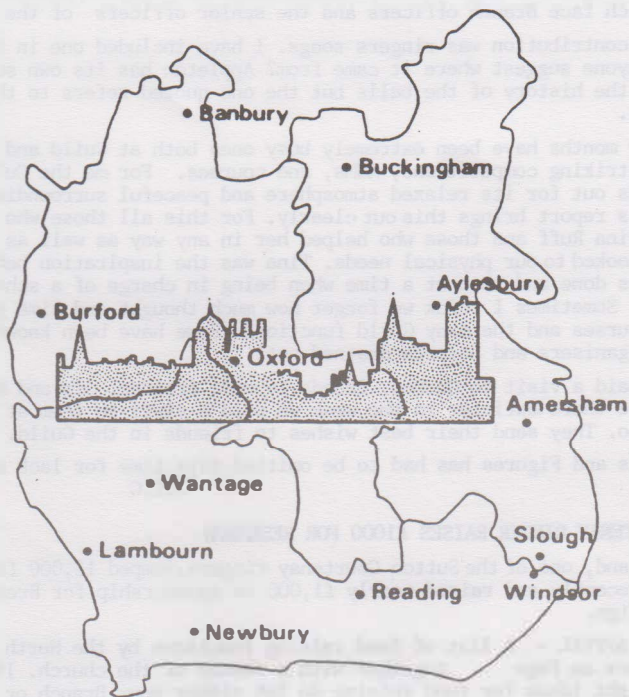


ODD BOB

Newsletter of the

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD



June 1992

FROM THE EDITOR

First of all I want to thank all those contributors to this copy of ODD BOB for keeping the deadline that I gave to them. It was a great help in arranging my time during a somewhat hectic period.

Several people have asked for the Printers specifications for material for printing. It is as follows:

ODD BOB GRID - A4 242 mm x 160 mm

Type setting 9pt on 11pt

Type should be black. Any guide pencil marks must be made in blue or green pencil.

I hope this is clear. If you think you could help and are not sure as to size of type etc I will gladly send a copy from my machine for comparison.

I wish to thank also those who have contributed articles - be they provocative of thought or of historic or local interest. The more we know of the widely differing areas of the Oxford Guild the more we shall understand the problems which face Branch officers and the senior officers of the Guild.

One unusual contribution was ringers songs. I have included one in this copy. Can anyone suggest where it came from? Appleton has its own song relating to the history of the bells but the one quoted refers to the West country.

The past few months have been extremely busy ones both at Guild and Branch level with striking competitions, AGMs, and courses. For me the Cuddesdon Course stands out for its relaxed atmosphere and peaceful surroundings. Rob Needham's report brings this out clearly. For this all those who attended must thank Tina Ruff and those who helped her in any way as well as the Warden who looked to our physical needs. Tina was the inspiration behind much that was done and that at a time when being in charge of a school is no sinecure. Sometimes I think we forget how much thought and time goes into such courses and the many Guild functions. Some have been known to leave the organisers and helpers drained out!

Recently I paid a visit to Quebec, Canada to meet friends. Jim and Helen Diserens were there and later in the week we paid a visit to them at Chalk River, Ontario. They send their best wishes to friends in the Guild.

Most of Facts and Figures has had to be omitted this time for lack of space.

M.R.C

SUTTON COURTENAY RINGER RAISES £1000 FOR RESEARCH

Alice Auckland, one of the Sutton Courtenay ringers, jumped 12,000 ft Sky -Dive recently and raised nearly £1,000 in sponsorship for Breast Cancer Campaign.

DOWN'S BARN APPEAL - A list of fund raising functions by the North Bucks Branch appears on Page together with a sketch of the church. If you have any bright ideas for fund raising do let either your Branch or Guild officers know.

ooooooo THE MASTER'S MUTTERINGS ooooooo

Another A.G.M., another year over, another year begins. Most of the Guild's officers were re-elected for a further term at the A.G.M. I should like to thank them all for their support, their efforts, and for the time they give so willingly.

A total of six entries for the Guild's first 10-Bell Striking Contest, held on the morning of the A.G.M., was very creditable, and demonstrates the strength of ringing in many areas of the Diocese. Congratulations to all who took part and achieved such a high standard of ringing.

Of the 17 entries for this year's National 12-Bell Striking Contest, impressively three were from the Oxford Diocese, a band representing each of our twelve bell towers. An informal contest at Reading two weeks before the eliminator rounds for the National Competition proved very beneficial for at least two of the bands. Howard Egglestone judged, placing the bands in the following order:-

1st Oxford; 2nd Reading; 3rd High Wycombe

Fortunately the High Wycombe Band "peaked" just at the right time to take 3rd position in the eliminator at Bristol, thus qualifying for a place in the Final of the 12-bell contest at Newcastle. The Oxford band were placed 5th at Bristol, whilst Reading were 7th in their eliminator at Newport.

At the Guild A.G.M. an appeal was launched to raise £30,000 for the installation of a ring of bells at the new church at Downs Barn, Milton Keynes. Already donations are being received by the Guild Treasurer, and activities are taking place in the North Bucks Branch to raise funds. The Open Day held in the Milton Keynes area on 25th May proved very lucrative, as did the Guild Open Day in the Newbury Branch on 4th May. I would like to thank everyone involved in the organisation of these events. Both were extremely well planned, and the standard of stewarding in the towers was excellent. We have a full calendar of events in the Guild, and each takes a great deal of organising by members of the host Branch. It is good to see that support for many of these activities is increasing, and I hope this will continue to be the trend.

This promises to be a very busy year for Guild Officers and for all members of the Guild as we try to raise money for the Downs Barn Project, and as we celebrate the 450th Anniversary of the Diocese. The period of "special ringing" from 11th July to the 15th August should provide plenty of opportunity for learners to ring their first quarter peals, and for quarter peals to be rung in towers where the bells are mostly silent. I hope every member of the Guild will be involved in these celebrations in some way.

BRANCH SECRETARIES:

Firstly may I remind you that I have a supply of First Quarter Peal Certificates.

Secondly, thank you all for sending me details of your Branch activities and your newsletters. I value these greatly as a source of information so I can keep abreast of what is happening in the Guild. Some are still being forwarded from my old address, so please amend your records.

Patricia Newton

oo

STOP PRESS ! The Master's address has been corrected to:-

The White House, Plowden Park, Aston Rowant, Watlington, Oxon OX9 5SX
Telephone (0844) 352926

oooooo FROM THE DEPUTY MASTER oooooo

The hosts for this year's 8- Bell Striking Contest were the Newbury Branch. Entries were down slightly with only 8 teams competing. Perhaps the choice of method (Little Bob) was to blame for this. There was no need for heats so everyone converged on Newbury for the contest. Soon after 5.00p.m. the first team was underway and with the warm sunshine it made a pleasant evening as the ringing progressed.

The judges this year were Pam and Ted Copson from Wellesbourne. Two teams unfortunately suffered mishaps. High Wycombe had the misfortune of a rope slipping the wheel which upset their ringing but they still managed to finish the test piece, and Old North Berks failed to finish the touch so were disqualified.

RESULTS:-	1st Newbury Branch	115 faults
	2nd. Chiltern Branch	118 faults
	3rd. E.B.S.B. Branch	119 faults
	4th. S.Mary's, Reading	123 faults
	5th. Tilehurst	140 faults
	6th. North Bucks Branch	158 faults
	7th. High Wycombe	175 faults

NEWBURY TEAM:- Diana Bridle, Martin Rice, Mike Till, John Durham, Nicholas Clarke, William Butler, Howard Egglestone, & Peter Bridle.

Mr Ted Peatt then presented the cup to Howard Egglestone, conductor of the Newbury Branch team.

For the Guilds first 10-Bell Contest the venue was Abingdon and was judged by Andrew Stubbs and Quinton Armitage from Birmingham.

The first of the six teams started at 11.00a.m. and everything went smoothly with all the teams keeping to the 20 minutes allowed. The test piece was 252 Grandsire Caters and all the teams put up a very creditable performance. Andrew Stubbs then gave comments on all the teams and congratulated the Guild on staging a 10-Bell Contest.

RESULTS:-	1st E.B.S.B. Branch	63 faults
	2nd Reading Branch	80 faults
	3rd Old North Berks Branch	94 faults
	4th North Bucks Branch	113 faults
	5th Sonning Deanery	149 faults
	6th Chiltern Branch	170 faults

E.B.S.B. TEAM:- Graham Firman, David Moore, Robert Newton, Patricia Newton, Peter Bruce, Rex Agg, Sheila Bruce, Stephen Wheeler, Ann Davies, Clare Edwards.

The newcup donated to the Guild by Ted Peatt was then presented to Graham Firman the conductor of the E.B.S.B. team at the A.G.M.

I would like to thank all concerned at Newbury and Abingdon for making all the local arrangements etc. Please remember the 10-Bell contest is to be run on the same lines next year. If you have any comments then please let me know.

Graham Clifton

xxxxxx B E L L F U N D xxxxxx
SPONSORED RINGING - February 1992

The sponsored Ringing, which is arranged for each Leap Year, was very successful. The total raised to date is £2,892.95 as detailed in the following list.

BRANCH	£ . p	Ringing Members	Amount per Member
Chiltern	504.00	97	5.20
Chipping Norton	455.35	74	6.15
East Berks & South Bucks	387.67	313	1.24
Newbury	182.17	119	1.53
North Bucks	180.59	205	.88
Old North Berks	61.45	216	.28
Oxford City	41.00	100	.41
Reading	690.72	188	3.67
Sonning Deanery	100.00	170	.59
Vale of White Horse	290.00	36	8.06
TOTAL	2892.95		

At the Annual Meeting, the shield for the branch which raised the most per member was awarded to the Chipping Norton Branch.

Following the Meeting, the results were challenged. Upon examination it was clear that an error had been made and that the shield should have been awarded to the Vale of White Horse Branch.

The Chairman of the Bell Fund Trustees has contacted both Branches to apologise for the error and to arrange for the transfer of the shield to the Vale of White Horse Branch.

Brian Gatward
Honorary Treasurer

RESULTS OF THE RINGING DAY HELD ON 4 MAY 1992

The day was fine resulting in many ringers and friends taking the opportunity to visit the towers which were available. A summary of the latest position follows.

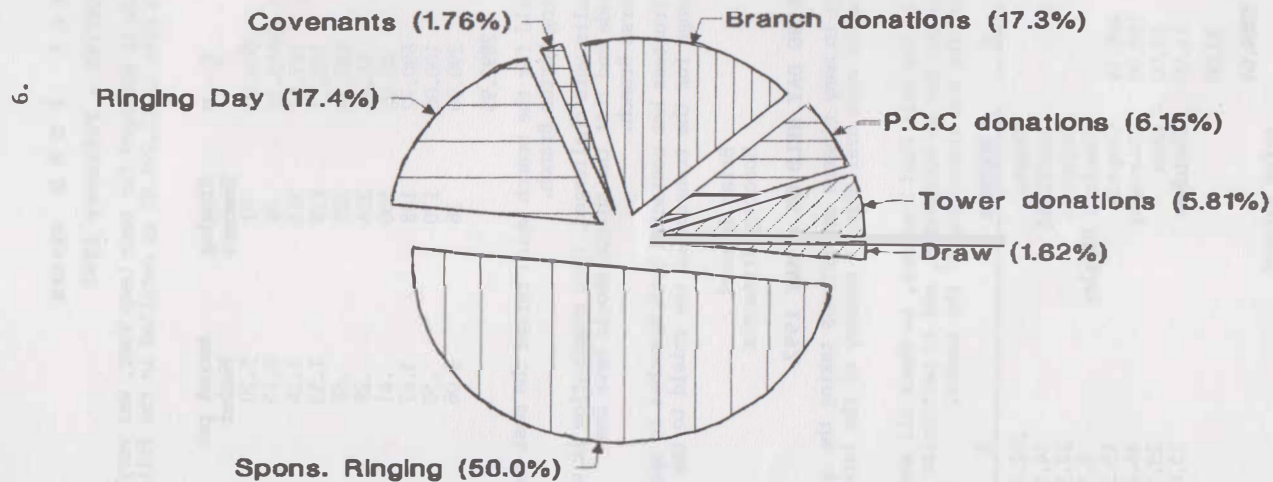
I would like, on behalf of the Bell Fund Trustees, to thank all who participated in any way to make the day so successful, and in particular those who helped with the organising and stewarding of the towers.

ROUTE A	£	ROUTE B	£
P.Bodenham Re:		Theale	262.00
Beenham, Midgeham, East		Bradfield	14.50
Ilstley, Yattendon,		Brimpton	12.50
Peasemore, Farnborough,		Stanford Dingley	8.50
East Garston, Hungerford	469.14	Compton	15.50
Beedon	110.00	Chieveley	14.00
Kintbury	19.00	Shaw	23.50
Speen	11.00	Thatcham	15.00
Day Tickets	30.00		
OVERALL TOTAL	1004.64		

Brian Gatward
Honorary Treasurer

BELL FUND - MONEY RAISED 1 January to 31 May 1992
Analysed by source of income

Total to date 5787.16



FROM THE PEAL SECRETARY

I would like to thank all the conductors who have sent in their peal fees for 1991. All have paid up now. The peal fees for 1992 are coming in very well and if the peals continue to be rung compared to the first quarter of the year we should have over the 400 mark.

In the Guild Annual Report I wish to apologise to Robert Newton. On page 9 under personal achievements, I said he had rung 1000 handbell peals. This should read 1,000 tower bell peals.

I wish to point out that the Peal Records additions for 1990 were not sent in by me.

Elizabeth Strucket
Peal Secretary

Another apology to Robert Newton (or was it foresight?)

In the March ODD BOB I too credited him with a 1000 Handbell Peals when he had not done so. My apologies for doing so. M.R.C.

ANOTHER CORRECTION:-

28 Imperial Court,
Henley on Thames,
Oxfordshire.
20th March 1992

I refer to ODD BOB of March 1992 Issue 34 page 30 in regard to the League Table of Towers with most Peals in the ODG.

In that listing it shows Henley on Thames with a credit of 271 peals and cites the Rev. Felstead as the originator. Now I knew this to be incorrect, for I am in the middle of researching the history of Henley on Thames Bell Tower, and Canon Felstead had already provided me with the total list of 38 peals.

Nevertheless I have written again to the Canon to double check the two figures and he confirms as follows:

Henley on Thames	38
Henley in Arden	6 (which I had suggested to him!)
Henley, Suffolk	271

He has never suggested that Henley on Thames had achieved 271, and somehow "on Thames" has been added to the wrong Henley. So I suggest that in the next issue we delete the offending entry, although it would have been nice to have found it to be correct.

Sincerely,
Michael J. Morley

Guild A.G.M.

This year's AGM was held at Stanford-in-the-Vale on Saturday May 16th and was attended by 84 members. After the Service, conducted by the vicar of Stanford, Rev. Michael Wenham a very substantial tea was enjoyed before the meeting.

At last year's Annual General Meeting, Rev. Richard Thomas invited the Guild to consider ways in which it could join in with the general celebrations within the Diocese. This year's meeting, approved the plans which had been developed over the past year.

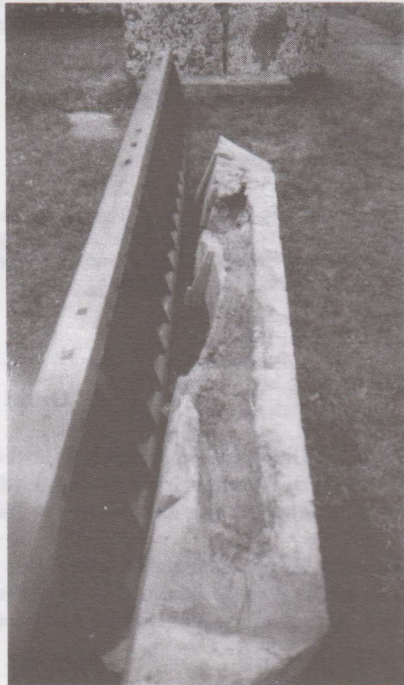
Firstly the Guild's Annual Festival will be held in Oxford on Saturday July 11th 1992 with a Festival Eucharist at the Cathedral at 11 am at which the Bishop of Buckingham will be the preacher. This event will mark the beginning of a month of celebratory ringing ending on August 14th, the anniversary of the appointment of the first Bishop of Oxford. During this month it is hoped that all the ringable peals of bells in the Diocese will be specially rung to peals or quarter peals to mark the anniversary. A full record of the ringing will be published in *The Ringing World* in October.

Secondly, the Guild is mounting a special project to mark the anniversary. This project aims to ensure that the bells of The Cross and Stable Church at Downs Barn in Milton Keynes are installed and ringing before the end of 1993. Further details of the project will be published shortly.

There were no changes in the main Guild officers this year except that Giles Blundell stepped down as a Guild Steward and was replaced by John Martin. However a new appointment was made with the creation of the post of Guild Public Relations Officer to which Stephen Rossiter of Reading was elected.

John Wells
Hon. General Secretary.

Beam removed from
Uffington Tower
showing the rotten
state of the timber.



REPORT ON THE 1992 BEST KEPT TOWERS COMPETITION

During the latter part of 1991, members of the Guild Towers and Belfries Committee busied themselves with Judging in the first round of this event. By the early part of 1992, the assessors had prepared a list of five towers who entered the second and final round. Judging this second round took place on Saturday, 4th April 1992, and was undertaken by Richard Stevens, Andrew King and Bernard Stone. It should be said here and now that a very high standard was found in all towers visited.

For the record, the Judges made their decision as follows:-

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------|
| 1st - Chalfont St.Giles | (83.3%) |
| 2nd - Steeple Aston | (82.3%) |
| 3rd - Tilehurst | (79.6%) |
| 4th - Thatcham | (77.4%) |
| 5th - Wokingham St.Paul | (74.8%) |

I have also been requested to inform the runners-up as to why they failed. I do not consider they did fail - it is the extra effort made by the winners which secured their victory. I would advise anyone interested in steeple-keeping to visit Chalfont St.Giles and see how they have overcome the difficulties presented to them.

Also by way of information, the judges created a score sheet for the final round which had twenty item headings, each carrying a maximum score of five points. Marks were therefore, in percentage terms. Finally, the marks were amalgamated and divided by three, giving the marks above. The item headings for the final round were:-

1. Tower access - Ringing information
2. Room(s) - Tidiness
3. Ringing Room - Lighting
4. Ringing Room - Notice Board
5. Ringing Room - First Aid Kit
6. Belfry - Lighting
7. Belfry - Louvres
8. Bells - Wheels
9. Bells - Ropes
10. Bells - Pulleys
11. Bells - Stays
12. Bells - Sliders
13. Bells - Headstocks
14. Bells - Clappers
15. Bells - Gudgeons
16. Bells - Bellframe
17. Stairs - Lighting
18. Stairs - Treads
19. Fire Precautions
20. General Decor

June 2nd 1992

R.C.Stevens
Chairman - Towers and Belfries Committee

CUDDESDON '92 - by Rob Needham

On the 20th to 22nd of March I attended the ODG's weekend training course at Cuddesdon, a lovely village five miles East of Oxford. This report is my personal view of the course. I enjoyed it more than the Easthampstead course which I attended last October because the event was smaller and everything seemed more relaxed. Others may disagree.

The course was based in the Toc-H Conference Centre, a fairly modern purpose-built building set in peaceful grounds. I arrived on Friday evening after a week's hard work and was shown my room by the course organiser, Tina Ruff. My room had a beautiful view over the fresh green of the oval lawn to a clump of silver birch and a small magnolia tree just starting to bud. My spirits lifted and I knew I was going to enjoy this course.

Tina briefly introduced the course with a welcome absence of formality, and then the students got to know each other over dinner. The floor-to-ceiling dining room windows looked out across a large, gently undulating back lawn to the low, solid tower of Cuddesdon church with its cockerel weather vane on top. I felt that a partridge bobbing about on the lawn was all that was needed to make the scene a perfect example of the gentle English landscape. Funnily enough at Sunday Elevenses, in bright sunshine, this idea came true.

After dinner each group of about six students introduced themselves to each other and their tutor. I was in the group called 'Plain Hunt and beyond'; we wondered if it should be retitled 'Plain Hunt and beyond tenor' in case we failed to turn the corner properly on the way down to lead! We then piled into cars and followed each other on a circuitous drive in the dark to Madderham church in Bucks. We all did a little ringing of rounds during the hour allotted, and the tutors evaluated our ringing ability. Afterwards I joined two other members of our group, Heather Turner and Michael Morley, for a pleasant evening's drink in front of the fire of the local pub. And we found our way back to base without getting lost!

My bedroom had struck me as a little spartan when I first saw it, but I soon discovered that Toc-H had concentrated on all the right things in my view. The mattress was firm and flat, the sheets were crisp cotton rather than the shiny nylon so beloved by guest houses, and the pillows were soft and passive, unlike the foam ones that fight back. This, and the quietness of the countryside, allowed me, a shallow sleeper, to wake next morning unaware of the violent hailstorm that beat against the windows during the night.

The grass was wet and the air fresh and sparkling bright as we set out on Saturday morning for Chalgrove church, the first of four that day. In each of the churches (all 6 bell towers) we practiced things on the outer edge of our individual abilities, with our tutor, John White, patiently and quietly giving us advice. There were always some experienced ringers with us, to whom we were most grateful. In particular I must mention Jane Davy who rang all day in pain from a damaged shoulder; I do hope her selflessness has not done any lasting harm to her shoulder.

Our next church was in Iffley village on the outskirts of Oxford. The church has some lovely Norman arches, which looked better for the recent cleaning of the stonework, and the spacious tower was in the middle of the church. The unusual ringing chamber had a thick wooden pillar in the middle of the room. The ropes had been cunningly positioned such that the only positions that could not see each other were numbers three and six. The bells went easily and my attempts at ringing inside to Bob Doubles improved.

We had a very pleasant lunch at The Tree, a short walk from Iffley Church and we then drove to Horspath church in a little village just East of Oxford. The bells were easier to ring than they first seemed, and I was very pleased when I managed to complete a touch of Bob Doubles on bell two. Some of our morning helpers had left us, but we were joined by fresh helpers including John White's parents.

I was beginning to wilt as we drove the short distance to Wheatley, our last church of the day. It was an upstairs ring and the ropes had a long draught. The bellframe is probably bolted directly to the ringing chamber ceiling because loud rumbling noises all but drowned the sound of the deeper bells. The treble bell was very strident, and the total effect was rather disappointing. Luckily, outside the church the bells sounded a lot better.

Tina had organised some entertainments afterdinner: a small group rang methods on handbells, a larger group rang tunes on handbells, John Harrison had brought along his bell-ringing simulator and Mike Till his computer. Afterwards everyone could have a go at whichever event took their fancy.

Sunday morning saw all students reorganised into three groups of roughly equal ability, and each group rang at two local churches before their services. The bells at both my group's churches had long draughts and were difficult to ring well. Marie Cross, our group leader, assured us this was a good thing because the bells to be used for the striking competition in the afternoon would seem easy in comparison.

Between elevenses and lunch at Cuddesdon, Pat Newton gave us some useful tips on better striking and how to mark a striking competition. We attempted to put all this into practice at Garsington church after lunch. The church is well placed for a striking competition; it stands apart from the body of the village on a low hill which gives a grand view of Oxford. Two unbiased ringers, Graham Clifton the Deputy Master and Robin Hall, who had not so far been involved with the course, turned up to judge the competition. They sat on a bench in the churchyard and marked all three groups while students marked the two groups they were not in. This little competition certainly sharpened our attention to our striking and I am sure the best group won!

So we were at the end of a very pleasant weekend. Good company, good food, good organisation, plenty of ringing practice and not much theory. Perfect! I was sorry to leave, I felt the course was real value for the money and am now building on what I learnt that weekend.

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Editor's Note:- Rod's group came first!

[illegible]

CUDDESDON '92 - BELL MAINTENANCE

The Cuddesdon course started on Friday evening, 20 March, with dinner, introductory talks and convincing others that Emberton (North Bucks) was part of the Diocese. Ringing followed at Haddenham.

On the Saturday morning the six course attenders for the bell maintenance section met three instructors at Whites of Appleton.

Whites' workshops bristled with bells (27 I think, with more due in on the Monday) and we spent some time examining various components including bearings, wheels, clappers and pulley blocks. We saw their metal-working area, carpentry shop and tuning room where we had a demonstration using a handbell.

We then headed for Sunningwell and its six bells in a timber frame where maintenance had been deliberately left to give us something to do.

We descended onto (or should it be ascended to) the bellframe and after some hesitancy got stuck in to checking all nuts and fixings, ropes, pulleys, clappers, stays, etc.. One possible problem was known about - the tenor was knocking. The rope was detached, the clapper tied, the bell swung and the knock reproduced. However it took some time to discover the cause which was a slight movement between headstock and bell. More tightening and the problem was solved.

A quick ring of rounds and we adjourned to a hostelry (surprisingly large for the size of the village) where we had a leisurely lunch.

Next we went to Hampstead Norreys which has 6 bells in a timber bellframe set diagonally in the tower.

Whilst waiting for the tower captain we tried short splicing with varying degrees of success.

The climb into the belfry was distinctly hairy since you went straight onto the top of the bellframe over an old floor.

No hesitation this time and we all set to like experts. Since the maintenance had been left for considerably longer than Sunningwell there was lots to do. There was much tightening of nuts, bearings were greased, the length of the new set of ropes adjusted and the set of the fifth increased at the request of the tower captain.

A cup of tea, rounds and farewells followed and we returned to Cuddesdon.

The evening was spent perfecting long splices, and enjoying ourselves with handbells and a simulator.

Sunday comprised service ringing at two churches, hints on good striking and striking competitions. After lunch the three bands from the morning ringing session held a striking competition.

I thought the course was first class. We learnt a lot in a pleasant, sociable atmosphere and had a most enjoyable weekend. The maintenance section progressively gave information and allowed you to build your confidence in real situations.

Thankyou to all involved in the organisation and to my fellow course attenders.

Andrew Lewis - Emberton

XXXXXX YOUNG CHORISTER RINGERS XXXXXX

No doubt many Guild members will have read the July copy of "THE DOOR" and seen the photograph of Sutton Courtenay Choir in the article written by the Secretary of the Archbishops Commission on Church Music.

At the present time seven junior members and two adult members of the choir are ringers. Juniors are encouraged by their choirmaster to become ringers and John Napper, Tower Captain and Chorister devotes much time to those who decide to do so. They practice from 7.00 - 7.45pm on Mondays before the adult practice and also time is given to them on Saturday mornings. They are encouraged to call "Call Changes" and in due course to be responsible for saying "Go" and "That's all" for change ringing and then to call the Bobs.

On National Music Day, June 28th they had a very full day. Ringing was part of the musical activities at Sutton Courtenay Church starting early in the day and continuing on and off as requested until the late afternoon. Anthems by the choir, organ music and one boy played solo at a concert in addition to taking part in the Junior Band. At least four members of the choir also rang in a Quarter Peal! For the two youngest it was their first quarter and they told the writer with great pride of their accomplishment which was justified in view of the heavy schedule they had undertaken.

Sutton Courtenay, Oxon. 28.6.92 1260 Grandsire Doubles; Keith McKenzie (12) Treble, Alice Auckland 2, Adam Jenkins (16 C) 3, Mark Webb 4, John Napper 5, Paul Bennett (14) 6.

First Quarter by Treble and Tenor.

M.R.C.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXX THE BELL RINGERS' GLEE XXXXXX

1. We country clodhoppers are you must know,
Ringers and Singers and Fiddlers also;
At weddings and wakes have a merry peal then,
One, two, three four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten,
One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten.
At Christmas, near midnight, a peal we begin,
The old year ring out, and the new year ring in;
Then with the handbells we jingle again
One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten.
One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten.
2. We country clodhoppers often sing psalms.
Till our good vicar complains of the qualms;
At church time on Sundays we sweetly chime then
One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten,
One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten.
At Christmas, our carols we merrily sing,
Or catches and glees till we make the house ring;
Then with the handbells we jingle again
One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten,
One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten.

From "The Pocket Glee Book" arranged for soprano, contralto and bass by J. Spencer Curwen.

Pre 1939 date not given

Published by J. Curwen and Sons Ltd. London



YOUTH WEEKEND 1992
Students and resident helpers outside the Eton Dorney Centre



GUILD HANDBELL DAY 1992
"CONCENTRATION"

ooooo T H I R D T I M E L U C K Y ? ooooo

Fourteen junior ringers and five adults met at Eton Dorney Centre, near Windsor, on Friday 3rd April for the third O.D.G. Youth Weekend. For most of the youngsters it was their first experience of such a course. After dinner at the Centre and ringing at Dorney church, initial nerves were overcome and the volume of chatter increased as we got to know our new friends.

On the Saturday the children were divided into two groups according to their ringing abilities, with one group concentrating on Plain Hunt, Plain Bob and Grandsire Doubles, and the other ringing from Plain Bob Minor to Cambridge Royal. With good rings of bells and experienced helpers, the students showed a great deal of improvement during the day. One girl (who had been taught by the Director of The Ringing World) experienced an extra unusual event when the clapper fell out of the bell she was ringing. Fortunately the Deputy Editor of the Ringing World was standing by to help her.

Cliff and Angela Blundell, from Burnham, kindly brought three octaves of handbells to the Centre that evening. After an hour's practice, the music produced by the youngsters sounded quite professional, and all agreed that it had been a very enjoyable and worthwhile evening.

The Balcony at Dorney Church had been reserved for our use during Sunday Morning Service. We wondered whether the parishioners expected this group of teenagers to be noisy and disruptive, but, as during the rest of the weekend, the behaviour of the youngsters was impeccable.

Having stayed at Youth Hostels for previous Youth Weekends, those who had been before definitely approved of the choice of venue for this third course. The food and the facilities at the Eton Dorney Centre were excellent, and the fine weather helped to contribute to the success of the weekend.

Finally many thanks to the ringers at local towers for allowing us to use their bells, to all helpers who came on the Saturday and for the weekend, and also to the parents of the students for allowing their children to attend the course.

Patricia Newton

xxxxxxx A D V A N C E N O T I C E xxxxxxxx
 THE FOURTH O.D.G. YOUTH WEEKEND WILL BE HELD AT THE
 ETON DORNEY CENTRE
 ON
 2nd - 4th April 1993

UNDER-18 STRIKING COMPETITION

STOP PRESS

RESULTS:-

- | | |
|-----|--------------------|
| 1st | High Wycombe |
| 2nd | Oxford City Branch |
| 3rd | North Bucks Branch |
| 4th | Bloxham 'A' |
| 5th | Bloxham 'B' |

----- ISLIP BELLS -----

Following the open weekend it was arranged to transport the bells from Islip Church to Whites of Appleton to have the canons removed and the crown staples drilled out. So with the help of Peter Francklin, Phil Sampson of Kidlington and Mr Brian Kerman of Mill Farm Islip with his forklift truck the bells were loaded on to Mr Ken Mander's lorry and delivered to White's workshop.

From White's they have been to Whitechapel for retuning and I understand from Brian White the new headstocks should be ready in the beginning of June.

We have had a massive clean up in the bell chamber and the frame is ready for repainting. This will be done over the next few weeks, ready for Mr Vivian White to come and do the structural work inside the tower.

W.Haynes



Miss Teresa Haynes and Mr Terry Hester removing the old 1859 headstock at Islip

IN MEMORIAM

BERTAM J. COGGINS 1915 - 1992 Witney

John Coggins was born on 23 February 1915 at Upper Swell, Gloucestershire. He started ringing when he was 17 at Brize Norton, Oxon and joined the Oxford Diocesan Guild in 1934, remaining an active member for the rest of his life. He married in 1939 and settled in Witney. He served during the Second World War but returned to ringing and rang his first peal at Northmoor on 9 June 1948. Since then he rang a total of 221 peals, all but a few in Oxfordshire churches. The last was Plain Bob Major in his home tower (Witney) on 18 January this year.

John joined the Witney ringing Society on its revival in July 1950, became Deputy Ringing Master five years later and Master on 7th January 1960. That position he held for the next 30 years.

John and his wife Joyce took an active part in the life of St. Mary's Witney and the social activities of the local community all their married life. Joyce died in 1989. John continued to ring and took an active part helping others to do so whether it be at his own practice or helping on a course, be it London Surprise Minor or Plain Hunt; his quiet presence bringing support not only to students but also to the leader. He also served on the Guild Committee for a number of years as a representative of the Witney and Woodstock Branch and played an active part in the activities of that Branch. He was an excellent ringer and his gentleness and humour will be missed by all who knew him.

Shortly after his funeral, on 29 April, a half-muffled quarter peal of 1260 Grandsire Triples was rung - as he had requested - by the following:-

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 1 W.H. Clarke | 5 A.R. Cornish |
| 2 Christine Putt | 6 D.K. Adkins |
| 3 M.J. Rossiter | 7 T.J. Hester (C) |
| 4 B. Coggins | 8 R.P. Clarke |

In memory of Bertam John Coggins, a ringer at St. Mary's Witney for over 50 years and formerly tower captain for 30 years.

James H. Green 1918 -1992 Yarnton

Apart from his time in the army, Jim Green lived all his life in Yarnton where he held a variety of jobs, his last being a forecourt attendant at the local garage. He joined the Oxford Diocesan Guild in 1933 and became tower captain at Yarnton after the II World War - he is recorded as such in the Report of 1948. This office he held until just after the bells were restored in 1988-89. He kept Yarnton bells going for upwards of 50 years. He met his wife Jean through bellringing and it was almost entirely due to their joint efforts that £22,000 was raised to retune and rehang the heavy going 22cwt ring of six.

The church was filled to capacity for his funeral, the half muffled bells being rung before and after the service. On the following Saturday, after the interment of the ashes, a quarter - peal was rung by ringers, five of whom reside in the parish. He leaves a widow, Jean, two daughters and six grandchildren.

B.R.W.

YARNTON, OXON. 11 April 1992 1260 Grandsire Doubles: E. Patching 1, Judith M. Passant 2, B.R. White (C) 3, B. Hall 4, J. Simms 5, G. Bennett 6. Rung Half-muffled in memory of James Henry Green.

Ernest Edward Gosling 1906 - 1992 All Saints, Boyne Hill, Maidenhead

Ernest Gosling is known to many of the Oxford Guild for the beautifully written Striking Competition Certificates he produced for a number of years. His death on 8th June in hospital was a shock to those who knew him person-

ally. He learned to ring at Old Windsor under the direction of William Well-
ing. He joined the Oxford Diocesan Guild in 1922 and rang his first peal
Grandsire Triples)that year at the age of 16. He rang his last peal not so
long ago. His total peals are thought to be about 70 but he was not one to boast
of his achievements.

A good all- round ringer, he most enjoyed good surprise method ringing - a
good striker and reliable, he abhorred slovenly ringing and bad striking, but
at the same time was always willing to help learners by ringing rounds and
in their early stages of change-ringing. Likewise he detested those advanced
ringers who would never help learners at whatever stage of their career but
who just pursued their selfish interests.

Ernest joined the band at All Saints' in late 1946 when taking up a manager-
ial post in the town, and quickly became absorbed in the tower's activities,
ringing his first peal there in 1947. He took on the foremanship of the tower
in 1951 and held the office until 1979/80, giving his time , talents and
advice unstintingly as well as giving good sound leadership. He was rarely
absent from ringing, both on Sundays and practice nights during 45 years of
membership at Boyne Hill.

Histalents lay in other directions as well. One has only to observe the
"Sunday Cards" on the hymn boards to realise how gifted he was in pictorial
letter-writing. In the Belfry of All Saints there is a treasured Peal Record
Book - each peal (from the first in 1882) individually and elaborately
executed in beautiful, colourful, artistic lettering - all drawn and written
in his own inimitable style. It will be a permanent reminder of his long and
faithful service in the East Berks and South Bucks Branch of the Oxford
Diocesan Guild.

Some years ago, Ernest constructed a scale model of the church for the Flower
Festival - it then did and still does, attract much interest and admiration.
In all things he strove for perfection; neat and tidy in appearance and
thorough in everything he attempted. He passed the Advanced Motorists Driving
Test many years ago. He was a member since 1975 of the Ancient Society of
College Youths and had belonged to the Oxford Diocesan Guild for 70 years -
fact a loyal and industrious member who set a good example of service.

G.L.

(from The Ringing World)

And some there be of them, which have no memorial: who perished as though
they had never been;.....

But these were merciful men, whose righteousness hath not been forgotten .

With their seed shall continually remain a good inheritance.....

Their bodies are buried in peace: but their names liveth for evermore.

The people will tell of their wisdom, and the congregation will show forth
their praise.

----- Ecclesiasticus 44 vv 9 -15

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

The Central Council - Peterborough 1992

You may have seen the open letter to Central Council Representatives from 'Ringers Everywhere' in the Ringing World on 22nd May. It was still in my mind as I arrived in Peterborough after a hasty morning trying to sort out the garden, and a very pleasant country journey missing most of the traffic. Would I spend my time as gainfully as the anonymous letter urged me to? Would I be guilty of having a 'jolly'?

The weekend builds up towards Tuesday's meeting, so there is plenty of time to talk to people and swap ideas, even into the small hours when the discussion gets intense. There was a continual supply of new people to talk to.

Sunday began with service ringing at two churches in Peterborough, one new, (a couple of months), and the other old, (a lovely sound, but a bit of a handful). Walking the mile and a half into town along the river bank made a pleasant change from my normal Sunday walk to Church. We also rang for the afternoon Cathedral service.

On Sunday evening we were 'entertained'. No doubt when you read this, you will have heard tales of the gestapo plot to win the twelve bell contest and the valiant attempts of the French resistance, disguised as College Youths, to thwart them. An enjoyable evening, even for those in the audience who were mentioned in the plot!

Monday saw several outings, but with a non ringing wife, I only partook in moderation. Oakham was easily the most splendid, and the food in the pub opposite was pretty good too. For most of the morning one of the ringing cannons gave guided tour of the Cathedral, liberally laced with history and wit.

The Open Meeting

I deposited Anne at the station, and the serious business began with the Open Meeting. Anyone can attend, though most in the packed room were Council members. The speakers described their work on the Council for the Care of Churches' code of practice for the Conservation, Installation and Repair of Bells and Bell frames.

Dr Thomas Cope spoke as a CCC 'business manager'. He recently took over work on the Code. The CCC has a balanced mixture of laymen and professionals, clergy and laity. It achieves most by seeking consensus between many differing interests. Inevitably, it gets shot at from all sides. Its remit covers aesthetics, art and architecture and more practical matters. Its dozen staff cater for sixteen and a half thousand churches. About 20p per year from each of us funds the CCC's work.

The CCC's main outputs are publications read by churchwardens, professionals and others. The 'code', is one of these. Every year the CCC runs a conference, and next year's, in Exeter will focus on bellringing. Does anyone know who gets invited on these conferences? If so, let someone know so the necessary lobbying can be done.

Dr Cope updated us on the latest developments on the code. He and Dr John Baldwin, the Central Council's member of the working party, had spent several hours

improving the wording. Both felt they had made significant improvements. When these are approved, the revised draft will be available for comment. The code is advisory. It provides principles to be interpreted in the context of particular cases.

John Baldwin spoke of the poor timing, and faults in the wording which did not even contain all agreed changes. The predictable result was an outcry. Some of the objections even seemed to have been made without the benefit of actually studying the text. Paranoia about conservationists did not help.

The Key Issues

He summarised the concerns expressed by the Exercise. The code must reflect the *raison d'être* of the living Church whose bells are there to make a public statement. He quoted a clause from another similar measure "...to have due regard for the Church as a local centre for worship". There should be a clearly stated overall **strategy** with the aim of preserving the best of what we have inherited from the past while ensuring we pass on to the future the best that we can. Should we preserve everything or representative samples, and who pays? (In the absence of such a strategy, English Heritage tend to adopt the cautious **tactic** of preserving everything).

The prominence given to English Heritage in the draft wording is inappropriate. It is only one of the fund giving bodies, and a code of practice should not describe the constraints which may be attached to funds. John ended by asking everyone to **read carefully** what the next version said, to listen to different views and to remember that most cases affected do not involve rings of bells, but small numbers or single bells.

Alan Hughes of Whitechapel expressed sadness at ringers reactions to the draft, and also that English Heritage was not at the meeting. He this draft had improved enormously, as had the process of producing it. Two years hard slog had found significant middle ground with all sides giving a bit. 'The trade' has given guarded approval to the code. It gives them a 'level playing field' on which to compete.

His biggest concern was retuning. He felt the words were a fudge and would change after some years experience. He was concerned about what 'proper documentation' would mean. He felt we did not yet have the skills and knowledge to undertake extensive repair of very old bell frames. He was concerned that the inevitable pressure to move away from standard solutions, with wider consultation, would put up the cost and complexity of projects. He concluded by reminding us that ultimate interpretation rests with Diocesan Bell advisors whose skills, prejudices and consistency vary widely. As for English Heritage, its influence would increase anyway, regardless of the code, by virtue of the power and money which it could wield.

The debate from the floor was brisk, with opinions from optimistic to defensive, all well argued with surprisingly little bitterness. Gordon Halls made a compelling case that restoration should always aim for a 'first class job'. He quoted examples where conservation pressure had led to 'botches, and asked why public money should pay for a second class job which costs more than a first class job. Barry Peachy and Phillip Corby both questioned the legality of some of the influence which English Heritage is

bringing to bear on PCCs. Alan Frost concluded the discussion by declaring himself 'an optimist' who felt the two sides of the argument were not incompatible.

'As the Bishop said to the Mayor'

From the serious to the light hearted, we rushed off to a civic reception. As I shook hands, I quipped to the Mayor that he must get tired of doing so, only to discover he'd been in the job for just a week. In fact, after a day of civic euphoria over the triumphant return of Peterborough Football Club, he must have found us pretty tame. The suffragan Bishop gave us an interesting account of how he came to be the Bishop of Brixworth, (a splendid Saxon Church we visited on the Saturday, unaware it had a Bishop). Half of us, in an outer hall, could not hear the speeches, but we could hear their (delayed) laughter. I always try to sit with different people. Choosing an empty seat more or less at random, I found myself between an ex Newzealander from Somerset and Norman Chaddock whom I last met when he invited me into a peal of Double Norwich Caters 27 years ago. It's a small world!

The Council Meeting

Thankfully the theatre was air conditioned. The first motion was to broaden the terms of the Public Relations committee to be more pro-active in projecting the image of ringing and the Central Council as its representative body to a wider public. Their vision includes being recognised by ministers. Ambitious, maybe, but with recent achievements on television under their belt, they are to be encouraged.

The motion on methods extension has come in for a lot of bad press, but the methods committee has spent the last few years plugging away at the difficult task of tidying up the rag bag of historic decisions on method extension and trying to build on them a set of rules which will reduce the scope for disagreement and conform to some extent with 'common sense'. It is a difficult and misunderstood task.

Aware of the bar room moaning, Tony Smith, its chairman gave a very clear and well reasoned case for the motion. Their aim is to make small, safe steps rather than be revolutionary. The changes were mainly to correct anomalies in the present rules. In stead of a stream of nit picking arguments, the sort of thing which gets the Council a bad press, we were then presented with a counter motion eloquently argued by Steve Coleman to abolish all the rules! After a few impassioned supporters for this argument-free utopia had had their say, others reminded us that rules had been brought in in 1953 to reduce arguments over method naming, and to a fair extent they had succeeded. We need a sensible framework of rules, and if people are willing to undertake the work, it is silly to throw it away. The vote was overwhelmingly against throwing it away and the original motion went through almost on the nod.

The proposals to change the rules on representation have been revised to answer many of the criticisms of the earlier version. There is wide consensus that it is more important to get this issue right than to rush changes through. We agreed to publish the new version in the RW for wide comment. Assuming a more favourable response, the Council will be presented with a proposal to vote on next year.

The CCC code of practice and the increasing leverage of English Heritage in restoration decisions were further aired. The debate was more aggressive, perhaps because the other parties were present. It seems the worst problems are caused by a combination of English Heritage's over cautious approach to change and inexperienced local inspectors. There was strong feeling that the CC should support a test case. This would require a strong case and a PCC which will not lose its nerve when faced with legal costs. CC backing could be a deciding factor.

But can we avoid going to war? Some people spoke of successes by cooperation rather than confrontation, despite initial unreasonableness. We also heard that noise pollution cases continue to be threatened at the rate of one or two a year. This saga has a long way to run. We were all asked to pass on information of any churches with **problems**. This gives those tackling the problem nationally a better overview of what is happening on the ground, and could provide a lot of support to a PCC who would otherwise have to face the problem alone without the benefit of previous experience.

We discussed the fate of the CC Library, a very valuable collection of historic ringing books. With the sad death of the librarian, Bill Cook, it needs a new home. It is being moved to John Eisel's home as a stop gap while the Council sorts out a long term policy. Ideally it needs a more suitable site. Most of the remaining business was passed through with amazing alacrity, and we finished at a fairly respectable hour.

Meeting People

They say conferences achieve more in the informal chat than the meeting. In the letter I mentioned at the beginning, we were all enjoined to do just this. I discussed many things with many people, as I am sure my colleagues did too. Topics ranged from understanding the very different problems faced by churches in East Anglia to discussing Steve Coleman's experiences using video recorders in training. (This will feed straight into a course we are running in Sonning Deanery in October).

Perhaps the most thought provoking discussion was with Andrew Wilby on the benefits of Associations. He provocatively advanced the view that success depended on teams, rather than individuals. Since their rise a century ago, Associations have done much to cultivate an individualistic approach to ringing. (Individuals, not teams tend to go to branch meetings). He claimed some evidence that teams have declined as associations have grown. This may or may not be so. Does a Branch practice make the best use of available talent time and talent in furthering Sunday service ringing? The question has been asked before, but are there better ways we could use our experienced people's time to help strengthen local bands? Could we do more to reduce the awful wastage of recent recruits, and hence the wastage of all the hours spent teaching them? I could not find the answer to such fundamental questions in one weekend, but perhaps I gained some small insights which may help on the way.

John Harrison

***** COMRADES AFAR *****

No I don't mean Russia, nor the CIS, nor even overseas, because after all distance is relative. What I do mean by saying "Comrades Afar" is really about the opportunity for meeting people, making new friends and ringing somewhere else as well.

How many of us, particularly the novice, will say that they have never rung in any other tower either from circumstances or choice. Quite a lot I'm sure. Recently I even discovered a Tower Captain no less who had only rung once in his long life outside his own village. Nothing wrong with that for he was happy, but that does not satisfy us all.

What I really want to say is that when away from home territory there are often superb opportunities to visit other towers and see new faces. Ans so together with a map, a copy of Dove is indispensable.

It's definitely not Tower Grabbing. It's certainly about meeting people and making new friends. It's also about improving the ringing, but here come some facts to show that things are very different away from home, and away from the old ODG. Good ringing education!

In a nice 8-Bell tower I frequent in Yorkshire whilst away on business, Doubles and Triples are almost unknown words. It's Minor or it's Major. Cover bells make you lazy I am told!

Or for those of us brought up on the Calling Up method of Call Changing, to suddenly hear "Five Three". What was that?? Or to be reminded as a visitor that "our bells are down on hand stroke" (meaning no stays).

Or worse, the trauma of the first visit to the West Country, in Ringing Up in Peal when at three quarters up the Conductor starts to call "60 on thirds". That's wake up time!!

Back to the people, it really comes home to you in a tourist area, like the Lake District, when suddenly you find that you are one of the locals, one of them, not a "foreigner" or tourist, it's heart to heart talking in their Local, with their brand of Beer!

Or even much worse, when recently on a weekend visit I was expected to Absail down a 100ft Tower by and with the Vicar. Maybe home is safer, albeit less fun!!

So if in doubt whilst away from home just think about making new friends, and improving the Ringing as well. Get away from the TV and off to the local Tower. It's a great fellowship, but it might just take this sort of trip afar to really appreciate its strength and its comradeship.

And in case a Vicar does invite you to Absail down his Tower, do take the Vodka before leaping into space. Stolichaya of course. But do ring beforehand.

Michael Morley

SMV, Henley on Thames

March 1992

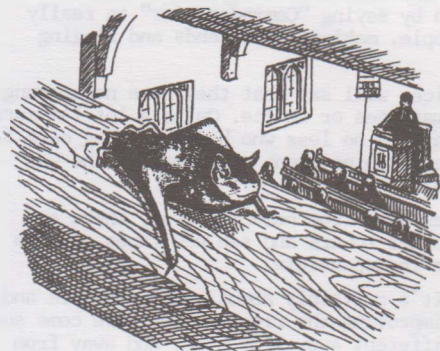
oooooo SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST PEAL oooooo

On 12th March 1932, Reginald Blaby and Arthur Newton both rang their first peal at Hughenden. On March 14th this year, Arthur, now 80, rang the Treble at the same tower to a peal of Plain Bob Major, in celebration of those 60 years. Unfortunately Reg is no longer able to ring but was pleased to hear that the peal was successful.

The peal also gave Arthur's brother Percy, now a sprightly 87, the opportunity to complete his eleventh circle of the tower. Rumour has it that only a couple of bells are needed for the next circuit, so watch this space!

Robert Newton.

----- BATS IN CHURCHES SURVEY -----



35, Epsom Crescent,
Greenham,
Newbury,
Berks RG14 7TR
1, July 1992

Dear Miss Cross,

I would like to beg a little space in ODD BOB to mention the Bats in Churches Survey.

All incumbents should have got, or will get in the near future the leaflet and questionnaire of which I enclose copies.

It would be a PR boost for ringers if we could help, so reminding the incumbents of the situation and assisting with tower inspections.

I can get more copies of the leaflet if needed and am happy to act as a post-box to save other ringers' postage. I will also try to help individual towers in any way I can.

Thank you,

Tony Woodville

COPY OF QUESTIONARE SENT TO INCUMBENTS

The National 'Bats in Churches' Survey



Name of incumbent:.....

Address of incumbent:.....

Postcode:.....

(Diocese of

For each church in your care please state:
Dedication of church Village/district

Do bats roost in
your church?
(Yes/No)

1.....
2.....
3.....
4.....

Are bats welcome in your church (Yes/No)

If not, please state reasons:.....

Please tick for more copies of the 'Bats in Churches' leaflet ☐

What Next with Simulators?

At the Education Committee meeting we discussed where we should go after the seminar on ringing simulators. That seminar aimed to show people what can be done and to remove the mystery. Most who attended seem to have gone away feeling very positive, but what happens next? How could we help people actually to use simulators, rather than just showing them what a good idea it would be?

Of course the ideal is for a tower to use its own simulator routinely as an extra component in teaching learners and to improve and polish the skills of all members. But this is a big step for most towers to take. Apart from the decision to invest in the machine, there is the all important need for commitment to carry though and use it effectively over a long period. How would people know whether it was worth it? Could we help in any way?

We felt the simulator had to be used for some real teaching and not just an interesting experience for a few experienced ringers. We felt to do this:

- The simulator must go to the ringers, not the other way round
- There must be a local drive, (which could be topped up with central help)

Given these conditions, real progress would be much more likely.

You can borrow one of the Central Council's simulators for several weeks, (or longer depending on the demand). But an individual tower may still find this a big step, and several towers could usefully work together. With a little coordination, the simulator could be used fairly intensively in one or a number of nearby towers. This could give perhaps a dozen 'learners' an hour a week each of solid use and allow many others to use it more briefly. Since there is no sound outside the tower, you could extend this with several hours each evening and lots of time at weekends.

The other benefits of a Branch effort, or at least with several towers working together and learning in parallel, would be that people could help each other and benefit from each other's experiences. The education committee could help you get your venture off the ground with ideas or practical help depending on your needs.

If you are interested, but missed the seminar, and would like to try a simulator yourself before taking the plunge, there are simulators in the Guild at Wokingham, Chalfont St Giles and Bloxham, (there could be more I don't know about).

If you feel confident to go it alone, Phil Gay (0782 750038) keeps the Central Council simulators, (but we would still like to know how you get on). If you are interested in making something happen in your area, but would like support or assistance of any kind, please ring me (0734 785520), or any member of the education committee.

John Harrison

----- OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD HANDBELL DAY -----

A hive of activity was to be seen at 94, Eastern Avenue, Reading on Holy Saturday (18th April) the venue for the Guild Handbell Day. The objective of the day was to provide an opportunity for the handbell ringers to ring quarter peals supported by more experienced ringers. To enable this to happen a minimum requirement of Plain Bob Major was set.

The smooth running of the day reflects the tremendous organisation put in by Helen McGregor. Experienced ringers volunteered to call and ring quarters, learners submitted their ideal requests and somehow out of this a timetable was produced with as many as four simultaneous quarters being rung at any time and provision for at least two practice groups. No excuse for any of the twenty six ringers attending to be idle.

To ensure the energies did not flag during the day an excellent lunch and tea were provided. Through which, needless to say, the vagaries of handbell ringing were discussed. Some of the group even found time to remember they also rang church bells and ensured the wedding at Henley was not forgotten.

A total of eighteen quarters were scheduled for the day, additional attempts were arranged as enthusiasm soared or, as in some cases just sheer determination to succeed. It is a credit to the many 'helpers' that so much could be achieved.

Thanks go to Helen McGregor and Peter Bevis who willingly their home to be overtaken by ringers and provided, with help from their friends, excellent hospitality. Thanks also go to the many owners of handbells who willingly lent them, without which the day could not have been successful.

HANDBELL QUARTER PEALS 18.4.92 - 94, Eastern Avenue, Reading

1312 KENT T.B.MAJOR

- 1 - 2 Paul Butler
- 3 - 4 Kevin Lovell
- 5 - 6 Giles Winter
- 7 - 8 Graham Firman (C)

1260 PLAIN BOB ROYAL

- 1 - 2 Jo Druce
- 3 - 4 June Winter
- 5 - 6 Philip Saddleton
- 7 - 8 Graham Firman (C)
- 9 - 10 June Saint

1264 PLAIN BOB MAJOR

- 1 - 2 Ralph Elmes *
- 3 - 4 Helen McGregor
- 5 - 6 John Wells (C)
- 7 - 8 Roy Smith **

* First away from Tenors
** First on eight

1344 KENT T.B. MAJOR

- 1 - 2 Sue Varley
- 3 - 4 Giles Winter
- 5 - 6 John White
- 7 - 8 John Wells (C)

1259 YORKSHIRE S. MAJOR

- 1 - 2 Jo Druce
- 3 - 4 Graham Firman

1335 STEDMAN CATERS

- 1 - 2 Patricia Newton
- 3 - 4 Graham Firman
- 5 - 6 Philip Saddleton (C)
- 7 - 8 Robert Newton
- 9 - 10 Simon Feather

1280 PLAIN BOB MAJOR

- 1 - 2 Peter Bevis
- 3 - 4 Jenny Carter 1st inside on 8
- 5 - 6 Philip Saddleton (C)
- 7 - 8 June Saint

1264 PLAIN BOB MAJOR

- 1 - 2 Hugh Collins
- 3 - 4 Kevin Lovell
- 5 - 6 Robert Newton (C)
- 7 - 8 Andrew Hodgson *

* First Quarter in hand

1344 PLAIN BOB MAJOR

- 1 - 2 Paul Butler
- 3 - 4 Helen McGregor
- 5 - 6 Stephen Rossiter (C)
- 7 - 8 Ralph Elmes

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

BANBURY BRANCH:-

At the Branch A.G.M. on 2nd May, fifteen new members were elected, including four from Hanwell where a new band has started up.

The following changes were made to the Branch officers:-

Chairman	Rev.G.Chard
Ringling Master	Alison Varney
Deputy Ringling Master	Alan Griffin
Auditor	David Roderick.

The Spring Bank Holiday weekend away was to the Colchester area. Many past and present North Oxfordshire ringers took part. We started at the light ten at Braintree on the Saturday morning and rang at Bocking, Colne Engaine, Earls Colne and Coggeshall, finishing at Colchester, Shrub End (4cwt,six) in the evening just in time to witness a spectacular thunderstorm.

We rang for Sunday morning service at Chelmsford Cathedral (excellent 34cwt twelve and then had time for sight seeing and a dip in the sea before ringing at Great Holland and Colchester St.Peter. After a great deal of excellent food and drink, the evening was rounded off with handbell ringing and singing.

On Monday we rang in the Malden area, doing some bird watching on the way to Tollesbury (7cwt.,ten with very difficult to hear trebles), Tolleshunt D'Arcy and Goldhanger. On the way home we rang the magnificent 38cwt twelve at Waltham Abbey.

It was a very successful and enjoyable weekend and our thanks go to Graham and Dorothy Clifton for arranging it all.

Sue Burchell

FORTHCOMING BRANCH EVENTS:-

- 6th August Aunt Sally and Barbecue with Chipping Norton Branch at The Pear Tree, Hook Norton.
- 26th Sept. Branch 6-Bell Striking Competition - Venue to be arranged.
- 30th August Cricket Match v Chipping Norton Branch at Great Tew

NOTE:- The list of Branch practices has been put at the end of the Diary of Events at the back of ODD BOB.

CHILTERN BRANCH:-

Branch bands were entered in both the recent eight and ten bell Guild Competitions. In the former, the band were placed second, beaten only by the home tower. Our certificates are gaining a certain monotony - on all five occasions that the Branch has made the top three in a Guild Competition it has been as runners-up. Perhaps one day we will win (or come third!). In the ten Bell Competition the band did not ring to the best of their ability and finished in the bottom spot, although the performance was creditable.

This month (June) we have to say a sad farewell to John and Anne Gill who have been strong supporters of Wendover tower, and taken a keen interest in the Branch since they moved from Jersey in 1979. We wish them well in their new home and every happiness in the future, Friends are welcome at their new address:-

John and Anne Gill,
Middle Common,
Kington Langley,
Chippenham, Wiltshire, SN15 5NW Tel (0249) 750324

John White

BICESTER BRANCH:-

Two main items have held the interest of members since the last report for Bicester. On 2nd. May several members and friends boarded the special train from Oxford to Peterborough, and a splendid time was had by all. Ringing was arranged at St.Mary's and St.John's, whilst others went on to Spalding to see the flowers.

The second item is a peal rung at Bicester on Saturday, 30th May 1992 prior to a special service marking the 25th Anniversary of the Vicar's ordination to the Priesthood. The Vicar, John Baggley was very pleased to have been honoured in this way. For the record, the detail is as follows:

BICESTER, OXON

The Oxford Diocesan Guild

On Saturday, 30th May 1992, in 2 hours 57 minutes

At the Church of St Edburg

A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES

Richard C. Stevens.....1	Clive Sparling.....5
Lorraine Garrett.....2	Paul Garrett6
Paul Johnson.....3	Rev. John D.Nixon.....7
Simon Cole.....4	Terry S.Cowell.....8

Parker's 12-Part (7th obs)

Conducted by Richard C.Stevens

First peal for ringers of 3 and 8

Rung immediately prior to a service marking the 25th anniversary of ordination to the Priesthood by the Vicar of this Church, the Reverend John S. Baggley.

Richard Stevens

CENTRAL BUCKS BRANCH:-

Central Bucks has just had its A.G.M. This year at Linslade. Although there was an excellent welcoming committee the 'punters' were kept away by a certain football match and the weather.

The following members were elected as officers for the coming year:-

Master	Ed Houghton
Deputy Master	Andy Lancey
Chairman	Ron Churchard
Vice Chairman	Mike Dodd
Secretary/Treasurer	Justin Baker
Branch Rep.	Chris Carter
Auditors	D.Rake
	D.Streatfield

We still have vacancies for another Branch Rep. and a Branch Steward.

Two people are noticeable of mention. Terry Wagstaff has been the Secretary/Treasurer for the last nine years and has finally bowed out due to relocation of his job. Terry was an efficient and conscientious officer who has been a driving force behind the Central Bucks Branch. He will probably be remembered for his subscription reminders, the very readable Branch Newsletter, and his desire to ring Grandsire Minor (and Major). He has also left some especially written computer programmes to take care of the Subscription reminders and Members Database. All the accounts can be compiled as well. Thank you Terry - the next Secretary/Treasurer doesn't know how lucky he is.

A new face joining Central Bucks is actually an old one. Ed Houghton has returned to become Master of Central Bucks once again after a ten year absence. Welcome back Ed.

Congratulations go to our President, George Edmans, who had his 81st birthday recently. Just to show how it's done - he rang in a quarter peal at North Marston to celebrate. I'm sure everyone will agree that age shows no bounds when it comes to ringing.

The results of the 6-Bell Striking Competition held at Padbury were as follows:-

1st. Quainton; 2nd. Haddenham; 3rd. Aylesbury; 4th. Linslade
Justin Baker

CHIPPING NORTON BRANCH:-

The Branch held its A.G.M. on May 2nd. at Burford. It was reasonably well attended, a few visitors - including The Master - were also present. The service commenced with the Guild Banner being carried by Mr R. Datson, the first time I can remember it being used at a Branch Service.

Last year the Revd G. Canning had stated that he wished to stand down as Chairman this year. The Rev. G. Evans was elected in his place. All other officers remain unchanged.

Three new members were elected at the meeting; James King and Mrs Marion Andrews (Charlbury; Miss Helen Daley (unattached) and Mr M. Kirk (Ascott-u-Wychwood) was re-elected.

Three Branch members went and helped at towers for the Cuddesdon Course. It was appreciated by them what hard work it is for helpers on various courses but so necessary for pupils (having been a student once or twice myself!)

Ringing for the 450th Anniversary of the Diocese was also discussed.

It is hoped to have Chasleton bells ringing again in the Autumn, after many years silence.

Over £6.00 was raised per head by members of the Branch for the sponsored ringing on February 29th. This was the second highest sum per head of the fifteen Branches. Thanks to all who supported the Branch by ringing or by sponsoring ringers.

A few Branch members joined with some Banbury Branch members for Graham Clifton's annual week-end away, this year in Essex.

It is hoped to have a barbeque and Aunt Sally match at Hook Norton in early August and the Annual Cricket Match against Banbury Branch is in its planning stages.

BRANCH PRACTICES:-

July 4	Churchill (8)	7.00 - 8.30 pm
Aug. 1	Taynton (6)	7.30 - 9.00 pm
Sept. 5	Hook Norton (8)	7.30 - 9.00 pm
Oct. 10	Autumn Meeting	Charlbury 3.00pm onwards

Claire E. Tarrant

EAST BERKS AND SOUTH BUCKS BRANCH:-

We held our Annual General Meeting at Stoke Poges (and what a lovely tea). Robert Newton and Graham Firman stood down as Chairman and Ringing Master respectively and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking them for all their efforts during their terms of office. Rex Agg, of Beaconsfield, was elected as Chairman and Peter Bruce was 'promoted' to Ringing Master with Colin Fowles (Bray) being elected as Deputy Ringing Master. Musical Chairs.

The first round of the Lorna Newton Striking Competition has now been completed with 38 teams being whittled down to 15. On 13th June we are holding our Branch Six Bell Striking Competition the winner of which will represent our Branch in the Guild Six Bell Competition.

Jane Payne

NORTH BUCKS BRANCH:-

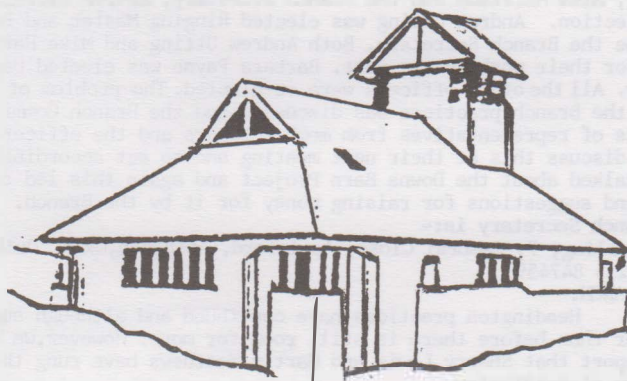
The last quarter has been a fairly busy one, especially with the plans for Downs Barns being finalised. Branch officers met with the Guild and local church members to agree the details and plan the project. Several events have already been held, and money raised. The Barn Dance and Car Treasure Hunt were each well attended, and made around £150 between them. The tower Open Day at the end of May was a roaring success, nearly 200 ringers from as far afield as Kent and Yorkshire descended on North Bucks. Nobody managed to ring all 47 towers open, but some did manage 31! The day made a net profit of £894. A big thank you to all who came, we hope you enjoyed yourselves.

Great Linford bells were rehung by Whitechapel and dedicated on Easter Sunday, and although Alan couldn't get an extra two bells for Linford, the Marchbank family was augmented when Tina gave birth to a daughter. Work is also progressing at Bradwell, and the time is near for the tower wall to be pierced to give access to the extension, so Bradwell bells will be out of action for two months whilst the work is done.

Andy King

xxxxxx DOWNS BARN FUND RAISING EVENTS xxxxxx

June 13th	Garden Party at the church.
June 21st	Midsummer Concert with the Guild Singers.
July 4th	Fete Brookwood School.
August 31st	Sponsored walk around the Parish Boundary. Bradwell and Linford bells hopefully available.
September	Barn Dance (no date yet fixed).
October	Quiz Night.
November	Theatre outing.
December 6th	Concert.



The Cross and Stable

READING BRANCH:-

Sponsored Quarter peals for the Bell Fund were rung in all but one of the Branch's ringable towers raising £700.00 in total.

Saturday practices, with variable attendance, have been held at Caversham, Padworth and Henley whilst the Surprise Major and higher numbers practices have been well supported. An afternoon of raising and lowering in peal at St.Giles, Reading proved most useful and will probably be repeated.

Tilehurst was awarded the finalist's certificate at the Guild A.G.M. in the Best Kept Tower competition.

Reading SMV & L and Tilehurst both entered teams in the Guild 8-Bell Contest and were placed 4th and 5th respectively whilst the Reading Branch team was placed 2nd in the new 10-Bell Competition.

Eunice A.Wark

OLD NORTH BERKS BRANCH:-

The 10-Bell Striking Competition was held in the Branch this quarter. The day went very smoothly, with the Branch turning in a very respectable third place.

The Branch practices havenot been well attended recently but we have managed to ring the special method for the month. There isn't much else to report this quarter, it has been very quiet, although we are looking forward to a very busy summer.

Andrew Utting.

LATE NEWS:-

The Branch A.G.M. was held at both East and West Hanney! Ringing preceeded the service at West Hanney Church. The service was taken by the Vicar ,who sandwiched it in between taking a wedding and attending the reception. It was shortened P.R. evensong and the lusty singing of wellknown and loved hymns recalled the days when North Berks was noted for its singing at Branch services.Further we were given a brief but thought provoking address!

The tea , provided by the Hanney ringers and the business meeting took place at the East Hanney Centre. Between 30 and 40 were present. Both the Ringing Master, Mike Harrison and the Branch Secretary, Andrew Utting, did not seek re-election. Andrew Utting was elected Ringing Master and Peter Starling became the Branch Secretary. Both Andrew Utting and Mike Harrison were thanked for their work in the past. Barbara Payne was elected Deputy Ringing Master. All the other officers were re-elected. The problem of lack of support at the Branch practices was discussed and the Branch Committee (which consists of representatives from member towers and the officers) were asked to discuss this at their next meeting and to act accordingly. The Chairman talked about the Downs Barn Project and again this led to both a discussion and suggestions for raising money for it by the Branch.

The new Branch Secretary is:-

Peter Starling, 7, Cambrai Close, Appleford, Abingdon,Oxon. OX14 4NT
Tel. 0235 847459

OXFORD CITY BRANCH:-

Headington practices have continued and although support has been better than before there is still room for more. However,we are pleased to report that Sherry Lewis and Martin Matthews have rung their first quarters at Headington.

After five years the Skittles Challenge Match between the Branch (represented by members from Horspath, Iffley and Marston), the Oxford Society and the University took place at the Isis Tavern. After two matches Honours ended fairly even with the Branch and the University each winning one and the Society finishing second in each.

Some Iffley ringers have caught "Quarter Peal Mania" and have rung 30 already this year.

The Branch 6-Bell Striking Competition was very well supported. Out of 11 towers with regular bands 7 entered. Clive Holloway, Ringing Master at the Cathedral, judged St Giles 1st and Marston 2nd. St Giles will go foreward to the Guild competition in October.

Forthcoming event:- The under 18 Striking Competition will be held on the 4th July .

David Lane

SONNING DEANERY BRANCH:-

The Branch A.G.M. was held at Arborfield in February. Catriona Capelman (Secretary) and Hugh Baxter (Ringing Master) no longer wished to remain in office, and were thanked for all their work in the Branch by Stewart Gibson. The other officers were re-elected. Peter Munday is the new Ringing Master and Pam Elliston the new Secretary.

Five people with more than thirty years' Guild membership were elected Life Members of the Guild. These were:

Mrs R.W. Murrell (Warfield); Norman Willis (Sonning); Ron Butler (Binfield); Mrs W. White (Finchampstead); Harold Smith (Wargrave).

Congratulations to Ron Needham, Edward Demoster, Aldon Ferguson and Zoe Lunnun who have rung their first Quarter peals.

The 6-Bell Striking Competition, ably judged by Jeremy Pratt, was held at Shottesbrooke in April. Thanks to the seven teams who entered, and congratulations to the winners, All Saints Wokingham, who rang a well struck touch of Cambridge Minor.

In addition to monthly Saturday evening practices at various towers, monthly Branch practices continue to be held at Twyford: Elementary practices on the first Friday and Stedman Triples on the third Friday. A Branch 10-Bell practice is held at Warfield every month. Monthly Surprise Minor practices at Shottesbrooke started on the 2nd Thursday in May. Visitors who would like to attend any of these practices are most welcome.

John Harrison's seminar on Computers and Simulators Used in Ringing was enjoyed by all who attended; hopefully some attendees will be encouraged to set up simulators in their own towers. On this course, three simulation systems on show were explained, of which two were in use for most of the day; the rest of the course was devoted to attempting to detect striking errors. Computer systems being demonstrated included a countrywide directory of towers, a means for printing methods with the "blue line" included, a peal composer's aid, a system for detecting and indicating striking errors, and an amazing box - based on a digital sampling of the sound from the individual bells of Worcester Cathedral - which could apparently reproduce practically any method in any key at any speed.

John Harrison and Kevin Lovell are arranging a 'See yourself bell-handling on video' Course to be held in October.

Pam Elliston

VALE OF WHITE HORSE BRANCH:-

The branch excelled itself in the Sponsored Ringing Week, raising a total of £290, with ringing at only two towers - Shrivenham (£190) and Stanford in the Vale (£100). At about £9 per head this was also the "most money raised per branch member", a fact sadly overlooked at the Guild AGM.

Our branch population is doing rather better these days, not just because of new people coming to the area but also because those we have are multiplying:

Gordon Belcher (Shrivenham), Jennifer;
Erica and Tony Crabtree (Shrivenham), Rebecca;
Jackie O'Hagan (Stanford in the Vale), Isobelle.

News from just outside the branch is that Tony and Nicola Pullen are expecting a baby.

As many will know the branch hosted the Guild AGM. By all accounts this went well and our hospitality was appreciated. A raffle organised by our fund-raising duo, Dee and Norman, raised about £50 for the Bell Fund. A novelty was that the church service included a new hymn, with words written by Anne Jones. Splendid words they are too, obviously written by a ringer, and expressing fine sentiments.

Even though many were occupied with the AGM, Dick Miles still found ringers enough for a wedding at Faringdon. Remember our branch has only about 30-odd members.

Anthony Williams

STANFORD-IN-THE-VALE:-

We have continued to ring and practice regularly in the absence of Captain Jackie O'Hagan who is on maternity leave since the arrival of Isobelle Siân on April 22nd. Four of our more recent members, Laurie, Roger, Lucy and Laura were elected to the Guild at our A.G.M. as was Anthia from Shellingford who practises with us most weeks. The other event this quarter was our 'hosting' the Guild A.G.M. which involved most of our ringers and many from other towers in the Branch.

Anne Jones

SHELLINGFORD:-

Shellingford Bell Fund Barn Dance was held on Saturday, 16th May 1992 at Church Farm by kind permission of Mr and Mrs David Gantlett.

The villagers of Shellingford turned out with enthusiasm, firstly to sweep out a barn in the village that had housed cattle all winter, then to support a most successful Barn Dance. With a population of only 150, the function proved an enormous success raising a profit of £585 towards the £10,000 needed to restore the bells.

A wonderful Ploughman's Supper was provided by the ladies of the village.

As the event was so successful we hope to make this an annual event as we would then be able to pay for the bells by the year 2012 !!!

Anthia Barker

SHRIVENHAM:- Ringing at Shrivenham is continuing to improve and in May we have been able to give two of our young members their first quarter peal. Well done Stephanie and Sarah.

May 2, 1992 1260 P.B. Doubles; Stephanie Jones (First quarter) 1, Teresa Sugden 2, Ann Stevens 3, H. Locke-Wheaton 4, A. Crabtree 5, Barbara Schofield 6. Rung to celebrate the marriage of Robert Desmond and Heidi Blackburn.
May 28, 1992 1260 P.B. Doubles; Teresa Sugden 1, Sarah Locke-Wheaton (first quarter) 2, Ann Stevens 3, D. Jones 4, A. Crabtree 5, Barbara Schofield 6. Rung for Ascension Day service and to celebrate the birth of Rebecca to Erica and Tony Crabtree. Congratulations.

Ann Stevens

QUARTER PEALS OMITTED FROM MARCH ODD BOB due to lack of space.

Rung by the Thursday night regulars. All rung at Hinton Waldrist.

5.12.91 1269 Doubles (2m) F.A. White 1, Rachel Townsend-Green 2, C.R. Miles 3, N.H. Leslie 4, D.A. Leslie (C) 5.

12.12.91 1260 Grandsire Doubles F.A.White 1, M.J.Harrison 2, Anne E.Jones 3, D.A.Leslie 4, N.H.Leslie (C) 5.
 9.1.92 1260 P.B.Minor F.A.White 1, A.Williams 2, N.H.Leslie 3, C.R.Miles 4 D.A.Leslie 5, M.J.Harrison (C)6.
 23.1.92 1260 Doubles (3m including Stedman) F.A.White 1, M.J.Harrison 2, A.Williams 3, C.R.Miles 4, D.A.Leslie (C)5, N.H.Leslie 6.
 30.1.92 1260 P.B.Minor M.J.Harrison 1, F.A.White 2, Rachel Townsend-Green 3 C.R.Miles 4, N.H.Leslie 5, D.A.Leslie (C) 6.
 6.2.92 1260 Doubles (3m) F.A.White 1, A.Williams 2, C.R.miles 3, N.H.Leslie 4, D.A.Leslie (C) 5
 13.2.92 1260 Doubles (2m) D.A.Leslie(C)1, F.A.White 2, C.R.Miles 3, N.H.Leslie 4, M.J.Harrison 5.
 20.2.92 1260 P.B.Minor F.A.White 1, N.H.Leslie 2, C.R.Miles 3, D.A.Leslie 4 A.Williams 5, M.J.Harrison (C)6.
 SHRIVENHAM -Sponsord Quarter Peal
 23.2.92 1260 P.B.Triples G.L.Belcher 1, Teresa Sugden (1st inside) 2, Ann Stevens 3, H.Lock-Wheaton 4, A.F.Walters 5, K.Hudson 6, A.Crabtree 7, Barbara Schofield 8

WITNEY AND WOODSTOCK BRANCH:-

At the Branch A.G.M. on 11th April the principal officers were re-elected, but we welcome Alan Eustace as Assistant Ringing Master.

The Branch six-bell striking contest is being revived this year, and will take place at Alvescot on 18th July.

ASTON bells are back from the bell foundry and were rededicated on 6th June.

TACKLEY cannot allow any peals or quarters until further notice. The bells are in need of restoration and the band has been advised to restrict ringing until the work has been done.

WOODSTOCK have now been augmented - with a door bell! For security reasons the door at the bottom of the tower has to be kept locked. If you are visiting on practice night (Thursday, 7.30 pm - 9.00 pm) please ring the door bell and someone will come down and let you in when there is a convenient break in the ringing. If you arrive in the middle of a quarter peal attempt there are several pubs in the town. Woodstock ringers usually meet in the Star, but if you want a pint of Hooky try the Queen's Own, just past the chip shop on the main road.

STONESFIELD has just fitted new ropes to the back three - ringing the tenor is an experience not to be missed!

Christopher Wallworth

NEWBURY BRANCH:- The Six Bell Striking Competition was held on 11th April at Beenham.

At the last Branch A.G.M. Bill Butler suggested holding a striking competition which only towers which had not won the 'official' Branch competition would be entitled to enter. The competition was held on 27th June, with four teams entering plus a scratch band. Ron Christopher was the judge, and commented perceptively, frankly and helpfully on the seven minute performances. There was no scoring, but the results were:-

1st Bucklebury; 2nd Hungerford; 3rd Newbury; 4th Thatcham. Of his own accord Richard Marshal (Thatcham) has made a handsome hardwood shield with an engraved bell emblem, which it was decided quite properly should be named in his honour (The Marshall Shield). No doubt his handiwork will be on display in Bucklebury tower.

My few weeks of absence without leave are over now after my (hopefully last) exams, and I've a lot of catching up to do! The first thing I must do is to thank most sincerely all those people who helped make the May Day Ringing and Striking Competition such an outstanding success.

I don't think it's blowing our own trumpet to say that, as yet raised £1004.64 (£495 more than last year and most satisfying that it made four figures!). Thanks to the fine weather and some out-of-the-way towers people flocked from all over the South and Midlands. I particularly want to thank the stewards who were sometimes required by the scale of demand to keep towers going for up to two hours each.....The same day was the Guild Eight Bell Striking Competition, hosted by Newbury, and you may have heard that the Branch team won. The cup is kept in Newbury tower..... I would like to Tony Woodville for producing an informative booklet on bells of the Newbury Branch. I still have some left, and if you would like one they are only £1.It has town plans and pen drawings by Philip Grover, together with historical information about the bells and details of who to contact.

Two other recent successes were the Rounders Match on the 13th June and the Striking Competition at Beenham on 11th April. Thanks go to Ian and Angela Croft and Marcus Allum respectively in doing more than just hosting these events.

FUTURE EVENTS:-

July 25 Compton Meeting especially for learners and younger ringers. Ringing will start at 3.30pm for an hour and then recommence at 5.30.

Liquid refreshment will be provided in the interval but please bring your own picnic tea.

Sept. 12 Coach Outing to Warwickshire (Rugby area)

Paul Bodenham
(from News Letter)

NOTE Change of address:-

Paul Bodenham, 62, Craven Road, Newbury, RG14 5NJ

SOUTH OXON BRANCH:-

BRANCH STRIKING COMPETITION:- Six towers entered the competition - Aston Rowant, Benson, Chinnor, and two teams from Thame and Wheatley. Chinnor again won by 5 points although Aston Rowant gave them a good run for their money. The same evening Aston Rowant had a Trivial Pursuit evening and made over £100 for the floor fund.

BENSON:- We are still waiting for Whites of Appleton to do the necessary repairs to the bell frame (some rot has set in due to water damage over the years).

DORCHESTER:- The band has now solved the BOB Triples problem and is tackling Grandsire Triples with Tony's help. Gilly one of their members went on the Cuddesdon Course and was impressed with the standard of the course and the excellent organisation and is now talking about Easthampstead.

DRAYTON ST LEONARD:- Ring only once for service - usually the first Sunday with help from Dorchester. On other Sundays Hilary and Chris Rogers chime one bell with the help of their small children!

THAME:- The band is now happily settled back into routine, ringing for Sunday Service (9.30 - 10.00 am) and Monday night practice. The band has progressed in its service ringing from call changes to ringing Plain Hunt and plain courses of Grandsire Triples. The cost of the restoration of the bells plus new heating and lighting was in excess of £30,000. They received a grant of £4,000 from the Diocesan Bell Fund.

WARBOROUGH:- Are very fortunate in having four people now learning to ring. The rest of the band are trying to learn Reverse Canterbury and hope soon to tackle P.B. Minor. The band also welcomes its new Vicar.

GUILD OFFICERS 1992-1993

Master:	Mr P.M.Newton	The White House, Plowden Park, Aston Rowant, Watlington, Oxon. OX9 5SX (0844) 352926
Deputy Master:	Mr G.J.Clifton	Stedman Cottage, Middle Aston, Bicester, Oxon. OX6 3PZ Steeple Aston (0869) 47273
General Secretary:	Mr J.Wells	Victoria Lodge, 91 Waverley Road, Reading RG3 2QB Reading (0734) 572552
General Treasurer:	Mr B.J.Gatward	Grangewood, Mill Lane, Calcot, Reading RG3 5RS Reading (0734) 413097
Librarian:	Mr W.Butler	8 The Waverleys, Thatcham, Newbury, Berks. RG13 4AW Thatcham (0635) 862309
Report Editor:	Mrs A.Croft	4 Lancaster Square, Hungerford, Berks. RG17 0AH Hungerford (0488) 684886
NewsLetter Editor:	Miss M.R.Cross	6 Radley Road, Abingdon, Oxon. OX14 3PQ Abingdon (0235) 520868
Peal Secretary:	Mrs E.Struckett	'Tangletrees', 2 Hatch Ride, Crowthorne, Berks. RG11 6LB Crowthorne (0344) 774228
Public Relations Officer:	Mr S.A.Rossiter	1 Pemberton Gardens, Calcot, Reading, RG3 7DY (0734) 411146
Guild Stewards:	Miss M.R.Cross	6 Radley Road, Abingdon, Oxon. OX14 3PQ Abingdon (0235) 520868
	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
	Mr J.R.Martin	135 Park Lane, Tilehurst, Reading, RG3 5DR Reading (0734) 413638

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 J.M.Baker	Home Close, Sheep Street, Winslow, Buckingham, MK18 3HR (0296)712411 (home), (081)450 4646 (work)
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, 62, Craven Road , Newbury RG14 5NU	
North Bucks:	Mr A.King	9 Walgrave Drive, Bradwell, Milton Keynes, Bucks. MK13 9BS (0908) 316339
Old North Berks:	Mr P.Sparling	7 Chambray Close, Appleford, Abingdon, Oxon. OX14 4NT (0235) 847469

DIARY OF EVENTS 1992

* Subject to confirmation

B.P.	Branch Practice	S.P.	Surprise Practice
E.C.P.	Elementary Changering	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		

JUNE

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

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	

DIARY OF EVENTS cont'd.

SEPTEMBER

Sat.	12	O.N.B. Reading	B.P. S.C.	East Hendred* Whitchurch	7.00-8.30
Fri.	18	N.Bucks	B.P.	Buckingham	7.30
Sat.	19	Bicester Chiltern	$\frac{1}{2}$ ly B.P.	Launton 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.	$\frac{1}{2}$ ly	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 Chiltern/ C.Bucks		Autumn Meeting - Charlbury S.C./ $\frac{1}{2}$ ly 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. EASTHAMPESTEAD COURSE			
Sat.	24	E.B.S.B.	$\frac{1}{2}$ ly	Half Yearly Meeting/Lorna Newton Cup Final - Penn	
		Newbury	B.P.	Chieveley (Advanced Major)	
		S.Oxon	$\frac{1}{2}$ ly	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
Sat.	14	C.Bucks	$\frac{1}{2}$ ly	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	$\frac{1}{4}$ ly	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

DIARY OF EVENTS cont'd.

DECEMBER cont'd.

Sat. 19	Chiltern	B.P.	Stoke Mandeville	6.30-8.30
Sat. 19	E.B.S.B.	B.P.+	Social Function - Wraysbury	
	O.N.B.	B.P.	Abingdon, St. Helens	7.00-8.30
	S.Oxon	B.P.	Brightwell Baldwin	7.00-9.00

BANBURY BRANCH PRACTICES:-

July Sat. 25	Bloxham (8)	Treble Bob & S.P.	7.30 - 9.00 pm
Aug. Thu. 6	Rousham (6)	B.P. General	7.30 - 9.00 pm
Sat. 22	Mollington (6)	Treble Bob & S.P.	7.30 - 9.00 pm
Sept. Tues 1	Shenington (5)	B.P. General	7.30 - 9.00 pm
Sat. 19	Sandford (6)	Treble Bob & S.P.	7.30 - 9.00 pm
Oct. Thurs 1	Tadmorton (6)	B.P. General	7.30 - 9.00 pm
Sat. 17	Banbury (10)	Half Yearly Meeting	
Nov. Mon. 1	Hanwell (5)	General	7.30 - 9.00 pm
Sat. 21	Bodicote (8)	Treble Bob and S.P.	7.30 - 9.00 pm
Dec. Thurs 3	Wroxton (5)	General B.P.	7.30 - 9.00 pm
Sat. 26	Dedington (8)	Boxing Day	10.30 - 12.00am

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Jan. Fri. 1 Banbury (10) New Year's Day 10.30 - 12.00am

During the FIRST week of each month there will be a general practice.

During the THIRD week of each month there will be a practice for Treble Bob methods and surprise.

CHIPPING NORTON BRANCH PRACTICES:-

Aug. Sat. 1	Taynton (6)	7.00 - 8.30 pm
Sept. Sat. 5	Hook Norton (8)	7.30 - 9.00 pm
Oct. Sat. 10	<u>Autumn General Meeting Charlbury 3.00pm onwards</u>	



Mr. Willie Haynes & Mr. Terry Hester helping to lower a bell at Islip.