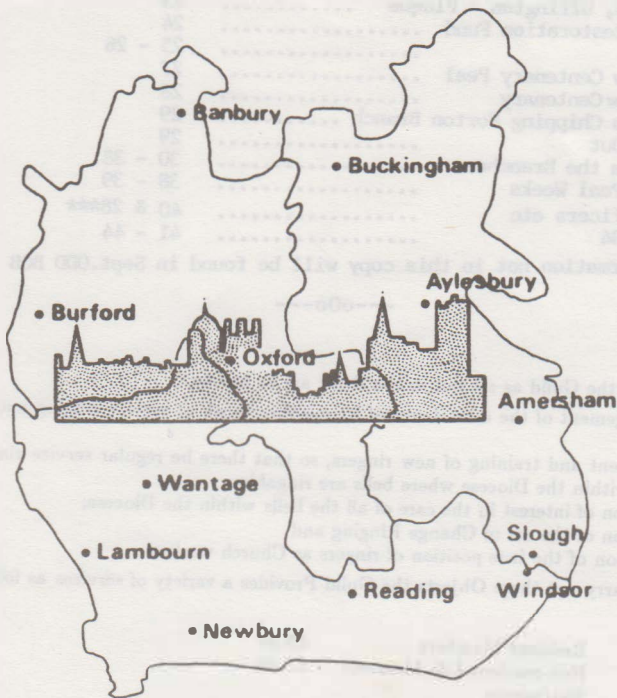


Issue 41

ODD BOB

Newsletter of the OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD



December 1993

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

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

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

Subscriptions:	Resident Members	£5.00
	Non-resident Life Members	£5.00
Peal Fees:	25p/person	
Annual Report:	£2.50 (+ 50p postage and packing)	
Badges:	£1.00	
Guild History:	£3.00	

O.D.G. EDUCATION COMMITTEE³
"CUDDESDON" ONE-DAY COURSE

Based at Radley, near Abingdon

SATURDAY 5 MARCH 1994

Plain Hunt to Bob Doubles
Grandsire and Stedman Doubles
Plain Bob Doubles and Major
Plain Bob Triples and Major
(Plus Evening Options)

Price: £15
(Includes Evening Meal)

Details from: Mr P.P. Starling
7 Chambray Close
Appleford
Abingdon
Oxon OX14 4NT

(Please enclose a 9" x 4" S.A.E. for reply)

O.D.G. HANDBELL DAY
EASTER SATURDAY APRIL 2nd 1994

94 Eastern Avenue, Reading

If you can already ring Plain Bob Major in hand, and want to spend a day practising new methods and ringing the odd quarter, please join us.

Contact:

Helen McGregor, 94 Eastern Avenue, Reading, Berks, RG1 5SF
(0734) 660384

for more details

1994 YOUTH WEEKEND

Friday 15th–Sunday 17th APRIL

Based at the ETON DORNEY
CENTRE near WINDSOR

Cost: £48.00

Applications are invited from Guild members aged between 12 and 18, who can ring plain hunt and beyond.

Further details and application forms available from:

Mrs Patricia Newton,
The White House, Plowden Park,
Aston Rowant, Watlington, Oxon.
OX9 5SX Tel: (0844) 352926

ADVANCE NOTICE

EASTHAMPSSTEAD '94

A weekend ringing course based at
Easthampstead Park near Bracknell

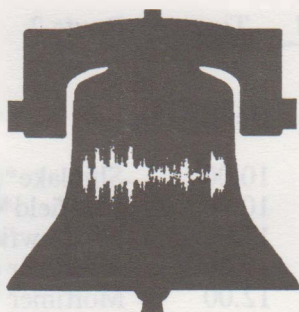
FRIDAY 9 – SUNDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 1994

Application forms available in the new year from:

Graham and Katharine Firman
7, Laburnham Road
Maidenhead
Berks.
SL6 4DB

(Please enclose a large [A5] S.A.E.)

**Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers
Education Committee**



**A Seminar on
Simulators and
Computer Training Aids
Used in Ringing**

Spelsbury – Saturday 12th February 1994

Last year we ran a successful seminar in Wokingham, so this year we are repeating it in the North.

Simulators of various kinds have been developed to help teach ringing skills. They are now readily available for purchase, and can be borrowed from the Central Council for evaluation. Their use is spreading, but many ringers and ringing teachers have not yet had the opportunity to see how useful they can be.

Come to the seminar and see what is available. Everyone will have a chance to ring a tower bell with a simulator, and you will hear from people with first hand experience of using them. We will also show other aids, including those to help develop listening skills.

Whether you teach others, or are just interested to extend your own experience, come along and join us.

The charge will be £8 including lunch and refreshments

Further details from:

John Harrison 0734 785520 2 Murdoch Road, Wokingham, Berks. RG11 2DA

6. OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

READING BRANCH TOWERS OPEN DAY

PROVISIONAL

<u>Route 1</u>	<u>Grid SU</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Route 2</u>	<u>GridSU</u>	<u>Time</u>
	763827	Henley (8)c			9.30
Nettlebed*(6)c	698867	10.00	Shiplake*(8)	767783	10.00
Checkendon (8)	663831	10.30	Shinfield*(6)	729682	10.30
South Stoke(6)	599836	11.00	Swallowfield(6)	732647c	11.00
Goring (8)c	597867	11.30	Mortimer (8)c	667642	11.30
Streatley (6)	594808	12.00	Mortimer *(6)c	654645	12.00

Pubs available in Streatley, Goring & Mortimer for lunch

Lwr. Basildon (4)	612793 c	1.00	Padworth (6)	613662	1.00
Bradfield (6) c	604727	1.30	Ufton Nervet (4)	635675c	1.20
			Sulhamstead		
			Abbots# (3)c	645679	1.45
Pangbourne** (6)	634764c	2.30	Englefield (6)c	624720	2.30
Whitchurch (6)	635770	3.00	Theale (6)	640713	3.00
Mapledurham(6)	670766	3.30	Burghfield (6)	671684	3.30
Caversham *(8)	708748	4.00	Tilehurst* (8)	673729	4.00

716730	St. Giles in Reading (8)c	4.30
714733	St. Mary (8)c	5.00
717736	St. Laurence (12)**c	5.30
	(Open for 1hr+half)	

#Three bell tower available for half an hour. CHIMING ONLY.

*Toilets

** Public Toilets

All other towers available strictly for ONE HOUR ONLY.

Light refreshments will be available at some of the towers en route.

Day Tickets £6 or 50p per tower. Tickets available with maps indicating town car parks at first few towers.

c = towers confirmed 26.xi.93.

Enquiries to Bobbie May (0734) 884172

Cheques to O.D.G. Reading Branch.

GROUP PERSONAL ACCIDENT INSURANCE

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

Scope of coverage

Guild members are covered whilst ringing or attending to routine maintenance work to the bells in any church or bell tower, or whilst travelling to or from a church or bell tower to practice or take part in bell ringing anywhere in the United Kingdom. ("Routine maintenance" means any works for which approval in accordance with the Care of Churches Measure is not required - separate cover can be arranged where needed in connection with these more major items of work).

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

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

Benefits payable in the event of a claim

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

CLAIMS AND QUERIES CONCERNING THE OPERATION OF THE INSURANCE

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

Claims must be confirmed in writing.

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

MASTER'S MUTTERINGS

At a branch meeting that I attended recently a passing comment was made in one of the officers' reports that there were no new initiatives coming from the Guild at the moment. The comment was made following another regarding ringing for the 450th anniversary of the Diocese. In that respect the speaker was quite right, and his remark has caused me to ponder at length on the subject of future Guild activities.

So much has been achieved in the last couple of years. We had a very successful sponsored ringing day in 1992, many quarters and peals were rung in 1993 for the Diocesan celebrations, and the Downs Barn bells are now installed. After all this excitement it now feels a little like the "day after the Lord Mayor's Show". In my job as a sales engineer I find it very difficult to be self-motivated to go out and sell unless a new catalogue has been issued or a new product launched, and I am sure that it is the same with ringing. To maintain our interest and enthusiasm we do, from time to time, need fresh ideas and new challenges.

In search of inspiration I looked through the Guild reports from 1894 and 1944 to see if there were any 100th or 50th anniversaries that could be celebrated, but found nothing along those lines. However, there was something in the 1944 reports of both the Deputy Master and the Guild Secretary that caught my attention, particularly bearing in mind that this was during the war when ringing had been severely restricted and transportation difficult. Canon Elliot Wigg observed that at the few branch meetings he had been able to attend he found "much keenness and a determination to maintain the traditions of the Guild", and Richard Hibbert reported that membership was increasing and that the branch meetings he had attended showed "real life and a strong spirit". Sadly I cannot honestly echo their findings. I hear of branch activities being cancelled due to lack of support, two branches failed to find replacement secretaries for those who had moved out of the area, and one branch even questioned the necessity for a branch ringing master.

So we obviously do need some new initiatives. Our aim should be to get all bells within the Diocese ringing for Sunday services, but at the moment many towers are silent due to lack of ringers. Bands do not appear overnight, but develop only over a long period as a result of a great deal of hard work and perseverance by local ringers. At Guild level we try to provide training facilities and ringing activities to encourage ringers to develop their skills, and to provide financial and practical support with bell maintenance. I would be pleased to hear any suggestions of new activities or changes to our existing programme that may regenerate enthusiasm amongst our members. Let's pull together to make 1994 a year to revitalize our determination to "maintain the traditions of the Guild" throughout the Diocese.

Patricia Newton

From The Editor

Like The Master, I too, have been delving into past Reports. In my case to check dates etc of membership for the Obituary Notices. The delving never stops there - one finds oneself reading the Officers' Reports, noticing which towers had flourishing bands at any given time or which rings have been restored or augmented. Above all recently I have been very conscious of the membership figures which have remained around 2,000 for a number of years yet the population within the Diocese has increased considerably.

Perhaps one of the most interesting passages I read this time was written by the Rev.R.H.Hart-Davis, Guild Secretary and Treasure, for the 1909 Report after the death of the Master, The Rev.F.E.Robinson on January 15,1910.

"The primary object of the Guild is to recognise the true position of ringers as Church Officers. His (The Master's) words in reply to the toast of the Guild, proposed by Dr Purey Cust, Dean of York, formerly Vicar of St. Mary's, at the Guild's first annual Festival at Reading in 1881, struck this keynote with no uncertain sound, and he never failed thereafter to give it emphasis. He said,

'The function of the Guild was to bridge over the ancient holy use of the bells and their present scientific use. The problem was how to dedicate the best scientific use of the bells to the service of God. Unless they did that they neither deserved the name of a Guild, nor of Church Bell-Ringers. To do that the Clergy had to teach ringers not merely that that they were exceedingly fine fellows because they could ring so many changes without breaking down, but that they should become competent in their art, and then dedicate that art to the service and glory of God. The opportunity for improvement had now come, and they must all rise to it.' "

Two more extracts - this time from the Rev.C.W.O.Jenkyn. The first in 1916 while he was serving as a Chaplain to the Forces:-

"Having only been in England for two short leaves in the past twelve months in my knowledge of the year's work of the Guild is derived chiefly from private letters and from the columns of 'The Ringing World.' "

The impression I have is that there is among members considerably less backwardness in coming forward, less of that idea that if there is an office to be filled or work to be done for the Guild it is some other fellow's business."

The second from the Report for 1919:-

"But we do not pretend to be satisfied. Many towers in the Diocese still hold aloof for various reasons, often clinging to the false notion that a ringer must be a Change Ringer before he can join the Guild. This shows how much 'Missionary Work' there is for every Guild Member to do. And while I commend this work to you I wish also to make the following points:

1. Worship with other people of God in God's House and at God's altar.
2. Prompt paying of your Guild subscription.
3. Full command of your bell at handstroke and back stroke.
4. Avoidance of all "dotted notes" in ringing.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all those who have helped in the production of ODD BOB during 1993 by sending in articles or photos, reports and particularly those who have, like Daphne Pollard and the Staff at Fine Print, made it possible to get the copies dispatched on time.

My best wishes to all Guild Members for Christmas and 1994. M.R.C.

10
DOWNS BARN

Yes, they are in, they are dedicated, and they are being rung regularly both on practice night and for Sunday services.

The installation of the Downs Barn bells was a project adopted by the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers as part of our contribution to the celebration of the 450th anniversary of the Diocese. Not only do we have a splendid new ring of 8 bells within the Guild, but it has also been beneficial in increasing the awareness of both the clergy and the worshipping community, of the presence of bellringers and our valuable contribution to the Church.

The following letter, which was written by Revd. Richard Thomas, Diocesan Communications Officer, appeared in the Ringing World on October 15, 1993:

"I write to express the profound thanks of the Diocese of Oxford for the magnificent achievement of the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Bell Ringers in providing a ring of bells at Downs Barn, Milton Keynes. The story, recorded in your edition of 3rd September, is not only a tribute to those who took part in this particular venture, but a fitting reminder of the commitment and dedication of ringers young and old to the traditions of the Church of England.

The Bishop of Oxford, preaching at the service of dedication, reminded us of the importance of bells in the proclamation of the Gospel in Western Christianity, and joined in greeting many of those who made this venture into probably the most striking event of the 450th anniversary of the founding of the Diocese.

I would like to add my own personal thanks. It is not often that one sees such a visible response to a sermon, and I little realised, when I accepted the invitation to preach at the 1991 AGM of the Oxford Guild, that it would result in such a tangible gift. Ringers still provide the warm welcome I remember when, as a teenager, I visited the tower of a country church, and through your journal I would like to express my gratitude not only for Downs Barn, but for the great joy that ringers give us all through their continuing commitment to our traditions and heritage."

So, congratulations and thank you to everyone who has been involved with the Downs Barn project, and to all ringers in the Diocese for ringing faithfully for Sunday services week by week.

A scroll is to be written to record all those who have contributed to this project. Although the appeal will continue into the new year, the list for the scroll will be completed at the end of 1993. If you, your tower, your branch or your P.C.C. have not yet contributed but would like to be included on the list for the scroll, please send you donations to Brian Gatward before 31st December, 1993. We do still need to raise £8,900 to pay off our debts, so please keep up the fund-raising and keep the money rolling in until we have reached our target.

Thank you very much for your support.

Patricia Newton (Guild Master)
1.11.93

^{11.} *THE DOWNS BARN PROJECT*

PROGRESS REPORT

The current position (as at 13th November 1993) is that the balance remaining to be raised has reduced to £8712.34.

I know of a number of fund raising events planned, both at Downs Barn and in the North Bucks Branch area, as well as throughout the Guild. I hope that it will be possible to repay the 2 loans (from the Bell Fund and a personal loan) which have been made available to fund the project by the end of 1993 or during the early part of 1994.

I have so far made application to a number of charitable trusts. Their replies have varied from "if we had the money readily available and we are hard pressed all over the country it would be outside this Society's scope to do so. We are obviously on various lists that we ought not to be on."

to the very supportive-

"... the Downs Barn project is very exciting and one which this Council was happy to support in principle. Unfortunately the funds with which we are provided by various charitable trusts are restricted to the conservation of historic bells, rather than the installation of new. However, I will put your request before the Committee when it meets in case the members feel able to offer any advice or help. With congratulations on your success in installing your new ring and best wishes for your equal success in clearing the outstanding debt."

I have received a donation from the trust administered by the Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire and a number of replies are outstanding, clearly awaiting a committee decision.

I ask you all, both towers, branches and individuals, to make every effort in fund raising. We have done very well so far, particularly in view of the difficult economic climate nationally, but the final amounts to raise always seem to be the hardest as I am sure many of us know from experience! It has been good to receive some very favourable comments about local ringers when PCC donations have been forwarded to me. One of our objectives with this project was to improve public relations and I believe this has been achieved.

I am able to supply covenants and Gift Aid forms and reclaim the tax thereon. I am also happy to receive cash and/or cheques (drawn in favour of 'Central Board of Finance of the Church of England' please).

Good luck with the fund raising.

B J Gatward
Honorary Treasurer

COMPARISON OF THE BELL FUND AND THE RESTORATION FUND

INTRODUCTION

Earlier this year, the Finance and General Purposes Sub-Committee discussed a report from the Sonning Deanery Branch on the position of the Bell Fund and the Restoration Fund. This document had been fully discussed by the Bell Fund Trustees and their response was considered alongside the original report. It was the sub-committee's view that the current position of the two funds serves the Guild well and is quite well established and understood by members and that no useful purpose would be gained by changing the situation at the present time. It was accepted that the Restoration Fund should be made more prominent to the Guild and I was asked to write an appropriate article for ODDBOB. The position of these two funds will be kept under close observation as the financial climate changes.

THE RESTORATION FUND - started in 1926

One of the objects of the Guild is "the promotion of interest in the care of all the bells within the Diocese". One means of doing this is by giving grants towards their repair and renovation.

The ten years following the end of the First World War in 1918 were intensely busy for bell founders. Restorations, rehanging and augmentations of bells proved to be ideal War memorials and the growing ambitions of ringers led to many rings being increased to six, eight or ten bells. Some 35 towers applied to the Guild for grants and £123 was paid out. The Restoration Fund was launched in 1926, although in its first year it only grew to £3.25!

During the Second World War the General Committee discussed ways of building up the Restoration Fund. In 1942 the suggestion was made that all P.C.C.s in the Diocese should be circulated and invited to pay 10p per bell to the Fund. In the first year that this was done, the sum of £30.75 was raised. Subsequently the appeal was repeated and even in 1974 was still resulting in some £50 per annum from P.C.C.s. No grants were paid between 1939 and 1949 which enabled the accumulation of some capital from which future grants could be met. Grants were not large, more a token of appreciation than a real financial help.

The other significant income to the Fund was the 'Jenkyn Bequest' comprising War Loan, Consols and Treasury Stock which was received in the early 1950's (for current details refer to Restoration Fund account for year ended 31 December 1992 - page 6 ODDBOB Issue 39). The income from this holding is the main regular source of funds available for grants. However the relatively low value of this capital would realise limited income if it was to be encashed.

By 1971, the Restoration Fund had built up to a sum of over £2,000. Grants were still small and though welcome, did not offer a great deal of encouragement unless there was enthusiasm locally

The Fund was registered as a charity in 1982 (Registered Number 284053) and is managed by the Guild Trustees and the Honorary General Treasurer as trustees of the Fund.

The stated objects of the Fund are:

To advance the Christian religion by providing financial assistance to Churches in the Diocese of Oxford for the purpose of maintaining and improving their bell installations by making grants to them. Maintenance and improvement of a bell installation is deemed to include the following:

- a. taking out an existing ring of bells, supplying and installing a new frame and fittings, recasting the bells and erecting the same;*
- b. taking out, overhauling and reclapping existing bells, supplying and installing a new frame and fitting and re-erecting bells;*
- c. taking out existing bells, overhauling existing frame and fittings, recasting or overhauling and reclapping same and re-erecting;*
- d. augmentation and bringing existing bells, frame and fittings into an adequate state of repair;*
- e. other major repairs to bells, frame and fittings.*

This is clearly a wide brief and one which is well suited to specific "raise-and-spend" projects, such as the Downs Barn project.

The charitable status of the Fund means that all the normal tax saving benefits exist on investment income and that donations may be covenanted.

THE BELL FUND - started 1975

In 1972 an idea for floating a new fund with a very large capital sum, the interest from which would pay the whole cost for all the repairs in the Diocese, was initially discussed.

The scheme was discussed at length by the Guild and with the Bishop of Oxford and then proposals were submitted to the Charity Commissioners for approval.

The scheme and rules for the Fund were finally approved in 1974 and the fund raising launched in January 1975. In the first year nearly £1,680 was raised. The £10,000 mark was passed in 1978.

The trustees report for the year ended 31 December 1992 showed that :-

- the total capital raised to date amounted to £112,763 ;
- the market value of the investments was £173,543;
- the new money raised for the year was £10,956 (compared with £8,209 in

1991);

- the investment income available for distribution was £11,616;
- grants were maintained at 15% of the total eligible project cost.

A wide range of fund raising activities take place, organised by branches, towers and individuals. The draw, which in 1992 raised a profit of £1,486, has become an annual event, as has the Ringing Day, which raised £1004. A sponsored ringing event takes place in each Leap Year and a trophy is awarded to the branch which raises the greatest amount per member. In 1992, the amount raised was £2,904 and the trophy was awarded to the Vale of the White Horse Branch.

The members of the General Committee are the Governors of the Bell Fund and they elect Managing Trustees. The Custodian Trustees are the Diocesan Trustees (Oxford) Ltd and the fund is registered with the Charity Commissioners under No. 268390.

The stated objects of the Fund are :

To collect and raise sums of money and to apply the income arising from the investment of such sums in or towards the repair, maintenance and renewal of the church bells in the Diocese of Oxford.

In the interpretation of the above:

- a. 'Bells' includes the frames and fittings and all other parts and constructions necessary for the proper functioning of the bells but excluding ropes stays and sliders;*
- b. 'Repair maintenance and renewal' shall not include routine servicing of the bells, repairs to the tower or the augmentation of the bells but shall include the removal of bells from one church and their erection in another;*
- c. 'The Diocese of Oxford' shall mean the Diocese as constituted at the date herof.*

This brief means that the regular annual income can be planned and allocated to projects in advance, possibly a year or two ahead. Substantial grants (currently 15%) can be made which are a real incentive to enable projects to proceed. The Bell Fund is able to support a range of projects more effectively than a single project and is concerned with maintenance and renewal and not enhancement of the bells by augmentation.

As with the Restoration Fund, the charitable status of the Fund means that all the normal tax saving benefits exist on investment income and that donations may be covenanted.

APPLICATIONS TO THE FUNDS

A single application form is all that is required for an application to both funds. As a representative of both Trustees, I ensure that applications which can not be accommodated by the Bell Fund (ie requests for augmentations) are considered by the Restoration Fund Trustees. Clearly in view of the limited funds available for grants, generally it is only applications of this type which are supported by the Restoration Fund.

contd.

THE FUTURE OF THE FUNDS

I believe that there is a place for both Funds in the future .

The Bell Fund has been able to support many projects and without doubt bells in the Diocese are in better shape as a consequence of the level of grants which have been made. The focus on maintenance, rather than augmentation, has also supported that objective. The use of a capital fund, where only the income is available for grants, means that there is a certainty about the level of future income and thus grant potential, which does not exist in a 'raise-and-spend' fund, and this enables forward planning. This is a benefit both to the Fund Trustees to know what potential projects exist, as well as to the recipients, since they are able to plan for currently a 15% grant and this can provide the much needed impetus to a project. This is particularly important in a large Diocese, where there is a wide range of parishes, and the possibility that some project would simply not happen through lack of funds and local interest, and accordingly bells might easily become unringable.

The Restoration Fund has supported projects for over 60 years and yet the limitations of this type of supporting fund were recognised and the Bell Fund was created to address the limitations of small grants and uncertainty of annual income. However, the presence of the Restoration Fund is important if there is need to support specific projects and augmentation of bells. This confirms the need for a 'raise-and-spend' fund to exist.

The Downs Barn project illustrates the value of the Restoration Fund and the record of the Bell Fund clearly requires little further amplification. What now needs to happen is that there is regular fund raising for both funds. Guild members have done well in supporting the Bell Fund and apart from Downs Barn have largely ignored the Restoration Fund .

I am able to provide covenant forms for either fund and am happy to receive donations to either fund.

I think the Guild has a unique combination of funds to enable all members to support whichever is their preference. I hope this information clarifies the relative situation of each Fund and will encourage fund raising to both in the future.

B J Gatward - Honorary General Treasurer

BELL CLUB AWARDS:-

- BLUE - Sonning** - Trevor Brinsden, Anna Chilton, Vesta Chilton, Helen Palmer, Emily Palmer, Louise Saunders, Robert Skingsby.
- Shrivenham** - Jenny Crabtree
- GREEN - Appleton** - Kathryn (no surname given)
- Sonning** - Nicky Crowther
- Shrivenham** - Anna Sydon, Emily Crowder, Helen Peplar
- RED Sonning** - Vicky Elliston

BELL FUND - Report on funds raised to date this year.

The total amount of new money raised this year to the end of October is £4,769.39 from the following sources:

Profit on Draw	£1377.00
Ringin Day proceeds	£1022.50
Branch Fund Raising	£1406.42
P.C.C. Donations	£397.47
Tower Donations	£261.00
Covenants	£305.00

The Bell Fund Trustees thank everyone for their continued support which we hope will be sustained for the remainder of the year.

There are a steady number of applications for financial support for projects. The economic position does not appear to have reduced the volume of work being undertaken and the trustees are keen to maintain the Bell Fund's target contribution of 15% towards the project costs.

B J Gatward - on behalf of the Bell Fund Trustees.

BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS

A member recently suggested to me that as the Guild Library is used so infrequently we should sell off some of the duplicate volumes and use the money to help discharge the Downs Barn debt - or a similar project.

The main call on the library is on the volumes of the Bell News and The Ringing World; occasional use is made of the three county books. 99% of the material has never been consulted by anyone other than the librarian.

The books would have to be sold at current market prices, of course, and this could raise quite a considerable sum. It would also have the effect of reducing the amount of shelf space needed, and might also reduce the insurance premium. What do members think?

On another matter, the Bookstall, which incidentally is not owned by the Guild but is a personal project, carries nearly 170 currently published books on bells and ringing matters. As I no longer go to many branch meetings, members rarely see these, so you might like to obtain a catalogue to see what is available. The 24 page catalogue is quite costly to produce, so we need to charge 50p for them. Do write to me at 8 The Waverleys, Thatcham, Berks, RG13 4AW to obtain one. Please note that we moved five years ago from No 7 to No 8: we still get many letters from Guild members to our old address.

W. Butler
Guild Librarian

TOWER LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

Chieveley Church Hall, Saturday 25th September, 1993. 29 people attended this whole day course that included a number of Tower Captains, Ringing Masters, and other Ringers who were also interested in the development of their Bands. All were very keen to learn from the Seminar, from the exchange of views, and to take home new ideas. Much was achieved!

Ably Organised and Chaired by our ODG Master Patricia Newton and very Capably Run by Bill Butler; not to omit the kind support of the Vicar, and Rod Brown for use of the superb Hall and the Practical Session in their Tower, the Seminar went very well indeed.

The Programme started with **"Managing a Band"**, discussing the wide range of Qualities & Skills necessary to become an ideal Leader. It was suggested that the Tower Captain needs to be a good all round Organiser and Manager, but may not be the same person who teaches the Ringing. Use of all the best people resources available in the Tower and outside as a means of developing the Band was strongly prescribed.

We went on to **"Recruitment"** which produced many more suggestions, particularly peer or social groups of any age bracket, attracting Rusty Ringers back, getting involved with the Congregation, Local Advertising, Open Days, etc, etc. Also the important question of keeping your Ringers. The subject was highly participative, and would take pages to report. It overran and was in danger of upsetting timing for the session at the **"Local Hostelery"**.

Next was **"Running a Practice"** and making it really useful to everyone at all levels. It certainly was for us, for a number of very useful points were made, also by the participants.

On to **"Teaching Bell Handling"** with the novel idea by Bill of teaching your learners to ring rounds within one week. What was meant here was that 15 minutes on the rope per week would result in lost impetus through time regression, whereas the same time for 5 days in the first week would prevent this loss and achieve an early goal and it's resulting encouragement. The total teaching time would be far shorter, with lower student fall-out.

Then to **"Teaching Change Ringing"** which covered hints and tips for each stage up to Call Changes, to Plain Hunt, to Bob Doubles inside, and beyond Doubles. All very useful.

We then removed to the Chieveley Tower for our **"Practical Session"** to give us all an opportunity to see how we could make earlier theory work. There were a number of very useful ideas that we could put into practice. Shame if you weren't there.

Finally to a **"Debrief"** on the Leadership Qualities to which we must all strive. This conclusion left us on a high note, with a lot of very good ideas for the future to be put into practice, all good input from Bill Butler in particular to whom we are all very grateful, and to each other for their ideas in a happy and pleasant environment.

The success of this first Seminar will provide impetus towards a repeat for other parts of the Guild. So look out for the next Tower Leadership Seminar and **sign on!!**

A Unique Experience

Why do we run courses? Why do people go on them? Perhaps you have never stopped to ask these questions. Perhaps you have never been on or helped with one. The thing that strikes people most when they first come into contact with a ringing course, is the enthusiasm of those involved. You only have to read the reports by those who attended Easthampstead 93 (in this issue) to realise this. Courses offer teaching, some of which you may be able to get in your own tower, but they offer much more. You get more time than in regular ringing. You get the attention of experts and learn from others on the course. You will learn a lot you did not expect. You should return to your own tower not only with enhanced skills or knowledge, but enriched with a wider perspective on your ringing.

The total experience provides something hard to get in a single tower, even a good one. On a weekend course, you get the equivalent of ten or more practice nights, either ringing or doing related things. This intensity and the extra attention can help you tackle things you might otherwise find too daunting. Some people progress dramatically in a weekend. Others see, and begin to overcome problems that have lain unsolved for years. Yet others are inspired with new ideas either for their own ringing, or for those they teach. On a seminar you can exchange experiences with others with similar interests.

The Guild runs courses and seminars at all levels on many topics to make these extra experiences available. The regular ones are Easthampstead, Cuddesden and the Youth Weekend. Easthampstead is the biggest. You can immerse yourself in a 'long weekend' experience. Apart from your main theme, there are many optional topics to broaden your interest. Cuddesden is smaller. It has been a short weekend, but in 1994 will be a single day. It provides a scaled-down experience in less time. Most of us are past qualifying for the Youth Weekend, but by all accounts those who are young enough to go have just as satisfying an experience.

Most other courses and seminars last a day, or less, but they still allow you to stand away from day to day concerns and view some aspect of your ringing, (or ringing teaching), in a new light. The Guild runs occasional courses and seminars on various themes. Recent ones have included tower management, ten bell ringing and the use of computers as teaching aids.

In all Guild wide courses, you have the added stimulus of meeting and comparing ideas with people from other areas. But in addition, we can provide a wide range of courses at the request of individual branches or towers, (see the list near the back). This allows the experience to be brought to you, rather than the other way round. They can be as small or as large as the number of people you have interested. These local courses still take you out of the normal ringing routine but allow you to share the experience with people you probably know without the need to travel so far.

So what should you do about it? If you think you would benefit from the opportunity to focus on some aspect of your ringing or teaching, with expert friendly guidance, enthusiastic companions and no distractions, why not go on a course yourself. If you know someone who you think would find the experience rewarding, but might not otherwise think of going, you could offer encouragement. Why not go together - there are groups at most levels of ability. If you think going away on a course would be impractical for many ringers who might otherwise enjoy the experience, why not canvass support for a local course. The Guild can provide tutors, all you, or your secretary, would have to do is to act as the local contact, book a suitable hall and/or some towers.

As I said at the beginning, we try to provide a range of experiences to complement what you do in your own tower and branch. But the Guild can only offer. You have to apply. You have to encourage those around you who may feel inhibited to try a new experience. You have to stir up the local interest to ask for a course to be brought into your Branch or Tower.

John Harrison

TOWERS AND BELFRIES COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE GUILD COMMITTEE
MEETING, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27 1993

1. The Committee has met three times since our last gathering, and the routine activity has been taking place in between times.
2. The eight bells at Downs Barn were installed in May, and it is pleasing to note that there were no major mechanical problems. The bells were dedicated later in the year. I am sure that this committee will want to show their gratitude to the main stalwarts of the installation process, namely Bernard Stone and Graham Clifton.
3. A One Day Maintenance Course was held at Theale/Caversham on 6th November when some twelve candidates attended. They seemed to enjoy themselves, and we for our part trust that they found the day useful.
4. There may be other branches who feel that they might benefit from a One Day Maintenance Course. If so, please let one of the Committee know, and we will take it from there.
5. There may be some budding enthusiasts in your branches who will want to take an interest in the affairs of the Towers and Belfries Committee. If so we shall be interested to hear from you.
6. I can report that the five bells at East Claydon, Bucks have been re-stored and rehung in the tower. I have inspected the installation, and have recommended that the grant from the Guild be paid. By way of information, the rededication service is to take place on Sunday, 12th December next, starting at 3.00 p.m. I understand that visitors are welcome.
7. During the Summer, Colin Turner resigned from the committee due to other pressures. It was with regret that the Committee accepted Colin's resignation and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking him for his work with us over the years.
8. The next task is that of judging the towers who have entered the Best Kept Tower Competition. Guidance sheets have been issued, and it is hoped to complete the first round of judging before Christmas is over.

Richard Stevens
Chairman

27 Nov. 93

EASTHAMPSTEAD COURSE 1993

The words "Easthampstead Park" conjure up visions of a country house with Austenesque ladies gliding over gravelled paths, and Mr Darcy lurking behind a convenient hedge.

Transmogrify Mr Darcy into an Oxford Diocesan Guild Tutor, and clothe Elizabeth Bennet in a sweat-shirt and trainers, and you have a modern-day bell-ringing house party.

Group 4

There were five of us in Group 4, three of whom had been at Easthampstead on previous occasions and two for whom it was the first experience. We were also a mixed bunch in terms of our stated goals and expectations.

On the Friday afternoon, in somewhat typical Easthampstead practice, we attempted the main objectives, but the time was used in fact as a very subtle programme which allowed our chief instructor and her helpers to make their assessments of our general level of ability and experience. Between us we had expressed the wish to be able to ring Yorkshire and Cambridge Surprise Major

Plain and Little Bob Major, Norwich Surprise Minor and Double Norwich. At the end of Saturday afternoon all of these desires had been achieved. We will all go back home having got further than we had thought possible, and the youngest member of the group gave a superb performance on the ten bells at Warfield by ringing Cambridge Surprise Royal well beyond the half-course our instructor had originally suggested - the extra length arising simply because all of us, helpers and other students, were almost spellbound by the sheer delight and joy in the accomplishment. Well done, Simon!

A BEGINNER'S VIEW

The long awaited day arrived at last with reception at Warfield Church on Friday morning.

Informal groups soon developed with talk of Grandsire, Stedman and Surprise methods that made my Plain Hunt seem very small fry by comparison. However we were soon introduced to our tutors and split off into our groups for the weekend sessions. Our initial group discussion with Graham, our Tutor, determined our individual expectations, ambitions and anxieties. We were all plain hunting to varying degrees of success, and the main aim of all was to acquire rope sight and improve striking.

We commenced our ringing at Warfield with a brief handling appraisal, when faults were observed with the aim of correcting them over the week-end. We were then introduced to a team of 'helpers' who rang with us throughout the day.

After lunch, ringing at Shottesbrooke saw a definite improvement; the whole group felt that progress was being made, ropes were becoming more visible and striking was a lot better. After reception and dinner at Easthampstead Park the evening was packed with activities - a real feast including change-ringing on handbells, tune-ringing on handbells, raising and lowering in peal, rope handling and conducting - the only pity was we could not do them all. Saturday ringing was at Streatley, Beenham and Bradfield. We were growing in ability and confidence now and were attempting Plain Bob Doubles, with a group of resolute helpers trying to keep us on the blue line. We would never have dreamed that we would be attempting this, especially by the Saturday morning; in fact Joanne was progressing apace and rang Treble Bob, a credit both to her and Graham.

Saturday evening was another jam-packed session - handbells, lectures, calling call changes - there really was so much to do and lots of encouragement to do it. Sunday was consolidation day for Group 1 - no tower-bell ringing but still plenty to do; lectures, handbells, tower maintenance; another full day that all too soon was over.

We have met many wonderful people, made new friends, shared our successes and disappointments; not only have our expectations been reached and surpassed, but we leave with increased confidence and renewed enthusiasm. On behalf of Joanne, Simon, Hilary, Jo and myself, very many thanks to everybody who organised the course so well (a logistical triumph), to all helpers who rang and gave so much of their time so graciously, and a special thank you to Graham for the individual attention that we all received. Next year? You bet.

Extracts from the Reports sent to the Ringing World

THE KILIFI PROJECT

Earlier this year I was very fortunate to be included in a band of ringers touring Africa. A very full account of our travels appeared in the May Ringing World, excellently written by two members of the party. I don't want to repeat it here, but in view of a recent Guild Committee's decision, I would like to give you my impressions of Kilifi.

Kilifi is an isolated African village in Kenya, on the coast of the Indian Ocean some forty miles north of Mombasa. The Memorial Church of St Thomas has a ring of six bells, with a tenor of two and three quarter hundredweights. The majority of the parishioners are very poor - the average wage for those in employment is equivalent to less than £25 per month - but they are all very proud of their church and their ring of bells.

At the Vicar's suggestion we rang a peal at 7 a.m. on Easter Sunday morning, and after attending the two hour service in English and Swahili, we spent the afternoon helping the local band. They are largely self taught, and are progressing well despite the problems they experience.

Can you imagine what it must be like to learn to ring on the most isolated ring of bells in the world? Their closest tower is Harare Cathedral in Zimbabwe, nearly 1100 miles away. I suppose it would be similar to our having only one tower in Oxford, with the next one in Denmark or Switzerland.

We did what we could in the few hours we had available, but it was obvious the team needed more concentrated help over a longer period of time. That is what the Kilifi project will do. It plans to bring six of the band to England in August 1994 for a two weeks' intensive training course.

The main problem is, as you might imagine, raising the £5,000 to do this. Over half has already been subscribed, and the Guild has been asked if it can help raise some of the remainder. The General Committee thought the scheme worthwhile, and suggested members might like to join together in a sponsored quarter and peal week 22nd to 31st January 1994.

The Guild has a fine record in helping others. We ran one of the first ever ringing courses in the 1920s and were one of the first Guilds to set up an Education Committee. Some older members (my age!) will remember the Groton school boys visiting the Guild in the 1960s. Can we see what we can do to help the Kilifi ringers?

Please send all details of peals and quarters to me, together with cheques made out to "The Kilifi Project", and I will forward them. Let us demonstrate what the Oxford Guild can do. Thank you.

W Butler

8 The Waverleys, Thatcham, Berks. RG13 4AW

SIX-BELL STRIKING CONTEST - 2nd October 1993

This year's Six-Bell Striking Contest was hosted by the Central Bucks Branch on Saturday 2nd October.

Heats were held in the afternoon at Bierton and Hardwick for the eleven teams entered. Ringing at Bierton were:-

Appleton, Aston Clinton, High Wycombe, Quainton, Shrivenham and Thatcham.

This heat was judged by John Harrison.

Ringing at Hardwick were:-

Bradwell, Chinnor, Finchampstead, Oxford St.Giles and Tilehurst.

This heat was judged by Richard Stevens.

The first three teams from each heat went on to the Final at Dinton. This was judged by Andy Keech from Leighton Buzzard and David Potts from Kempston. As it turned out all the teams in the final rang Grandsire Doubles.

The Final results were:-

	1st.	Aston Clinton	19 faults
	2nd.	Thatcham	31 faults
	3rd.	Appleton	51 faults
	4th.	Tilehurst	56 faults
Joint	5th.	Finchampstead	
		Oxford St.Giles	58 faults

Many congratulations to Aston Clinton who over the last few years have been steadily working their way up the placings.

The highest placed Oxfordshire tower had been invited to take part in a Six Bell Contest organised by the Four Shires Guild. This took place on Saturday 13th November at Long Compton. Neither Appleton nor St.Giles were able to represent the County so Shrivenham went in their place. This contest involved ringing up, 120 changes and ringing down, all to be judged. Only the first two teams were announced:

- 1st Warwick
- 2nd Cheltenham.

According to the organiser, Pam Copson, Shrivenham did not disgrace themselves and put up a good performance.

Graham Clifton
Deputy Master.

---oOo---

FOUR SHIRES STRIKING CONTEST

(by one who took part)

This contest was held for the first time this year as a "Champion of Champions" event between Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire, Worcestershire and Warwickshire.

Oxfordshire should have been represented by Appleton who came highest in the ODG contest but they could not be present. After some complicated calculations based on the 1992 ODG results it was decided that Shrivenham should represent the County!!! Undaunted by this sudden honour, the band duly made its way to Long Compton (Warks) on 13th November.

The competition involved raising the bells, ringing 120 changes and lowering the bells. The whole performance was marked. A panel of four judges,

representing each county placed the teams as follows:-

- 1st Warwick (Warwickshire)
- 2nd Cheltenham (Gloucestershire)
- Joint 3rd Shrivenham (Oxfordshire)
- Petworth (Worcestershire)

The competition was made more interesting by the very long draft and the fact that the bells were half-muffled for Remembrance Day. Shrivenham was represented by Gordon Belcher, Erica Crabtree, Tony Crabtree, Vanessa Hacker, Jackie O'Hagan (on loan from Stanford-in-the-Vale) and Theresa Sugden.

From Vale of White Horse News Letter

---oOo---

ST MARY'S UFFINGTON

St Mary's, Uffington

The bells were re-furbished and augmented
in 1992 by Whites of Appleton

Vicars:

The Reverend David Ashburner 1982-1991

The Reverend John Gawne-Cain 1992

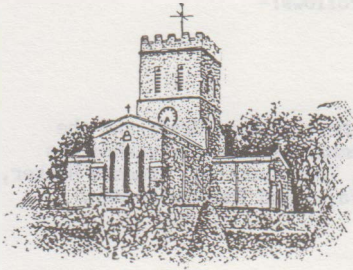
Churchwardens:

Marcella Seymour, Eric Bond

Tower Captain:

Bill Mitchell

The plaque engraved to commemorate the rehangng of the bells. It has been mounted on a piece of oak cut from part of the old bell frame.



Any one who has rung our bells in Tackley recently will have discovered that although they have a magnificent tone, they are also very difficult to handle. Exasperated and sad, Tackley bellringers have had to face the fact that work needing to be done can no longer be put off. The 18th Century lower frame needs replacing, although an upper frame installed in 1924 to house one bell, the second, is in good condition. The old hardwood wheel is buckled and so will be replaced along with new pulley bits and bell races. The bells themselves, as they are to be taken down will be tuned and the tenor will need a new headstock and trimmings. Sadly abig bill will need to be met on masonry work to the tower. Hence we are launching our St. Nicholas Bell and Tower appeal to the Tune of £60,000. The 15th Century tower of St Nicholas and its six bells have obviously meant a lot to the village. We have learnt from old wills that in 1536 Richard Howes left a bushel of barley to maintain the bells of Tackley. Nine years later another Richard Howes, perhaps his son, left eight pence to the bells. In 1557 Robert Andrews bequeathed a bushel of malt, and John Haddon, twelve pence. After the Reformation bequest to the high altar and the rood light ceased, but those to the bells went on, for John Andrews left twelve pence for their maintenance in 1613. Some of the bells we still have recall long-dead worthies of Tackley, such as Robert Standard, who owned much land around Tackley in 1664, and whose name appears on the 10cwt 5th bell. The 14 cwt tenor bears the same date and the name of Sir Compton Reade, a prominent Oxfordshire Royalist who lived here briefly. This date suggests that our bells had been destroyed during the Civil War. Their later companions are dated 1689, 1859 and 1924. An official start to the appeal was launched on 26th September, when the tower and church were open to view and the Tackley Court Farm gardens was also open with teas. We have a big task for a small village - any ideas and help in any shape or form would be welcome.

Rosemary van der Werff, Tackley Tower Secretary.
086 983 273

---oOo---

ooo YOUTH NEWS ooo

Mark Munday (aged 10) rang his first Quarter peal at White Waltham on 27th November. He rang the Treble to P.B. Minor at his first attempt. It was called by his father. His mother also rang and one grandfather. The other was sadly unable to ring.

Mark Waller (14) rang his first peal in November.

--- O B I T U A R Y ---

JOHN CLARK - Uffington

It is with regret we announce the death of John Clark. He learnt to ring at Uffington and was for many years a regular service ringer. He was for ten years our clock winder and also assisted the late David Nettle when the clock was serviced on several occasions. Over the last few years, due to heart problems he had to give up his much enjoyed hobby. John is missed by all of us and we extend our sympathy to his wife, daughter and grandson. The bells were rung half-muffled in his memory on 23rd November by an all Uffington band of ringers.

W.H.Mitchell

PATRICK DARVILL - Great Kimble

Member of The Oxford Diocesan Guild

Tower Captain 1978 -1993

It is with regret that we announce the death of Pat Darvill, who was tower captain of St.Nicholas Church, Great Kimble. He died after a second heart attack in Stoke Mandeville Hospital on 23rd October 1993.

Pat was born and raised in Great Kimble, living in the house next door to the village school. He met his wife Betty in the village when she was in the WRAF, stationed at Chequers. They were married in St Nicholas Church in 1952 and recently celebrated their 41st Wedding Anniversary, while on holiday in Germany. Pat and Betty moved around the Kimble area, and now live in Princes Risborough, but Pat returned to St Nicolas Church, where he banded together and worked extremely hard, to revive the interest of the local people, in once again ringing their church bells. He was always there to ring the bells, at funerals and weddings, and his memory those bells will continue to be rung by those he trained and encouraged, in his quiet way.

But his greatest joy was being able to train his grandson, Sean, who had to stand on a box, when he first joined. Sean continued to come with his grandfather, and Pat would have been proud as he took his place at the bells, rung before his grandfather's funeral.

Pat was buried in St Nicholas's Churchyard on 2nd November. The church was full, as family and friends, came to pay their respects. Pat was a quiet man, be sadly missed.

Our thoughts go out to Betty, her two daughters, and her six grandchildren.

John White

GORDON DANIEL 1976 - 1993 Cookham / Dorney

It was with shock that the bellringers of Holy Trinity, Cookham-on-Thames and the local branch of the ODG learnt of the untimely death on 24th November of 17 year old Gordon Daniel.

Gordon, his parents and his sister Naomi and brother Luke have all been regular ringers at the Church of Holy Trinity. The family moved to the area some two years ago and since their arrival have been keen and devoted members of the band. Gordon, a student at Eton, also rang with the college at Dorney during term time, and always attended Cookham during his vacations and week-end home visits. He was keen and enthusiastic and enjoyed ringing to the full.

He had enthusiasm for all activities and at Eton was a member of the Cadet Corps. It was during a parascending exercise that he suffered a fall and sadly never recovered from the injuries sustained.

The funeral service was held at Eton College and the fifteenth century

Chapel was full to capacity. The service was very moving and it was obvious from the Address that Gordon was an exceptional scholar, popular and dedicated, who was expected to attain his ambition to be a doctor or surgeon. In fact, in 1994 he was to visit Nepal to assist in establishing a medical centre.

Gordon's passing will leave not only the ringing fraternity with a void, but society as a whole. That he will be missed by all who knew him is undoubted, but our sympathies go out to Freddie and Ruth, his parents, and Miriam, Naomi and Luke in their bereavement and the thoughts of us all are with them.

Michael Best

Ringing Master EBSB Branch ODG

---oOo---

Cookham-on-Thames, Berkshire
30th November, 1993

1260 PLAIN BOB TRIPLES

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Marcia Dieppe | 5. Arthur Harris |
| 2. John Dieppe | 6. Andrew McKerlie |
| 3. Howard Tocock | 7. Robert Newton (C) |
| 4. Michael Best | 8. Gerry Ayre |

Rung half-muffled as a tribute to Gordon Daniel, bellringer at this church, who died on Wednesday 24th November 1993, aged 17 years, following a tragic accident.

--oOo---

GEORGE HOLLAND - Maids Moreton, Bucks

O.D.G. member 1946-1993 - Maids Moreton

Tower Captain Maids Moreton 1968 - 1993

Probably only those who have known the North Bucks Branch over a long lifetime will fully realise how much ringing in that Branch owes to George Holland and the band at Maids Moreton. A full obituary we hope will appear in March ODD BOB.

M.R.C.

---oOo---

FRED MYNARD - Old Wolverton

O.D.G. member 1938 - 1993

---oOo---

WILLIAM (Bill) BIRMINGHAM - Slough St. Mary's

O.D.G. member 1927 - 1993 Died 30.11.93

Nettlebed 1927 - 1935

Slough St Mary 1936 - 1993

Tower Captain 1948 - 1984

East Berks and South Bucks Branch Representative 1936 - 1984

Bill also served for a number of years as a member of the Guild

Education Committee and as a Tutor at the Easthampstead Course.

A full obituary we hope will appear in March.

--oOo---

LESLIE WALLINGTON - Ludgershall, Oxon

O.D.G. member 1964 - 1993

---oOo---

GREAT TEW CENTENARY

Tuesday, 26th October was the centenary of the first peal on the bells of Great Tew.

To mark the fact a band made up from towers in the Banbury Branch rang a peal of Stedman Triples.

GREAT TEW, OXON

26th October 1993

2hrs 49 mins.

5040 STEDMAN TRIPLES

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Sue Burchell (Great Tew) | 5. Graham Clifton (Steeple Aston) |
| 2. Alan Griffin (Bloxham) | 6. Robin Hall (Deddington) |
| 3. Charlotte Holmes (Adderbury) | 7. Barry Davis (Banbury) |
| 4. Ian Smith (Bodicote) | 8. Joe Burchell (Great Tew) |

Composed by J.W. Washbrook

Conducted by Barry Davis

GREAT TEW, OXON

26th October 1893

2hrs 38mins

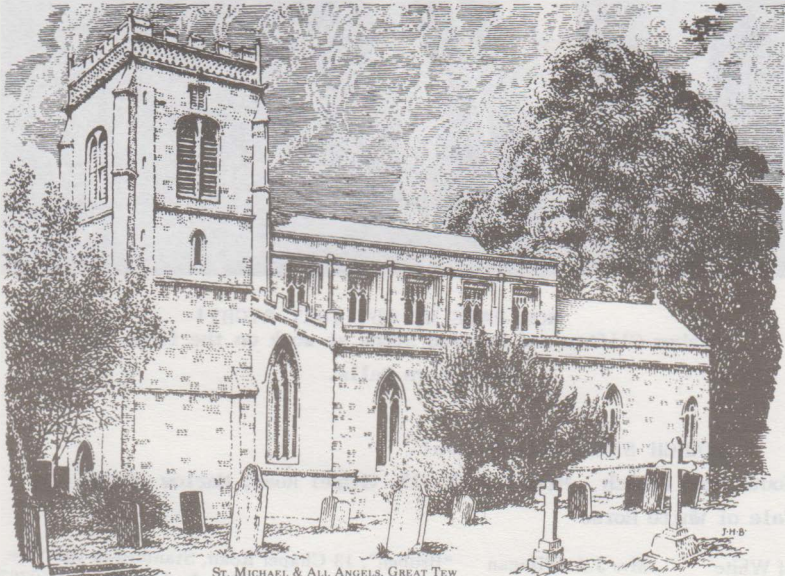
5040 STEDMAN TRIPLES

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1. Frederick White (Appleton) | 5. Rev. F.E. Robinson (Daryton, Berks) |
| 2. Cecil Foxell (Reading) | 6. Alfred Thomas (Reading) |
| 3. Charles Hounslow (Oxford) | 7. James Washbrook (Oxford) |
| 4. Ernest Napper (East Hagbourne) | 8. { Stedman White (Appleton)
Albert White (Appleton) |

Composed by J.W. Washbrook

Conducted by J.W. Washbrook

First Peal on the bells



ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS, GREAT TEW

ANOTHER CENTURY HONOURED BY THE BANBURY BRANCH

DUNS TEW, OXON 20th November 1993 2hrs 46mins

5040 DOUBLES 14 METHODS/VARIATIONS

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Robert Stranks | 3. E. Susan Burchell (Gt. Tew) |
| 2. Simon Stranks | 4. Alan J. Griffin (Bloxham) |
| | 5. Graham J. Clifton |
| | Conducted by G.C. Clifton |

First Peal 1. First Peal inside 2.
 100th Birthday compliment to Alfred Pitcher, former Churchwarden
 and Sunday School teacher.

---oOo---



NOW HAVE WE GOT THAT RIGHT!
Graham Clifton and Bernard Stone at work on the frame for
Downs Barn Bells.

BRANCH SECRETARIES cont.

South Oxon Branch Miss T. Ruff, 15, Chapel Road, Marlow, Bucks.
Vale of White Horse

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
Witney and Woodstock:	Mr C. Wallworth	SN7 8LE 5 Parkside, Woodstock, Oxon. OX20 1UR Woodstock (0993) 812187

CHIPPING NORTON BRANCH A.G.M. - ENSTONE- 1936



Back Row:- L-R. J.Keyte, J.Keyte Jun., C.F.Sheffield, D.Ogles, T.Hawtin, *.
 Middle Row - W.Huckin, W.Snow, C.Sole, *, J.Jarvis, *,*,*.
 Front Row:- E.T.Hawtin, A.Lewis, Revd.E.H.Nind (Chairman), *, Rev.K.Cobb,
 *, *, *.

J.Keyte was the Branch Secretary for many years.

CAN ANYONE HELP BY GIVING NAMES TO THOSE PEOPLE MARKED BY
 AN *. If so would you please let the Editor know.

---oOo---

Working out in the Ringing Chamber ?

I'm the owner of four Suits which I used to wear on business. So what you say! Well these days I wear a Blazer or other smart casuals, except when Ringing for which unsmart casuals seem to be mandatory. Well that's all very well, expect for a recent need to look intelligent in a suit. None of them would fit. The trousers are ok and so is the tum. It's the chest that's too tight by far, but as I haven't put on any weight there must be another reason.

Could I possibly be overpulling? If so could some seasoned ringer offer advice. Can I expect through more ringing experience to reduce my new dimensions. Do I have to buy a new suit? Or should I stop ringing? Was Tarzan a ringer whose clothes finally wouldn't fit? Did he overpull !?

Novice
 (name & address supplied)

Oxon

---oOo---

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

BANBURY BRANCH:-

The Half-yearly Meeting, held at Somerton in October, was well attended. At the meeting, there was discussion about a Branch Striking Competition. It was decided that, if a tower could not enter a whole team, individuals could turn up and bands be made up on the day, to encourage everyone to take part and to promote good striking at all levels of ringing.

Somerton is, at present a six-bell tower. In the not too distant future, it will be augmented to eight, funded by a donation from someone in the U.S.A. with local connections. There is already an eight bell frame. It is hoped that the eight will be available for a heat in the Guild 8-Bell competition next May.

Several local peals took place recently. At Great Tew, a peal of Stedman was rung on 26th October, to celebrate the centenary of the first peal on the bells (also Stedman). An old handwritten book was re-discovered in Great Tew Church giving details of the first peal and also details of local ringers and events in the 1890s. It is now to be kept in the Guild Library.

A peal of 14 Doubles Methods/Variations was rung at Duns Tew for the 100th birthday of a former resident, Alfred Pitcher (now in a nursing home in Banbury), who was church-warden and Sunday School teacher for many years.

A peal of Cambridge Royal, with a Branch band was scored at Banbury on 6th November.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Fri. Jan.7,1994 Branch Striking Competition - Mollington

Fri. Feb.11,1994 Branch Dinner

Sat. Mar.19,1994 Plain Hunt/Bob Doubles Course - Tutor Alan Griffin
Venue to be arranged

Sue Burchell

Branch Secretary

BIGGESTR BRANCH:-

1. The usual leisurely pace of the branch continues, with Branch practices receiving varied support. The Half-Yearly Meeting at Middleton Stoney was enjoyed by those who made the effort.

2. The Branch is to investigate the future of Ambrosden bells with the present Vicar. Currently there is no band and a splendid ring of eight is doing virtually nothing and certainly receiving the scantiest of maintenance. The progress of this venture depends much on the Vicar and the attitude he wishes to adopt.

3. Progress on the rehangings of the two heavier bells at Caversfield has been slow, due in part to obtaining various quotes. It is clear that the sum of £5,000.0 will have to be a target figure for this work.

On a sadder note, the Branch ringers note the death this last week of Les Wallington of Ludgershall. Further tributes will follow.

R.C.Stevens

Branch Secretary

CENTRAL BUCKS BRANCH:-

Central Bucks Branch Outing.

This year's outing to the Peterborough area was well received by all. The organisation of Mark Sellin once again made the day run smoothly. With the adoption of a new coach company the quality of the ride was better than in previous years, and was cheaper to boot! At the end of the day 41 places on

the coach were taken and 5 joined in cars. That meant an income of £373.50. Outgoings of £342.00 for coach and tower donations etc. meant that a small profit of £31.50. This amount will go towards making the 'social fund' a little more solvent after last year's loss of £70.50. We visited Thrapston(8), Titchmarsh (8), Wadenhoe (6), Fotheringhay (6) and Warsford - a very light six but still manageable by everyone. On the return journey a stop was made at the working steam railway near Oundle where we waited for the 18.12 to pass. Next year, the thought of visiting London has been raised.

The Orchard Cup striking competition 1993

The annual striking competition between the Chiltern and Central Bucks Branches took place at Swanbourne on Saturday 9th October. It was busy. Seven teams from the Chiltern and Central Bucks Branches competed for the Orchard Cup. The judge this year, Barry Eglesfield, a well known ringer from the North Bucks Branch, was very pleased that he had so many teams to judge. He was most impressed with the striking. The winners were Aston Clinton (surprise, surprise) with Aylesbury and Cuddington second and third respectively. This year also saw the retiring of the two stewards, George Edmans (Central Bucks) and Donald Wheeler (Chiltern). Both were appointed by Fred Orchard in 1975 to make sure the competition took place each year. It is their continued support that has kept the competition alive each year. The stewards for the Orchard Cup from now on will be Peter Fay (Central Bucks) and Roy Woodruff (Chiltern).

Branch AGM 13 November 1993

Unfortunately the moving of the date of the AGM made NO difference to the attendance figure. If anything, there were less people than last time! Should the dates be moved again? Those present at the AGM considered it but then thought it best to leave the dates the same for a while to see if there would be a pick up at another meeting. The committee elected for the coming year consists of the following:

Chairman	Terry Wagstaff	(0296) 641755
Vice-Chairman	Mike Dodd	
Master	Andy Lancey	(0296) 681879
Vice-Master	Richard Smith	(0296) 436905
Secretary/ Treasurer	Justin Baker	(081) 200 6039
	83, Church Drive, Kingsbury, London, NW9 8DP	
Branch Rep.	Chris Carter	(0525) 240236
Branch Steward	Phil Dunn	

We welcome Terry (going going, not gone) Wagstaff back to the Branch. Terry has a lot of experience regarding Branch matters. He was Branch Secretary/Treasurer for nine years. Another warm welcome back to Andy Lancey who was the Master two years ago.

Justin Baker
Branch Secretary

CHILTERN BRANCH:-

Events in the Chiltern Branch over the past three months or so have proven to be a mixture of success on the one hand, tinged with sadness on the other.

The Aston Clinton ringers have been regular representatives of the Branch in the Guild Six-Bell Striking Competition since the early days of the contest. Although their average placing in the competition had gradually improved over the years, this was still an event they felt they were unlikely ever to win. They proved themselves wrong this year, and not only won the

heat at Bierton but also the final at Dinton. This is the first time that the Cup has been won by a Chiltern Branch band and we are very pleased with the achievement.

The Orchard Cup Striking Competition, our annual contest with the Central Bucks Branch, was held at Swanbourne a week later. Bands from Bledlow and Aston Clinton represented the Branch, and the latter retained the Cup. Our Half-Yearly Meeting was held afterwards, during which six new members were elected to the Guild, and Roy Woodruff was elected to succeed Don Wheeler as the Chiltern Branch Steward for the Orchard Cup. On the financial side we learnt that our 100 Club would be making a contribution of some £300.00 to the Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund, and we agreed to a grant of £150 from our Restoration Fund to the Marsworth Bells Appeal. We agreed to try starting our Branch Practices a little later in the evening in 1994, starting at 7.00 and finishing at 9.00pm.

We were saddened to learn of the death of Pat Darvill of Great Kimble on 23rd October. The church was full for his funeral on 2nd November, and the bells were rung half-muffled both before and after the service. Pat's obituary appears in this ODD BOB.

The recent trend of restoration work in the Branch is to be continued, as we learn that the time has come for Monks Risborough bells to receive some attention. Although at present the final plans have yet to be drawn up, it seems the present wooden frame will have to be replaced with a new metal structure, lower in the tower, and in two tiers. The bells will require all new fittings and it is possible that an allowance will be made in the design for a future augmentation to eight. Until the work has been done, ringing will have to be restricted, and we will not be able to hold a Branch Practice there until completion of the job.

John White

Branch Secretary

CHIPPING NORTON BRANCH:-

The Branch held its Autumn Meeting at Chastleton, a tower that has recently undergone major work. In fact the bells had not been rung for several decades. There were several new members elected at this meeting, the majority being from Chastleton and Salford. We welcome them to the Branch, and the Guild, and hope that they will make steady progress.

It was decided to hold the A.G.M. next year at Hook Norton on the first Saturday in May. After some discussion, the venue of the Autumn Meeting was left to be decided at the A.G.M., but it was decided to change the date from the second Saturday in October, back to the first one. In fact, it was suggested by some people that was there really a need for two business meetings a year? My personal opinion is "Yes", as a year is too long to leave some of the business that comes up.

Graham Clifton has arranged another Quiz Evening, at The Sun, Hook Norton, on November 30th, let's hope that it is as popular as the first, and may the best team win!

The Branch has produced its first News Letter, thanks go to R. Datson for compiling it and to towers for their contributions. Contributions for the next issue to R. Datson before the 31st March.

On 16th October a peal was rung at Spelsbury as a thanksgiving for the life of the Revd. Cecil Sparling, who had been Vicar of Spelsbury and Chadlington for many years, and who had also stood as Branch Chairman on more than one occasion.

ALL SAINTS, SPELSBURY

5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR

October 16, 1993

1. Claire Tarrant
 2. Revd. Fred Rothery
 3. Maureen A. Sparling
- First as Conductor

4. Kenneth J. Wakefield
5. Graham J. Clifton
6. Clive Sparling (cond)

QUARTER PEALS

- | | | |
|----------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 17.10.93 | St. Peter's, Hook Norton | 1260 Oxford Bob Triples |
| 1. | P.G. Brown | 5. B.J. Curtis |
| 2. | Jill M. Roberts | 6. M.J. Austin |
| 3. | Helen C. Burchell | 7. G.J. Clifton (cond.) |
| 4. | Sally A. Austin | 8. D.W. Clarke |

Rung for the Bill Clarke Memorial Concert

Although not in the Branch some members rang aquarter at St Mary's, prior to Harvest Festival. It might be noted that Swerford is part of the United Benefice of Hook Norton.

- | | | |
|----------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| 10.10.93 | St. Mary's, Swerford | 1260 Grandsire Doubles |
| 1. | P.G. Brown | 3. T.R. Burchell |
| 2. | Helen C. Burchell | 4. M.J. Austin |
| | 5. Sally A. Austin (cond.) | |

Branch Practices:-

- | | | |
|-------------------|-------------|------------------|
| 1993 4th December | Enstone (6) | 7.30 - 9.00 p.m. |
| 1994 3rd January | Spelsbury | 7.30 - 9.00 p.m. |

PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A MONDAY

After this practice, by kind invitation from Mr and Mrs R. Datson, ringers are invited to Glebe Farm to participate in a glass of port and mince pies.

- | | | |
|--------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| 5th February | * Chipping Norton (8) | 7.30 - 9.00 p.m. |
| 5th March | * Charlbury (6) | 7.30 - 9.00 p.m. |

* Subject to confirmation

Claire Tarrant
Branch Secretary

EAST BERKS AND SOUTH BUCKS BRANCH:-

The last quarter has seen the climax of the 1993 Lorna Newton Trophy competition, which saw Burnham win our six-bell knock-out striking competition for the first time. For some years, one of the aims of the competition has been to get as many towers as possible to take part, so every tower is automatically entered. Sometimes this has meant that there are a lot of byes through the first and second rounds if towers choose not to ring. To try and avoid this being a problem, the EBSB's Half-Yearly Meeting have agreed that in future there will be a new draw after the first round, so there should be far fewer byes. Percy Newton, the donor of the Trophy, has kindly agreed to this change.

Success eluded the High Wycombe band at the National Twelve-Bell Competition, but a good time appears to have been had by all.

Horton Bells are now back in action after extensive work to stabilise the frame in the tower. Practices are held on Monday evenings from 8.00 to 9.00 p.m. The local band are to be congratulated on the success of their project.

Cookham ringers, and no doubt other members of the Guild were shocked to hear of Gordon Daniel's death in a parascending accident on November 23rd. Gordon had been a regular ringer at Cookham since moving to the area a couple

of years ago, and during term time at Eton College he rang at Dorney. Please hold his parents and family in your prayers at this very difficult time.

Giles Blundell

Since the above was written we have learned of the death of Bill Birmingham for many years an active member of the EBSB Branch and the O.D.G.

NEWBURY BRANCH:-

The following officers were elected at the Branch A.G.M 9.10.93

Chairman	Angela Croft	Hungerford
Treasurer	Adam Rae-Smith	Kintbury
Communications Secretary	Julie Lloyds, 25, Rectory Rd., Newbury, Berks Newbury 43067	
Secretary	Liz Robbins, 40, Grove Road, Newbury, Berks. Newbury 38426	
Guild Representative	Ron Christopher	Thatcham
Ringin Masters	Paul Bodenham	Newbury
	Richard Marshall	Thatcham

OXFORD CITY BRANCH:-

The last quarter saw the City Branch AGM held at St. Aldates. Record keepers will be pleased to know that the officers for 1994 are the same as before. Worthy of note is the fact that Hugh Deam and his supporters have collected 20,000 aluminum cans and the monies realised from this collection have made a valuable contribution to the Branch Funds.

Regular 6 Bell practices have been held at Headington, concentrating particularly on Cambridge Surprise Minor and Kent Treble Bob Minor.

Recently a Saturday afternoon practice was arranged to concentrate on Grand-sire and Stedman Triples. Ringing was at Islip and Kidlington. Ringers from a number of towers attended. It was felt that the exercise had been well worth while and a number of ringers not normally used to ringing on eight were helped with the strength of the band that could be placed around them. Some creditable ringing ensued.

We regret to have to record the death of Florence Busby. She was at one time a ringer at Iffley where her husband still rings. At his request an "open" Quarter Peal was rung by the Iffley ringers in thanksgiving for her life.

David Lane
Branch Secretary

READING BRANCH:-

The Branch continues to thrive and though some of the monthly practices have been slightly down on attendance, people still continue to make progress at all levels. The branch practice at Pangbourne, the only one in the last quarter, since our other meetings have been a Striking Competition and an Outing, brought forth ringers, whose abilities ranged from rounds to spliced surprise. The most junior novice grabbed his first tower and one of the most experienced twelve -bell ringers was initiated into the joys of singles in Stedman Doubles! Junior Novice also made a point in the pub afterwards of demonstrating some of the handling faults of his elders betters and soon got put right in that direction!

The October Branch Outing to the Stroud area began with 21 people, representing 10 towers in the Branch and gathered others as the day rolled on. A good time was had by all, though the ringing did suffer a little through the absence, due to illness, of some of the more experienced ringers in the Branch.

Surprise and higher number practices thrive with comfortable attendances and we do thank the most able ringers for continueing to give their support when hacking through "just one more course of Yorkshire Royal" for the good of the aspiring 10-bell ringers.

In October Tilehurst represented the branch in the finals of the Six-bell Competition and gained the fewest number of faults in the heats. However, the mechanically challenging ring at Dinton proved not to be ideal for our representatives and Aston Clinton were worthy winners.

The first Monday twelve-bell group had a quarter peal day in London and scored Yorkshire and Cambridge Maximus and Stedman Cinques, the latter being Jane Weller's first quarter of Stedman on any number of bells; she also celebrated her 21st birthday this month and came all the way from Edinburgh Veterinary School just for the week-end and ringers from all over the branch celebrated this event at Shinfield with handbell ringing and a Ceilidh organised by the multi-talented Stephanie May.

On January 3rd Reading Branch proposes to hold an Open Day of all its ringable towers, including some chiming threes, to which all Guild members are cordially invited. this will be in aid of various ringing funds including Downs Barn and the Bell Fund.

Christmas Cards, designed by Stan Scott, are having a chequered career with some Branches having sold all their allocation and others not.

Other mind-blowing fund-raisers are festering in the ever-mobile brain of Stephen Rossiter, so watch this space!

Bobbie May
Branch Secretary

OLD NORTH BERKS BRANCH:-

The Appleton Team did very well in coming Third place in the Finals of the Guild 6- bell Striking competition at Dinton in Bucks on the 2nd October.

The Branch has now raised £1078 towards Downs Barn which exceeds our original target of £1000. Thank you all for giving so generously over the year. A chance to ring these bells will be available at the Guild A.G.M. which will be held at Downs Barn on 21st May 1994.

Branch Practices continue to be very well supported thanks to the able leadership of Barbara Payne and Nick Clarke. In the past four months enjoyable ringing was had at Aston Tirrold, West Hendred, Letcombe Regis and Harwell. At the Harwell practice four different surprise methods were rung spliced.

Thanks to all the towers for their hospitality. Doug Jordan was recently elected Tower Captain of Harwell tower at a tower meeting and we wish him every success.

On the 25th September Jon Chamberlain organised a well attended Car Treasure Hunt starting at Didcot at 4.00p.m. and ending at Blewbury where a supper was waiting for all, thanks to Jill Garlick and members of Blewbury Tower.

Forthcoming events include New Year's Day ringing at Appleton between 10.00 and 12.00a.m. and the Half-Yearly Meeting at Marcham on Saturday the 8th January 1994. Ringing will start at 3.30p.m., followed by a service at Marcham Church, tea and biscuits and then the Meeting at 5.15 p.m. when the proposal to switch the A.G.M. to January will be discussed. There will be a social in the evening at 7.15 p.m. with meal and entertainment. Tickets will be available from me. Finally as another year draws to a close I take this chance to wish all of you in the Old North Berks Branch and your families a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Peter Starling

SOUTH OXON BRANCH:-

1. A successful Day Course was held at Drayton-St.Leonard.
2. Everyone who went enjoyed the Branch Outing.
3. Congratulations to Mark Walker (14) who rang his first peal on November 20th.
4. No one found to take over from me as Branch Secretary at the Half-Yearly Meeting.

Tina Ruff
Branch Secretary

WTINEY AND WOODSTOCK BRANCH:-

Tackley has just launched an appeal to raise £60,000 for overhauling the bells and carrying out essential work on the tower. The work on the bells will involve replacing the 18th Century lower frame, replacing a wheel, fitting a new headstock to the tenor and re-tuning the bells.

Twenty members (and two dogs) took part in a circular walk and ring, starting from Chedworth Beacon in Gloucestershire. Towers visited included Withington and Chedworth.

At the Branch Half-Yearly Meeting the Treasurer reported that our finances are in a healthy state, thanks largely to the profit made on providing teas for the Guild A.G.M. at Bampton earlier in the year.

The Branch has recently said good-bye to Kate Bromage who has left A;vescot to live in Lancashire. We wish her well for the future.

Christopher Wallworth
Branch Secretary

VALE OF WHITE HORSE BRANCH:-

It now looks as if Coleshill may be restored to a six after 54 years as a five since the Tenor cracked in 1939. Robin Blake and his merry band at Coleshill are doing their best to ensure that the work is undertaken, and the PCC have now agreed to go ahead with grant enquiries, etc. The plan is to weld the Tenor. Hopefully a progress report will be possible next time.

Also the Shellingford rehang has been authorised and is due to take place in 1994.

As you see from the quarter peals, Chairman Anthony Williams and his wife, Gillian, have produced another potential ringer for the Vale of White Horse with the birth of their son, Christopher Edward Fitchett, born on 12th October 1993.

BRANCH OUTING:-

The Autumn Outing went to Midgham, Bucklebury, Hampstead Norreys and Goring on Thames. Anne Jones' arrangements went well and we rang on time at all the towers. There was a good mixture of learners and more experienced ringers and a wide variety of methods was rung. We look forward to the next outing in the Summer.

FOUR COUNTIES STRIKING CONTEST:-

This contest was held for the first time this year as a "Champion of Champions" event between Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire, Worcestershire and Warwickshire.

Oxfordshire should have been represented by Appleton who came highest in the O.D.G. contest but they couldn't be present. After some complicated calculations on the 1992 O.D.G. results it was decided that Shrivenham should represent the county!!! Undaunted by this sudden honour, the band duly made its way to Long Compton (Warks) on 13th November.

The competition involved raising the bells, ringing 120 changes and lowering the bells. The whole performance was marked. A panel of four judges representing each county placed the teams as follows:-

1st Warwick (Warwickshire)

2nd Cheltenham (Gloucestershire)

joint 3rd Shrivenham (Oxfordshire) and Peworth (Worcestershire)

The competition was made more interesting by the very long draft of rope and the fact that the bells were half-muffled for Remembrance Day. Shrivenham was represented by Gordon Belcher, Erica Crabtree, Tony Crabtree, Vanessa Hacker, Jackie O'Hagan (on loan from Stanford-in-the-Vale) and Teresa Sugden.

Jackie O'Hagan

Branch Secretary

QUARTER PEALS

FARINGDON, Oxon 1.10.93

1260 Plain Bob Minor

1. Theresa Sugden

2. Erica Crabtree

3. Ann Stevens

4. E.J. Sutton

5. G.L. Belcher

6. A.J. Crabtree (cond.)

HINTON WALDRIST 3.10.93

1260 Doubles (2m)

1. Doreen Leslie

2. A.W. Williams

3. N.H. Leslie

4. C.R. Miles

5. D.A. Leslie (cond)

E.G. Monk

For Harvest Festival

ALVESCOT, Oxon 15.10.93

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

1. Helen Pepler*

2. A.J. Crabtree

3. Teresa Sugden

4. K. Hudson

5. G.L. Belcher (cond)

6. P. Tombs

*First Quarter

HINTON WALDRIST, Oxon

25.10.93

1260 Plain Bob and Grandsire Doubles

1. N.H. Leslie

2. A.W. Williams

3. M.J. Harrison

4. C.R. Miles

5. D.A. Leslie (cond)

6. Doreen Leslie

A compliment to Jill & Anthony Williams on the birth of a son, Christopher Edward Fitchett born on 12th October 1993.

SHRIVENHAM, Oxon

14.11.93

1260 Plain Bob and Grandsire Doubles

1. Vanessa Hacker*

2. Teresa Sugden

3. P. Tombs

4. G.L. Belcher

5. A.J. Crabtree (cond)

6. Barbara Scofield

* First Quarter

Half-muffled for Remembrance Day

SONNING DEANERY BRANCH:-

The monthly Saturday Branch practices continue to be well supported. We were invited to a joint practice with the Farnham district of the Guildford Guild at Yorktown in September, and plan to have more joint practices with them in the future. We continue to hold monthly midweek Surprise Minor and Major practices throughout the Branch as well as an elementary practice at Twyford on the first Friday of the month. This is invaluable to the learners who attend, but more experienced ringers would be much appreciated.

With pressure of weddings and holidays, only three teams entered the Branch 8-bell striking competition. It was won by All Saints Wokingham. Many thanks to John Wells for judging.

Arborfield handbell and tower ringers enjoyed a visit to Whitechapel bell foundry in September, and in November they held a seminar as a follow-on to this. Here David Strucket gave an informative talk and slide show, and visitors were able to go up among the bells afterwards.

The annual skittles evening was held in November. An enjoyable evening was had by all, and St Paul's Challenge Trophy was retained by Binfield.

Ringling at Hurst is limited to the front 6 at present, and practices are not regular. The tenor gudgeons are faulty and a preliminary inspection has indicated that the tenor needs to be rehung and all the other bells require work on the clappers and staples. This may cost around £4,000. Hopefully the Branch will help to raise some of this. The central heating system at Hurst has recently been renewed, and while the boiler was being tested, the church was heated to such a temperature that faults developed in the organ. This will cost about £1,000 to repair, so the parish needs all the help it can get in the near future.

This year, 25 quarters were rung for the Quarter Peal Week - the same as last year - in 18 towers of which 12 were in the Branch, with 3 each at Binfield and Waltham St. Lawrence. Leading ringers this year were Nick Deadman (conducted 4) and Christopher Cole (conducted 3) with 11 each, followed by Mike Pickup with 9 (conducted 3) and Carol Robinson with 8. The most popular method was Plain Bob Doubles (7 quarters). Congratulations to the following, who have rung their first quarter peals: Eileen Shipton, Peter Davenport, Peter Duggin, Marianne Grimshaw, Judith Mills, Vicky Elliston, and 10-year-old Mark Munday. Mark's father Peter called his quarter, and his mother and grandfather also took part.

Novice ringers at Sonning have recently joined Pam Copson's bell club and the following badges have been won;

RED: Vicky Elliston GREEN: Nicky Crowther

BLUE: Trevor Brinsden, Anna and Vesta Chilton, Helen and Emily Palmer, Louise Saunders and Robert Skingsby.

The Bell club cards are very popular and give the learners a plan for making progress.

All Saints, Wokingham are planning to hold a Quiz Night to support the Downs Barn Appeal. The date booked is 12th February 1994 so keep this date free.

Pam Elliston
Branch Secretary

Sonning Deanery Quarter Peal Week.

2.11.93 Easthampstead

1280 P.B. Major

1. Margaret Bearne 2. Nigel Bearne 3. Pat Tidy 4. Stan Scott
5. Barbara Wells 6. Stephen Wells 7. Jonathan Bearne
8. Kevin J. Lovell (C)

First inside on 8 - 3. For All Souls Day

6.11.93 Lane End, Bucks

1260 Cambridge S. Minor

1. Christopher P. Cole 2. Julie S. Branson 3. Carol Robinson
4. Stephanie A. May 5. Nick Deadman 6. Michael J. Pickup (C)

Little Missenden, Bucks

1260 Beverley Surprise Minor

1. Carol Robinson 2. Julie B. Branson 3. Michael J. Pickup
4. Christopher P. Cole 5. Nick Deadman 6. Stephanie A. May (C)

First in method 2, 4, 6

Great Missenden, Bucks

1260 P.B. Triples

1. Julie B. Branson 2. Elaine Baber 3. Carol Robinson 4. E. Dempster
5. N. Deadman 6. M. J. Pickup 7. C. P. Cole (C) 8. Stephanie A. May

Checkenden, Oxon

1260 P.B. Triples

1. Pamela Elliston 2. Janet Hodgson 3. D. Court 4. A. Hodgson
5. J. Harrison 6. M. Dane 7. H. Baxter (C) 8. A. Elliston

First Triples inside 2.

- 6.11.93 Hughenden, Bucks** **1260 Grandsire Triples**
 1. Stephanie A.May 2.Elizabeth Davenport 3. E.Dempster 4. Julie B,Branson 5. C.P.Cole 6.M.J.Pickup 7.K.R.Davenport(C)
 8.N.Deadman First inside to method 2 and 3
- White Waltham,Berks** **1260 P.B.Doubles**
 1. Lesley A.Graves 2.Vikki E.M.Bulbeck 3. Virginia A.Coulson
 4. S.D.Smith (C) 4.D.R.Smith 6.R.J.Packer
 First Quarter 1. A welcome to Florence Mary Bowen, born 17.10.93
 a granddaughter of (3). Also to James Rene Brian and Lewis Walter
 George Ball,twin boys born 5.11.93, nephews of(1).
- 7.11.93 Arborfield, Berks** **1260 Stedman,Grandsire,P.B.**
Doubles
 1 Elizabeth Strucket 2.Eileen Shipton 3. Janet Hodgson
 4. H.Collins 5. D.Strucket (C) 6.A.Hodgson
 First quarter at first attempt for 2,prior to her confirmation.
 Rung for Evening Service and as a tribute to Mr William A.Hughes
 of Whitechapel Bell Foundry.
- Binfield,Berks** **1260 All Saints Doubles**
 1. Ruth Fawcett 2.M.Deering 3.Carol Robinson
 4. N.Deadman (C) 5.J.Harper 6. D.Fawcett
- Waltham St.Lawrence,Berks** **1260 P.B.Doubles**
 1. Kathryn Titford 2. M.Morley 3.M.Dane 4.Anne.C.Yates
 5. D.Court (C) 6.T.Evans.
 In memory of Margaret Dane, Mother of (3) died 6.11.93
- 11.11.93 Wokingham All Saints** **1320 Ipswich S.Minor**
 1.Pearl J.Gibson 2.J.P.Tucher 3.W.S.Gibson 4.C.P.Cole
 5.J.Harrison 6.Stephanie A.May (C)
 First in method for all. For Armistice Day.
- 12.11.93 Twyford,Berks** **1280 Superlative S.Major**
 1. M.Dane 2. Barbara Wells 3.N.Deadman 4.AnneYates
 5. C.P.Cole 6.M.J.Pickup 7. K.J.Iovell 8.P.Munday(C)
 First blows in method (4).
- 13.11.93 Winkfield,Berks** **1260 Stedman,Grandsire, P.B.**
Doubles
 1.Carol Robinson 2.Pearl Larkins 3.E.Dempster 4.C.P.Cole(C)
 5.M.Dane 6. K.Tyler
- Binfield, Berks** **1260 Stedman Doubles**
 1 C.P.Cole(C)2. M.Pickup 3. E.Dempster 4. Carol Robinson
 5. N.Deadman 6. R.French
- Finchampstead, Berks** **1260 P.B.Minor**
 1. Pearl Larkins 2. C.P.Cole 3. Carol Robinson
 4. N.Deadman 5. D.Barrett 6. M.J.Pickup (C)
- Shottesbrook,Berks** **1296 Cambridge S.Minor**
 1. Pearl Larkins 2. D.Barrett 3. E.Dempster 4. M.J.Pickup
 5. C.P.Cole 6. N.Deadman(C)
- 14.11.93 Binfield, Berks** **1260 P.B.Doubles**
 1. Sue Davenport 2,Ruth Fawcett 3. J.Harper 4.J.Rance
 5. Nick Deadman (C) 6.D.Fawcett
 Rung Half-muffled
- Warfield,Berks** **1260 P.B.Doubles**
 1. P.Duggin 2. Sue Varley 3.Susanne Sargeant 4. H.Collins
 5. D.Struckett(C) 6. Daphne Hutson
 First quarter (1). For Evening Service
- Waltham St.Lawrence, Berks** **1260 P.B.Doubles**
 1. Marianne Grimshaw 2. Kathryn Titford 3. D.Court
 4. Anne C.Yates 5. M.Dane (C) 6. D.Titford
 1st Quarter (1) 1st Inside (2) Rung Half-muffled for Remembrance
 Day.

- 14.11.93 Waltham St.Lawrence 1260 Reverse Canterbury Doubles**
 1. D.Titford 2. Kathryn Titford 3. N.Deadman (C)
 4. Anne C.Yates 4. D.Court M.Morley
 First in method (2). Rung Half-muffled on Remembrance Sunday.
Sonning, Berks 1260 P.B.Doubles
 1. Vicky Elliston 2. Pamela Elliston 3. A.Hodgson
 4. A.Elliston 5. M.Dane (C) 6. R.Needham
 1st Quarter (1) In memory of Dr.A.E.Needham, Father of 6th, (died 6.11.93). Half-muffled for Remembrance Sunday.
Finchampstead, Berks 720 Grandsire & 540 P.B.Doubles
 1. Pearl Larkins 2. M.J.Pickup (C) 3. Carol Robinson
 4. A.Mills 5. E.Dempster 6. Judith Mills.
 1st Quarter (6). Rung Half-muffled for Remembrance Sunday..
7.11.93 Wokingham, St.Paul 1260 P.B.Doubles
 1. P.J.Davenport 2. K.R.Davenport (C) 3. H.Baxter
 4. J.A.Rance 5. C.P.Cole 6. R.Grist
 1st Quarter (1)

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OLD NORTH BERKS BRANCH QUARTER PEAL WEEK

- 14.11.93 Abingdon St.Nicolas 1260 P.B.Doubles**
 1. T.G.Pett 2. Carole D.Poole 3. Jeannette France
 4. M.Elunid Hallas 5. M.M.Poole (C) 6. M.I.Williams
 For morning service on Remembrance Sunday
Abingdon St.Helen 1287 Stedman Caters
 1. A.L.Utting 2. B.J.Read 3. H.E.Bishop 4. M.Elunid Hallas
 5. J.D.Chamberlain 6. M.J.C.Cannon 7. T.G.Pett (C) 8. N.T.G.Bailey
 9. M.G.J.Elson 10. M.I.Williams
 Rung Half-muffled for Remembrance Sunday.
Radley, St.James the Great 1260 Doubles (Stedman, Rev.Cant. P.B.Doubles)
 1. Brenda Thomas 2. Ann Belcher 3. Marie R.Cross
 4. Daphne J.Pollard (C) 5. B.Thomas 6. M.Belcher
 Rung Half-muffled for Remembrance Sunday.
Sutton Courtenay All Saints 1260 Stedman Doubles
 1. Alice M.Auckland 2. J.H.Napper 3. J.A.Pratt 4. M.P.Gear
 5. J.L.Smith (C) P.E.Gear
 First in method 3, 4 & 5 Rung Half-muffled in memory of the Fallen
20.11.93 Sutton Courtenay, All Saints 1260 Stedman/Grandsire Doubles
 1. L.S.Jenkins 2. J.H.Napper 3. J.A.Pratt 4. M.P.Gear
 5. A.J.Jenkins (C) 6. P.E.Gear
Drayton, St Peter, Oxon 1280 Spliced S.Major (Cambridge Yorkshire, Lincolnshire)
 1. Jacqui F.Harrison 2. Barbara H.Payne 3. M.Elunid Hallas
 4. P.H.M. Day (1st Spliced) 5. D.C.Ockwell 6. M.J.Harrison
 7. J.D.Chamberlain 8. N.J.Clarke - For Branch Q.P.Week
21.11.93 West Hanney St.James 1320 Hanney C.B.Minor
 1. Mary E.Phesey 2. Helen C.Sharpe 3. Elizabeth A.Woodhouse
 4. N.Saxton-Howes 5. M.J.H.Phesey 6. A.C.Sharpe (C)
 First in method by all.
Blewbury St.Michael 1260 Grandsire Triples
 1. Jacqueline Garner 2. C.Corderoy 3. Louise Butler 4. Laura Moody
 5. P.Butler 6. J.Blond (C) 7. P.Corderoy 8. A.Samler
 For Quarter Peal Week
Abingdon St.Helen's 1260 Middlesex Triples
 1. Paula Wright 2. Susan Read 3. M.Elunid Hallas 4. H.E.Bishop
 5. C.Sparling 6. A.L.Utting 7. M.J.C.Cannon (C) 8. J.D.Chamberlain
 First in method 4 & 6

GUILD OFFICERS 1993-1994

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	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

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	83 Church Drive, Kingsbury, London NW9 8DP (081)200 6039 (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:	Mr G.Blundell,	53 Cornwall Avenue, Slough SL2 1AY (0753) 824945 (home), (0734) 579311 (work)
Newbury:	Mrs J.Lloyds	25 Rectory Close, Newbury, Berks. (0635) 43067
	Mrs E.Robbins	40 Grove Road, Newbury, Berks. (0635) 38426
North Bucks:	Mr S.Crane	17 Coberley Close, Downhead Park, Milton Keynes, Bucks. MK15 9BJ (0908) 674192
Old North Berks:	Mr P.Starling	7 Chambray Close, Appleford, Abingdon, Oxon. OX14 4NT (0235) 847469
Oxford City:	Mr N.D.Lane	Catchmole Cottage, 12 High Street, Wheatley, Oxon. OX33 1XX (0865) 40026
Reading:	Mrs B.May	4 Halfacre Close, Spencers Wood, Reading, RG7 1DZ Reading (0734) 884172
Sonning:	Mrs P.Elliston	142 Butts Hill Road, Woodley, Reading, Berks. RG5 4NS (0734) 695967

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DIARY OF EVENTS 1994

* Subject to confirmation

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

JANUARY

Sat.	1	Banbury	New Year's Day Ringing - Banbury	10.30-12 noon
		O.N.B.	New Year's Day Ringing - Appleton	10.00-12 noon
		S.Oxon	Thame	10.00-12 noon
Mon.	3	C.Norton	B.P. Spelsbury (6)	7.30-9.00
Mon.	3	Reading	Branch Open Day	
Tue.	4	Bicester	B.P. Islip	7.30
		Chiltern	B.P.(8-bell) Stoke Mandeville	7.30-9.00
Wed.	5	Banbury	B.P. Banbury (Caters/Royal)	7.30-9.00
Fri.	7	Banbury	S.C. Mollington	
Sat.	8	O.N.B.	1/2ly + Social Marcham	3.30-10.30
		Reading	B.P. Mortimer St.John (6)	7.00-9.00
		W & W	B.P. Witney	7.30-9.00
Mon.	10	Banbury	B.P. Bodicote (General)	7.30-9.00
Sat.	15	Chiltern	B.P. Great Missenden	7.00-9.00
		Sonning	B.P. Waltham St. Lawrence	7.00-9.00
Sat.	22	Banbury	B.P. Lower Heyford (Treble Bob)	7.30-9.00
		S.Oxon	B.P. Chinnor	7.00-9.00
Sat.	29	V.of W.H.	Plain Bob Workshop - Ashbury	10.00-12 noon
Mon.	31	V.of W.H.	B.P. Faringdon (8)	

FEBRUARY

Wed.	2	Banbury	B.P. Banbury (Caters/Royal)	7.30-9.00
		Bicester	B.P. Middleton Stony	7.30
Fri.	4	Chiltern	B.P.(8-bell) Aston Clinton	7.45-9.30
Sat.	5	Tower Leadership Seminar for VoWH / W&W / C.Norton Branches		
		C.Norton	B.P. Chipping Norton* (8)	7.30-9.00
Tues.	8	Banbury	B.P. North Aston (General)	7.30-9.00
Thur.	10	O.N.B.	B.P. Wallingford	7.30-9.00
Fri.	11	Banbury	Branch Dinner	
Sat.	12	Seminar on Simulator and Computer Aids Used in Ringing - Spelsbury		
		Reading	A.G.M. Henley	
		W & W	B.P. Cassington	7.30-9.00
Sat.	19	Banbury	B.P. Bloxham (Treble Bob)	7.30-9.00
Sat.	19	Bicester	A.G.M. Islip	
		Chiltern	B.P. Cheddington	7.00-9.00
Sat.	19	Sonning	A.G.M. Wokingham St Pauls	
Sat.	26	S.Oxon	B.P. Thame	7.00-9.00
Sat.	26	V.of W.H.	A.G.M. Stanford-in-the-Vale (8)	

MARCH

Wed.	2	Banbury	B.P. Banbury (Caters/Royal)	7.30-9.00
Thur.	3	Bicester	B.P. Ambrosden	7.30
Sat.	5	CUDDESDON TRAINING DAY - Radley		
		C.Norton	B.P. Charlbury* (6)	7.30-9.00
Mon.	7	Banbury	B.P. Great Tew (General)	7.30-9.00

DIARY OF EVENTS cont'd.

MARCH cont'd.

Mon. 7	Chiltern	B.P.(8-bell)	Bledlow	7.45-9.00
Wed. 9	O.N.B.	B.P.	West Hanney	7.30-9.00
Sat. 12	SPRING GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING - Tilehurst			
	W & W	B.P.	Bampton	7.30-9.00
Sat. 19	Banbury	Plain Hunt/Bob Doubles Course, tutor: Alan Griffin		
		Venue to be arranged.		
	Banbury	B.P.	Mollington (Treble Bob)	7.30-9.00
	Chiltern	B.P.	Great Kimble	7.00-9.00
Sat. 26	S.Oxon	S.C.	Tetsworth	
Thur. 31	V.of W.H.	B.P.	Ashbury (6)	

APRIL

Sat. 2	HANDBELL DAY - Reading			
Wed. 6	Banbury	B.P.	Banbury (Caters/Royal)	7.30-9.00
	Chiltern	B.P.(8-bell)	Great Missenden	8.00-9.30
Fri. 8	Bicester	B.P.	Kirtlington	7.30
Sat. 9	W & W	A.G.M.	to be arranged	3.00-8.00
Mon. 11	O.N.B.	B.P.	Drayton	7.30-9.00
Tues. 12	Banbury	B.P.	Shenington (General)	7.30-9.00
Fri. 15-17	JUNIOR RINGING WEEKEND - Dorney			
Sat. 16	Chiltern	A.G.M.	Little Missenden	3.00
Sat. 23	Banbury	A.G.M.		
	S.Oxon	A.G.M.	Drayton-St-Leonard	
Mon. 25	V.of W.H.	B.P.	Coleshill (5)	

MAY

Mon. 2	ODG RINGING DAY (Banbury Branch) AND 8-BELL STRIKING COMPETITION (Steeple Aston)			
Tue. 3	Chiltern	B.P.(8-bell)	Stoke Mandeville	7.30-9.00
Wed. 4	Banbury	B.P.	Banbury (Caters/Royal)	7.30-9.00
Sat. 7	W & W	B.P.	Yarnton	7.30-9.00
Mon. 9	Bicester	B.P.	Brill	7.30
Tue. 10	O.N.B.	B.P.	North Moreton	7.30-9.00
Thur. 12	Banbury	B.P.	Wroxton (General)	7.30-9.00
Sat. 21	GUILD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - N.Bucks Branch			
	Chiltern	B.P.	Ellesborough	7.00-9.00
	Banbury	B.P.	Swalcliffe (Treble Bob)	7.30-9.00
Mon. 23	V.of W.H.	B.P.	Shrivenham (8)	
Sat. 28	S.Oxon	B.P.	Benson	7.00-9.00

JUNE

Fri. 3	Chiltern	B.P.(8-bell)	Aston Clinton	7.45-9.30
Tue. 7	Bicester	B.P.	Islip	7.30
Sat. 18	Chiltern	S.C.	Stoke Mandeville	6.30-9.00
	O.N.B.	A.G.M.	Sutton Courtenay*	
Sat. 25	S.Oxon	B.P.	Great Haseley	7.00-9.00
Mon. 27	V.of W.H.	B.P.	Buckland (8)	

JULY

Sat. 2	GUILD FESTIVAL (Amersham) and BARN DANCE (Aston Clinton) 10-BELL STRIKING COMPETITION			
Mon. 4	Chiltern	B.P.(8-bell)	Bledlow	7.45-9.00
Wed. 6	Bicester	B.P.	Launton	7.30
Sun. 10	C.Norton	Farm Walk	Glebe Farm, Spelsbury	1.00pm

DIARY OF EVENTS cont'd.

JULY cont'd.

Mon. 11	O.N.B.	B.P.	Steventon*	7.30-9.00
Sat. 16	Chiltern	B.P.	Ivinghoe or Slapton	7.00-9.00
Sat. 16	V.of W.H.		Outing	
Sat. 23	S.Oxon	B.P.	Warborough	7.00-9.00

AUGUST

Wed. 3	Chiltern	B.P.(8-bell)	Great Missenden	8.00-9.30
Thur. 4	Bicester	B.P.	Charlton-on-Otmoor	7.30
Tue. 9	O.N.B.	B.P.	Little Wittenham	7.30-9.00
Sat. 20	Chiltern	B.P.	Weston Turville	7.00-9.00
	S. Oxon	B.P.	Wheatley	7.00-9.00
Thur. 25	V.of W.H.	B.P.	Shellingford (4)	

SEPTEMBER

Fri. 2	Bicester	B.P.	Ludgershall	7.30
Tue. 6	Chiltern	B.P.(8-bell)	Stoke Mandeville	7.30-9.00
Fri. 9-11	EASTHAMPSTEAD COURSE - Easthampstead			
Mon. 12	O.N.B.	B.P.	Brightwell*	7.30-9.00
Sat. 17	Chiltern	B.P.	Bledlow	7.00-9.00
Sat. 24	S.Oxon	B.P.	Dorchester	7.00-9.00
Sat. 24	V.of W.H.	Autumn Meeting	Hinton Waldrist (6)	

OCTOBER

Sat. 1	6-BELL STRIKING COMPETITION - Sonning Deanery Branch			
Mon. 3	Bicester	B.P.	Bicester	7.30
Fri. 7	BRANCH SECRETARIES MEETING - Radley			
	Chiltern	B.P.(8-bell)	Aston Clinton	7.45-9.30
Tue. 11	O.N.B.	B.P.	Wantage*	7.30-9.00
Sat. 15	Chiltern/ C.Bucks	S.C./ 1/2ly	Orchard Cup - Wendover	2.30
Thur. 20	Bicester	A.G.M.	Bicester	
Sat. 22	S.Oxon	1/2ly	Aston Rowant	
	V.of W.H.		Autumn Outing	

NOVEMBER

Tue. 1	Bicester	B.P.	Islip	7.30
Mon. 7	Chiltern	B.P.(8-bell)	Bledlow	7.45-9.00
Tue. 15	O.N.B.	B.P.	Abingdon (St Helen)	7.30-9.00
Sat. 19	Chiltern	B.P.	Venue to be arranged	7.00-9.00
Sat. 26	AUTUMN GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING - East Hagbourne			
	S.Oxon	B.P.	Shabington	7.00-9.00
Tues. 29	V.of W.H.	B.P.	Uffington (6)	

DECEMBER

Wed. 7	Bicester	B.P.	Middleton Stoney	7.30
	Chiltern	B.P.(8-bell)	Great Missenden	8.00-9.30
Fri. 9	V.of W.H.	Christmas Dinner	Faringdon	
Wed. 14	O.N.B.	B.P.	Cholsey*	7.30-9.00
Sat. 17	Chiltern	B.P.	Aston Clinton	7.00-9.00
	S.Oxon	B.P.	Watlington	7.00-9.00