Evensong.

CHRISTMAS

24.12.91 Reading St.Mary 5056 Spliced S.Major (8m) - For Christmas
26.12.91 Edgware Mdx. 5040 Surprise Minor (7m) " "
24.12.91 Amersham 5152 Rutland S.Major - For the Blessing of
the Crib Service.

SUNDAY Services

1. 9.91 Finchampstead 1260 Grandsire Doubles - Evensong
15. 9.91 Finchampstead 1252 Minor (3m) - Evensong
4.10.91 Hungerford 1264 P.B.Major
13.10.91 Finchampstead 1260 P.B.Doubles - Evensong
20.10.91 Reading St.Laurence 1250 Pudsey S.Major - Evensong
Caversfield 1260 Doubles (4m/v) - Evensong
27.10.91 High Wycombe 1250 Rutland S.Major - Evensong
Reading St.Laurence 1260 Grandsire Triples - Evensong
3.11.91 Reading St Mary 1250 Yorkshire S.Major - Evensong
Slough 1256 L.B.Royal
17.11.91 Blewbury 1260 Grandsire Triples - Evensong
3.11.91 Abingdon St.Helen 1250 Cambridge S.Major - Evensong
24.11.91 High Wycombe 1260 Cambridge S.Major - Evensong
Reading St.Laurence 1346 Yorkshire S.Maximus - Evensong
17.11.91 Horspath 1260 Doubles (2m) -For morning service
Cuddesdon 1260 Doubles (6m/v)
Little Milton 1320 Spliced Doubles
Headington 1260 Doubles (6m/v) - Evensong
27.11.91 Chalfont St.Giles 1260 Grandsire Triples - For United
Church Service.
30.11.91 Abingdon St.Nicolas 1260P.B.Doubles
24.11.91 Stratfield Mortimer St.Mary 1260 Grandsire Triples - For Sunday
Service.

FAREWELL

- 22.11.91 Great Tew 1260 Grandsire Triples - Retirement compli-
ment to the Rev. H.Colchester Vicar of Great Tew.
- 24.11.91 Oxford St.Giles 1260 Grandsire Triples - As a farewell to
the Vicar, the Rev. J.Gawne-Cain (1) who is leaving to become
Vicar of Uffington,Oxon.
- 17.11.91 Great Linford 1260 Doubles (2m) - For the last service
celebrated by the Rev.Julian Reindorp as Team Rector of the
Eucumenical Parish of Stantonbury and minister to the congreg-
-ations at Great Linford and Gifford Park.

ORDINATION

- 8.12.91 Cowley,St.James 1260 Grandsire Doubles - For the priestly
ordination of the Rev.Wazir Chand.

CONFIRMATION

- 28.11.91 Abingdon St.Helen's 1260 P.B.Major - For Confirmation Service,
David Read and Jeanette France of the band being candidates.
- 19.10.91 Buckingham 1264 P.B.Major - For the confirmation at
St. Bernadine's R.C.Church, Buckingham.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

- 10.11.91 Reading St Laurence 1259 Grandsire Caters.
Pangbourne 1440 Doubles (4m) H/M
Slough 1296 P.B.Caters
Hungerford 1260 P.B.Doubles H/M
High Wycombe 1259 Grandsire Caters
Stoke Poges 1260 Grandsire Triples - also for the
70th Birthday of Reg Foster.
Stonesfield 1260 P.B.Doubles H/M
Blewbury 1260 Grandsire Triples H/M
Lane End,Bucks 1260 P.B.Doubles
Oxford St.Giles, 1260 Grandsire Triples
East Hagbourne 1264 P.B.Major H/M
Caversham 1260 Minor(2m)

WEDDINGS, ENGAGEMENTS

- 24.10.91 Chalfont St.Giles' 1280 Bristol S.Major - For the engagement
of Mark Instone and Vanda Wetherall.
- 16.10.91 Sunningwell 1260 P.B.Doubles] Both rung as a wedding
- 3.11.91 Drayton,Oxon 1260 P.B.Doubles] compliment to Gill Keane
(Tower Captain at Drayton) and John Gillett.
- 23.11.91 Bicester 1260 Grandsire Triples - Arranged as a
compliment to Judith Plant and Nick Woodworth married today in
Hong Kong.

BIRTHS, CHRISTENINGS

- 24.11.91 Tilehurst 1260 Erin Triples - a compliment to Nigel
and Julie Hawkes on the birth of their daughter .
Reading St.Giles' 1260 P.B.Triples - To welcome Hannah R.
Scott,first child of Rosemary Scott (2); grand-daughter of Dorothy
Brookman (3).

GUILD FACILITIES

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

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

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

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

LIBRARY – The Guild maintains a comprehensive Library from which books may be borrowed. For details contact Mr W. Butler, 8 The Waverleys, Thatcham, Newbury, Berks. RG13 4AW. Tel: (0635) 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 1991-1992

Master:	Mrs P.M.Newton	The White House, Plowden Park, Aston Rowant, Oxon. OX9 5SX
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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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	Mr G.Blundell	72 Nursery Road, Taplow, Maidenhead, Berks. SL6 0JU Maidenhead (0628) 602194
	Mr R.Datson	Glebe Farm, Spelsbury, Chipping Norton, Oxon. 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, Chipping Norton, Oxon. OX7 4AN 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, Chipping Norton, 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	38 Chilton Way, Hungerford, Berks. RG7 0JR (0488) 683609
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. OX13 6PZ (0865) 391709

Branch Secretaries cont'd:

Oxford City:	Mr N.D.Lane	Catchmole Cottage, 12 High Street, Wheatley. Oxon. OX9 1XX Wheatley (086 77) 4026
Reading:	Mrs E.Wark	31 Brooksby Road, Tilehurst, Reading, RG3 6LZ Reading (0734) 427322
Sonning:	Mrs P.Elliston	142 Butts Hill Road, Woodley, Reading, Berks. RG5 4NS (0734) 695967
South Oxon:	Miss T.Ruff	14 North Close, Tiddington, Oxon. OX9 2LT Ickford (0844) 339783
Vale of White Horse:	Mrs J.A.O'Hagan	"Brubell", 13 Chapel Road, Stanford-in-the-Vale. Faringdon, Oxon. Stanford-in-the-Vale (0367) 718994
SN7 8LE		
Witney and Woodstock:	Mr C.Wallworth	5 Parkside, Woodstock, Oxon. OX20 1UR Woodstock (0993) 812187

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

Mr G.J. Clifton	Stedman Cottage, Middle Aston, Bicester, Oxon. OX6 3PZ Steeple Aston (0869) 47273
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Bicester / Witney and Woodstock Branches

Mr R.C. Stevens	Dellow, Blackthorne Road, Launton, Bicester, Oxon. Bicester (0869) 243920
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Central Bucks / North Bucks Branches

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

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

Mr J. Davidge*	Rowallan, Back Lane, Chalfont St. Giles, Bucks. HP8 4PD
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Newbury Branch**Old North Berks / Oxford City / Vale of White Horse**

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

Mr P.G. Davies*	Narrogin, Longworth Road, Charney Bassett, Wantage, Oxon OX12 0ET Abingdon (0235) 868646
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South Oxon / Reading Branches

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

BEST KEPT TOWER COMPETITION

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

O.D.G. EDUCATION BOOKLETS

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 1. Rope Splicing | 7. Stedman |
| 2. Bibliography | 8. Gradsire Doubles |
| 3. Plain Hunting and Bob Doubles | 9. Bob Calling for Beginners |
| 4. Belfry Care and Maintenance | 10. Handbells - Change Ringing |
| 5. Running a Day Course | 11. Eight Doubles Methods and how they are related |
| 6. Sound Control | |

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

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	
1/2ly	Half Yearly Meeting	1/4ly	Quarterly Meeting	
S.C.	Striking Competition			

MARCH

Fri.	20	N.Bucks	B.P.	Stony Stratford	7.30	
		Sonning		Twyford (Stedman)	7.30-9.00	
Fri.	20-22	WEEKEND COURSE - Cuddesdon				
Sat.	21	Banbury	S.P.	Steeple Aston (Major)	7.30	
		Chiltern	B.P.	Great Kimble	6.30-8.30	
		Sonning	B.P.	Easthampstead	7.30-9.00	
		Banbury	S.P.	Steeple Aston	7.30	
Sat.	28	S.Oxon	S.C.	Great Haseley		
		E.B.S.B.	B.P.	Denham	7.00-9.00	
		N.Bucks	Barn Dance in aid of Bell Fund			
		O.N.B.	Skittles v. Newbury Branch - East Ilsley (7.30)			Ringings 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	
		Sonning		Twyford (Elementary Practice)	7.30-9.00	
	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	Beginners + Novices - Steeple Claydon		2.30	
		C.Bucks	B.P.	Marsh Gibbon (Childwell + Thelwell)	6.30	
		E.B.S.B.	S.P.	Long Crendon	7.00-9.00	
		Newbury	1/2ly/S.C.	Beenham		
		O.N.B.	B.P.	Radley	7.00-8.30	
		Reading	B.P.	Padworth	7.00-9.00	
		W & W	A.G.M.	Bampton - 3.00pm Ringing, 4.00pm Service		
Sun.	12	S.Oxon		Tower Captain's meeting		
Fri.	17	N.Bucks	B.P.	Buckingham	7.30	
Sat.	18	HANDBELL DAY - Reading				
		Banbury	General Ringing at Brailes*			
Sat.	25	Chiltern	A.G.M.	Weston Turville /	2.30-3.30	
				Aston Clinton - Service at 4.00, ringing until 8.30		
		E.B.S.B.	AGM/BP	Stoke Poges	7.00-9.00	
		Newbury	Learners' Meeting - Beedon*			
		Sonning	S.C.	6 Bell Comp. - Shottesbrooke		
		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	Special Train to Peterborough + Spalding (see notice elsewhere)				
		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				

DIARY OF EVENTS cont'd.

MAY cont'd.

Tues.	5	Bicester	B.P.	Woodeaton	7.30
Sat.	9	C.Bucks	A.G.M.	Linslade	
		E.B.S.B.	S.P.	Chalfont St. Giles	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
		Newbury	Learners' Afternoon Meeting		
		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		

JUNE

Wed.	3	Bicester	B.P.	Middleton Stoney	7.30
Sat.	6	N.Bucks	1/4ly	Emberton	
		C.Norton	B.P.	Kingham	7.00-8.30
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. - Fulmer	
		Newbury	Rounders - Hungerford		
		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.	Bledlow	6.00-8.30
Sat.	27	E.B.S.B.	B.P.	West Wycombe - followed by BBQ	7.00
		Newbury	Learners'	Striking Comp. - Peasemore	
		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)	
		C.Norton	B.P.	Churchill	7.00-8.30
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.	Little Missenden	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*	
		Newbury	Learners' Afternoon Meeting - Compton		
		S.Oxon	B.P.	Berrick Salome	7.00-9.00
Mon.	27	V.of W.H.	B.P.	Shrivenham	7.30-9.00

DIARY OF EVENTS cont'd.

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. Quainton (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. Slapton	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 Calverton*	
		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
		Newbury	Branch Coach Outing	
		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. Ellesborough	6.30-8.30
		E.B.S.B.	Branch Outing	
Sat.	26	E.B.S.B.	B.P. Cookham	7.00-9.00
		Newbury	B.P. Lambourn & East Garston*	
		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/ C.Bucks	S.C./1/2ly Orchard Cup - Cheddington	2.30
		E.B.S.B.	S.P. Farnham Royal*	7.00-9.00
		Newbury	A.G.M. Thatcham*	
		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. EASTHAMPSTEAD COURSE		
Sat.	24	E.B.S.B.	1/2ly Half Yearly Meeting/Lorna Newton Cup Final - Penn	
		Newbury	B.P. Chieveley (Advanced Major)	
		S.Oxon	1/2ly Wheatley	
Wed.	28	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

Continued on Page 1.