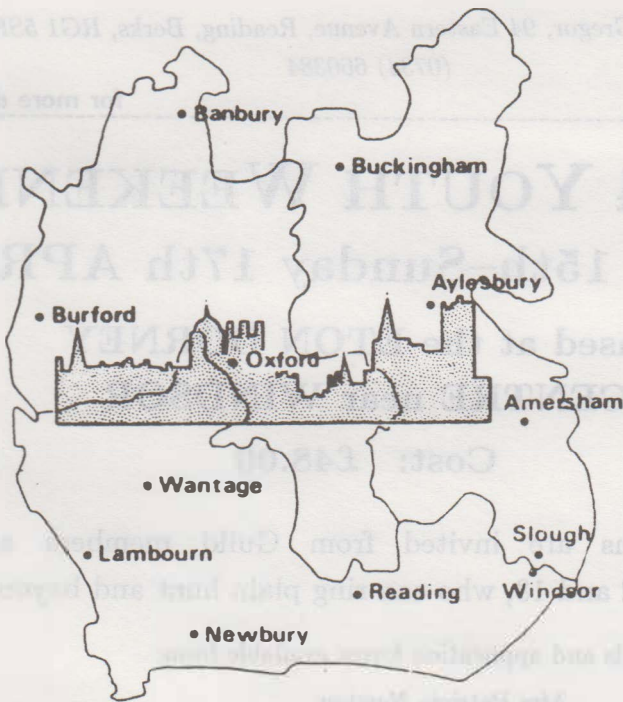


Issue 42

ODD BOB

Newsletter of the OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD



March 1994

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

EASTHAMPSTEAD '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.)

UNDER 18 STRIKING COMPETITION

This will be held on

SATURDAY, 25th JUNE 1994

in

THE OXFORD CITY BRANCH

Details to be announced. Further Information from:

LEN PORTER – (0865) 67716

THE MASTER'S MUTTERINGS

In my report for the last edition of ODD BOB, I suggested that we need new challenges to maintain our enthusiasm for ringing. No sooner had I had I posted my mutterings to Marie Cross than an idea came to me.

The first ordination services for women priests in the Oxford Diocese will take place on the 16th and 17th April. There will be six services in all, at Abingdon, High Wycombe, Christ Church Cathedral, Reading, Banbury and Buckingham. This is a special and historic occasion, and it would be appropriate for the Guild to celebrate the event by arranging some extra ringing. Perhaps this is an opportunity for our female members to get together. It would be a great achievement if at least one quarter peal or peal could be rung in each branch by a ladies' band. I would be pleased to send reports to the Ringing World of all successful attempts if details could be sent to me about the end of April. Please let me know the names and home towers of any female ringers who are being ordained.

This may well be the last ODD BOB that will be edited by Marie Cross, since she has indicated her wish to stand down as Newsletter Editor at the Guild AGM in May. The beginning of the editorial in the eleventh issue of ODD BOB reads:-

"This copy of ODD BOB may be late as no one volunteered to take on the office of Information Officer at the Guild's AGM at Charlbury in May. It is being produced this time by a number of the Guild and Branch Officers who believe that it is an excellent way of communicating with members of the Guild."

Marie Cross gallantly agreed to take on the job of editing ODD BOB until someone else could be found to take over. Now, 7 years and 31 editions of ODD BOB later and at the age of 84, she feels that it really is time that a replacement was found for her. We are extremely grateful for the time, skill, dedication and enthusiasm that she gives to ringing within our Diocese, serving in recent years not only as newsletter editor, but also as Guild Steward and as Chairman of the Education Committee. Our thanks are also due to Daphne Pollard who has assisted Marie over the years by maintaining the diary dates and directories for ODD BOB.

At the AGM in May we will be looking for new people for a number of officers' posts, including Newsletter Editor, Public Relations Officer, Membership Secretary and Guild Steward. Perhaps YOU might like to take on one of these posts. ODD BOB is still an excellent way of communicating with members of the Guild, so it is vital that a new editor is found.

Patricia Newton.

FROM THE PEAL SECRETARY

Thankyou all the peal conductors of 1993 for sending in your peal's fees so promptly, I only had a few outstanding at the end of the year.

Please note as from January 1994 Non-resident Life Members fee is £5.00 with the peal fee staying the same at 25pence per person.

Liz Strucket - Peal Secretary

FROM THE EDITOR

For me one of the great joys of ringing has been the opportunity of meeting and getting to know people - young and old - from a wide background and with a variety of interests. How often one finds that those who have the greatest influence in the long run are those who live all their lives in one locality - or spend many years there. They are people of firm faith and high standards in all they do. The three long obituaries of Bill Birmingham, George Holland and Fred Mynard prove this and the two shorter ones for Mrs Betty Bond and Mrs Denise Francis show it as well.

The first three I have known since the 1930s and I know how much they have influenced the generations that followed as is shown in the two shorter tributes which follow the official obituaries.

As a number of people already know, I have indicated that I would the Guild to find a new Editor for ODD BOB at the A.G.M. in May. During the time that I have held the post I have tried not only to print the official notices (if I receive them on time), reports etc but also articles which are of wider interest and some which make us smile at ourselves when they have been sent to me. Recently someone asked me why Branch reports were printed each time as a number of the Branches had their own newsletter. For me those are of utmost importance to the Guild for they are like letters from a given Branch to the other 14. They reveal the great diversity throughout the Guild. For me to read of a quarter peal or event in a small rural Branch means as much in a much bigger branch. It tells me that growth is taking place.

This is a very large Guild, fifteen Branches and over 2,000 members. No two Branches are the same, nor do they have the same problems though some are common to all. The Branch news often gives ideas which can be used or adapted in other Branches.

Too often many of us do not even meet the ringers from our neighbouring branches, nor visit their towers or meetings. At the Cuddesdon Course over a pub lunch two of us were discussing this and we both came to the conclusion that probably the greatest 'spin off' of that course would be that students and helpers (from 14 Branches) had an opportunity to get together and discuss in a way that does not occur at any of our business meetings and activities. We had an opportunity to ring, to talk and enjoy meals together for a whole day.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all those who have contributed to this ODD BOB (particularly Michael Morley who sent his article from Zimbabwe as I was typing up this edition!) Also my thanks go to the Branch Secretaries for keeping their deadline. Daphne Pollard once again has carried out her share and set up the advertisements for me. Thank-you Daphne for all that you have done over the past eight years. Fine Print have also promised to keep their deadline so that I can deliver this copy at March Committee Meeting.

M.R.C

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OXFORD DIOCESAN BELL FUND

Report of the Managing Trustees for the year ended
31st December 1993.

Grants

During the year, grants were agreed to be made as set out below. On completion the work is inspected by members of the Towers and Belfries Committee and grant is not paid until a satisfactory report is received. If the final cost differs materially from the estimate, the grant is revised. The general policy is to make grants of 15% unless there are special circumstances.

	Estimated Cost (£)	Grant Agreed (£)
Charney Bassett	1,450	220
Church Hanborough	35,720	5,350
Dinton *	33,000	3,750
East Claydon	15,000	2,100
Hook Norton	523	75
Horton	4,238	600
Kintbury	25,000	3,750
Marsworth	17,000	2,500
Stone *	22,000	3,300
Wexham	2,616	100
Wraysbury	1,948	275
	-----	-----
	£158,495	£22,020

* Linked parishes - schemes depend on grants from English Heritage.

The total of grants agreed during the year is the highest since the Bell Fund was founded and the amount of work being undertaken in the Diocese reflects the healthy state of ringing.

Future Grants

In addition to the grants which were agreed during the year, details of the grant scheme were sent to five other churches. It is expected that most of these schemes will proceed.

Fund Raising

The Trustees are pleased to report that new money raised amounted to £6694.79. This reflects great credit on members of the Guild, especially at a time when they are responding generously to the Downs Barn Appeal. The significant reduction in PCC donations must be noted and no doubt reflects the financial pressures on church budgets.

The new money was made up as follows:

(1992)

Tower donations	356.00	703.30
P.C.C. donations	492.47	2214.21
Branch donations	3131.82	2181.27
Other donations	0	90.00
Covenants	315.00	320.00
Ringin Day	1022.50	1004.64
Sponsored Ringin	0	2904.25
Draw Profit	1377.00	1486.55
Sherbourne teaching	0	52.00
Total	6694.79	10956.22

Investments

Investment income during the year available for distribution was £11,023 (1992, £11,616). The reduction reflects the significant fall in interest rates during the year.

The total capital subscribed to the Fund amounts to £119,457. This is invested in trustee securities which are reviewed regularly with the advice of the Diocesan authorities. On 31st December 1993 the market value of the investments was £194,245.

Geoff Holden

February 1994

Towers and Belfries Committee

Judging in this year's Best Kept Towers Competition has been somewhat delayed from the (optimistic) estimate that the first round would be completed by Christmas (1993 that is!). It will, however, have been completed by the time you read this report. The committee offers no apologies for this delay as it has simply meant that a number of towers have been better kept for longer - perhaps for longer than they might otherwise have done? It's one way of keeping standards up in the Guild! Final judging will probably take place on or about 30 April, but don't stop polishing, we might come early!

Another in the series of one-day maintenance courses is being arranged for the Central Bucks Branch in May. For details, see the report from the Branch Secretary Justin Baker. The committee would be happy to arrange such a course for any Branch. The basic idea is that you can spend a day in the company of experienced members of the committee who will carry out an inspection on a couple of towers, pointing out problems and work that needs to be done. You can also learn how to splice ropes. If you play your cards right, you will get a completely free inspection of your tower and the instructors might even be persuaded to wield spanners and do some of the work for you! If you are interested, please contact the committee secretary, Peter Davies.

ODD BOB AND ITS EDITORS

In March 1982 ODD BOB was started as a free Guild newsletter. The overall aim was to improve communication between those managing the Guild and the members; its specific objectives were to distribute news from the Guild, the branches and the Bell Fund to all the towers in the Guild where there were members. The first copy suggested future editions would contain articles of general interest, feature personalities of the exercise and explain elementary ringing theory.

Ken Darvill, who had just retired as General Secretary, took on the newly created post of Central Information Officer and was the first editor. He continued as such until forced to retire through pressure of work after the June 1985 issue. As is often the case, no one wanted to take the job on.

Daphne Pollard volunteered to hold the fort for one year and carry out collating and preparation of the material for printing. She became the new Publicity Secretary - new title, same job - and became editor. She produced four excellent issues and then retired, but still no-one would come forward and take over. It looked as though ODD BOB would cease publication, which would have been a terrible indictment for a guild of over two thousand members.

Marie Cross stepped in and produced the October 1986 issue, and has carried out the job of editor ever since. During the last eight years she has scanned the Ringing World and all the branch newsletters for interesting items to include, and has made ODD BOB the absorbing newsletter it is today. She has harried the officers and others for reports of Guild activities - most of them respond willingly - and ODD BOB has improved as a means of communication as a result. The twelve pages of the first issue have now become an average of forty pages, with occasional issues running into forty-four or forty-eight pages.

Marie has now announced her intention of resigning as editor at the AGM. On behalf of all the members can I thank her - in ODD BOB - for the valuable work she has done in building on the work of the first two editors and establishing this newsletter as a prime source of communication in the Oxford Guild. And please, members, do not destroy this work by no-one coming forward to succeed her.

Thank you, Marie.

Bill Butler

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" CUDDESDON COURSE" 1994

This year the 'Cuddesdon Course was a day course based on Radley Church and Parish Room. Twenty five students attended all but one being mature students. They came from ten Branches and the Tutors and helpers from fourteen. Previous Cuddesdon Courses had been a mixture of residents and day students and lasted two days. So this was a 'first'!

The following paragraph is in lieu of the official "Thankyous" which we failed to deliver early in the evening because we were all so busy talking, we forgot. Also three of the Tutors had had to leave before the meal!

Our thanks are due to the Rev.Keith Kinnard, Rector of Radley and Sunningwell for placing Radley Church and Church Room at our disposal all day and for ensuring that the former was heated!

Our thanks go to the four Group Tutors (Peter Bruce, John Martin, John White and Andrew Haseldene) and to John Harrison (Simulator and Listening), and Graham Clifton and Daphne Pollard (Rope Splicing). We were glad that Marion Day and the Benson ringers were able to come once more -

We have to thank the following organisers;- Katy Lane (Towers), Len Cox (Helpers) and Peter Starling for doing all the rest - no light task.

The Catering was organised by Daphne Pollard and Brenda Thomas, helped by their mothers and Brian Thomas and Elunid Hallas. Daphne and Brenda had cooked the meal. One satisfied participant who knew them well remarked that he would come back to that restaurant again!

Finally we must thank all those who spent the day (all 24 of them) helping in the towers and the Incumbents and Tower Captains who made their rings available.

Thankyou everyone!

THE KINGS & QUEENS OF ENGLAND

It's a while ago since I was at School, (yes, I heard that!) but of late due to interests peripheral to Bellringing, I find the need to brush up on my Latin, and then there is the question of our K's & Q's. Talking to a friend and trying to remember the old appropriate Rhyme, it was felt that it might also be useful to others, so here it is, and I hope it's right -

Verse 1

Willy, Willy, Harry, Steve,
Harry, Dick, John, Harry 3,
1, 2, 3 Neds, Richard 2,
Henry 4, 5, 6, then who,

Verse 3

William & Mary, Anna Gloria,
4 Georges, William and Victoria.

Verse 2

Edward 4, 5, Dick the bad,
Harrys' twain and Ned the lad,
Mary, Elizabeth, James the vain,
Charley, Charley, James again,

Verse 4

(any suggestions !!)

Yes, if anyone can think of suitable wording for Verse 4, then lets hear it, but please remember not to put my head on the block along with yours!

REDUNDANT CHURCHES? - REDUNDANT BELLS?

Recent publicity in the National and Local Press, on the Media have all made us aware of the financial state of the Church of England and the possibilities which will occur as a result.

Already in the Diocese of London has brought forth the suggestion that certain churches should be put "on hold". In other words they will cease to be used for public worship but will not be sold because of their historical, architectural or archeological importance. In other words there is a possibility that they may become 'redundant'.

Some will ask, as does a pamphlet issued by the Redundant Churches Fund,

"What is a redundant Church?"

The answer given to this question is as follows:-

'Parish Churches are such a familiar and beautiful part of our English scene that they seem to be as permanent as the landscape itself. Sadly this is not so. For a number of reasons, such as the mobility of the population in town and country, and the decline in church attendance, many of them cannot be maintained for their original purpose. The Church of England no longer has the need for them, and they are redundant as regular places of worship.

There is a formal procedure for declaring a church redundant and also for giving consideration to what is to happen thereafter. Some redundant churches have found other uses - as places of worship for other denominations, as concert halls, cultural centres, offices or even as homes - and some are demolished; but there are others which are so important to the cultural heritage of the nation that their preservation must be secured"

Such churches are handed over to the care of the Redundant Churches Fund, whose main source of income are the Church commissioners and the State. Other money comes from sources such as gifts and donations from visitors to the churches.

In the Diocese of Oxford the churches at present under the care of this Fund are:-

- BERKSHIRE - East Shefford (St Thomas) 1 bell - chiming
Lambourne Woodlands (St Mary)
Lower Basildon (St. Bartholomew) 4 bells - hung for ringing and used by Reading Branch for Practice Meetings.
- BUCKINGHAM Broughton (St. Lawrence) 4 bells
Edlesborough (St. Mary) 6 bells 13 cwt.
Fleet Marston (St. Mary) 1 bell $\frac{1}{2}$ wheel
Hartwell (The Assumption) 1 bell
Pitstone (St. Mary) 3 bells -
- OXFORDSHIRE Chislehampton (St. Mary) 2 bells hung for ringing
Mongewell St John Baptist) 1 bell hung for ringing
Newnham Murren (St Mary) 2 bells - chiming
Nuneham Courtenay (All Saints Old Church)

Ref. Berkshire and Oxfordshire - Sharpe
Buckinghamshire - Cocks

During the last phase of Church disposal in the 1960s Braywood (5 bells) was demolished and the bells were sold to Beer. In Oxford All Saints and St Martin was sold to Lincoln College as a Library but the eight bells remain in regular use being rung regularly each week by the Oxford Society, though the ringing chamber is now one floor higher. St Peter-in-the East was bought by St. Edmund Hall again for a library. Because of their ringing history

and also because plans had been made to restore the ring (money had been collected and held by the Guild) it was decided to buy the Bells for £900 and store them until a suitable tower became available. They were finally sold to Stanford-in -the-Vale. In 1967 the then Bishop of Oxford expressed delight at this action.

The next round of Church redundancy may bring other rings and bells into jeopardy. We should be thinking now - not when it happens - what the Oxford Diocesan Guild should be doing should bells of historical or musical worth be at risk.

It appears that there are several things we might do. The first - and regrettably, probably the most important - is to be prepared financially - so that we are financially able to purchase such bells, should we see the need arise and a possible home within the Diocese. In 1967 the bells of St Peter in the East were purchased (I believe) at scrap metal price. Whether the Diocesan Authorities would agree to such a price in the future is less likely.

This is where a build up of the Guild Restoration Fund might be of use for it could lend money as it did recently in the case of Downs Barn - something the Bell Fund cannot do.

Secondly it might be worthwhile to make a list of possible towers where a redundant ring might be placed should the parish so wish. It should be possible for the Guild to give funding as it has for Downs Barn. Single bells could also be placed - possibly at modern churches in new housing areas.

Thirdly a list of possible secure storage places for such bells should be considered, since the bells would have to be insured while "on the ground". Copper may rise to an unexpected 'high' as it did during civil war in Angola and bells become vulnerable to theft.

Assistance could be given for augmentation of an existing ring (or rings) should bells of suitable note, quality of tone etc become available. Here too the Restoration Fund might be of help; or bells be purchased to provide bell metal to help offset the cost of a new bell if viable.

In the past parishes have had to sell their bells to pay their way or as at Nuneham Courtenay in the Eighteenth Century to help build a new church. There had been five bells in the old church. (Sharpe Bells of Oxfordshire) Whether such things will come to pass in the future remains to be seen but should parishes be faced with the choice of paying the salary of their incumbent or a bell restoration etc then it is obvious where their choice will lie. Here too it might - through the Restoration Fund provide a loan to help with the parish share of the restoration work.

It therefore seems reasonable to me that, provided sufficient money is raised each year to keep the Bell Fund Grants at 15% that we should look at ways of increasing the Restoration Fund so that it becomes another useful tool to be used for the benefit of both ringers and bells within the Guild area. It would also provide money which can be spent at its current purchasing value and not depreciate in its purchasing value due to rising inflation. This does not mean that I believe that one fund is better than the other. Just that - as in one's personal life - one should try to use one's 'talents' in both senses of the word to the best advantage for all concerned.

M.R.C.

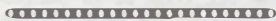
THE HAMLET MOMENT

(with apologies to Gail, Harry and William Shakespeare)

To tea or not to tea: that is the question.
Whether 'tis better from the thermos flask to drink
The tea and have a biscuit of outstanding taste
Or take a rope for a course of plain-hunt
And, by ringing wait a while. To wait, to thirst -
Oh dear! - and by going thirsty to say we'll ring
Grandsire Doubles, and the thousand clipping errors
That we are heir to. 'Tis a method
Easily to be confused. To wait, to thirst.
To thirst - perhaps to dry up. Yes, there's the problem
For in that dried up thirst, what errors may come
When we ring that impossible course.
Let's think again. There's the thermos
That took so long i'the morning to fill.
For who would make the tea, pour it in,
And seal the top on so firmly
But then spend the time in ringing changes
With never a moment to pour out the liquid
That quenches the late-afternoon thirst?
Thus the thermos does make cowards of us both.
We'll sup the welcome tea, and praise the thermos.
Let the ringers get them to a nunnery -
Or some other church!

Tony Lynn

Stanford-in-the-Vale



Calling all music lovers . . .

Two members of the Guild who are professional musicians will be taking part in a concert in the Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford on Saturday, 26th March at 7.30 pm. Andrew Zreczycki, who is a member of Islip tower, will conduct the New Chamber Orchestra and Ivo van der Werff, who rings at Tackley, will play the viola solo in Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante. The concert also includes Beethoven's symphony No 4.

Further information and tickets are available from Blackwells and HMV in Oxford, or ring Christopher Wallworth on (0993) 812187.

Christopher Wallworth
Witney and Woodstock Branch

O.D.G. TO Z.G.B.

It is just not the distance, for these days we can get to any Tower in the World within 24 hours. No, its the height. For here am I 4,830 feet up with neither Aeroplane nor Parachute nor Oxygen Supply, for this is the Z.G.B. or the Zimbabwe Guild of Bellringers.

There are some other rather special features. At the Anglican Cathedral of Harare a superb ring of 10 and an even more superb Band. That is supposed to mean the Ringers as well as the Ringing! And here, Ringing is very much part of Cathedral life, with one small disadvantage to the Ringers, although to the satisfaction of most Priests, for the Cathedral seems always to be packed to the doors both for the Shona and English Services to the extent that the Ringers have difficulties in finding seats.

Its here that the Social connections in the Ringing Fraternity also shows its real face, with recent AGM attended by about 35 members, and thats from all of both the Towers!! (O.D.G. take note). Plus that the A.G.M. Weekend started on Friday afternoon and ended on Sunday evening, including a superb Dinner in the Monomotapa Hotel in Harare.

I have a little message to my friends in the O.D.G. Here in the middle of Africa, in a country that is a visitor's haven, is perhaps just another 10 Bell tower. Wrong. This Tower is unique. It is the second highest Tower in the world, the highest 10, the heaviest and highest full circle ring in the World.

But more than that, its value to the Ringing Fraternity is considerable, whether you come here or not. I believe that this great African Cathedral and its superb Ring is something that we should all nurture and support. Come and see for yourself. I have, or rather, I am.

Michael Morley

St. Mary's Cathedral, Harare, Zimbabwe



The Cathedral of St. Mary and All Saints, Harare, Zimbabwe.

BILL BIRMINGHAM - A PERSONAL APPRECIATION

It is very difficult in a few paragraphs to convey my feelings about Bill Birmingham, a man I greatly liked and admired, initially for his ringing skills and enthusiasm, and later for the Christian virtues he exemplified.

We first met nearly half a century ago, soon after he returned to Slough following the end of the war. I started ringing at Christmas 1945, and by the following autumn had just started to realise what a splendid hobby ringing was. Bill did much to foster my enthusiasm, encouraging me in my method ringing, and later in my attempts at conducting.

As I progressed and took up peal ringing he issued conducting challenges and supplied compositions to meet them. In this way we rang Parker's One-Part of Grandsire Triples and Ernest Turner's 5040 Oxford Treble Bob Minor. Forty years later I still have quarters and peals in his familiar handwriting with notes and red stars to show the best musical points.

We formed a close alliance when it came to controversial items. The Central Council decision on irregular lead ends led us to indulge in correspondence in the Ringing World, and further to ring peals in some of the methods. When the Ringing World was told to omit "Plain" from "Plain Bob Major" in the publication of peals Bill was firmly against this. We persuaded the members at the Oxford Guild AGM to support him, and to instruct our Central Council delegates to ask for its restitution at the next meeting.

Part of our close association was fostered by his teaching Audrey Ewins to handle a bell. This encouraged my close attendance at Slough on practice night, and when Audrey and I were married Bill was best man at our wedding. Our friendship was kept up when he agreed to be godfather to our first child, Richard. Audrey's early death was felt almost as keenly by Bill as it was by us, and I valued his support at that time.

Although I moved to the other end of the county in 1961, we never lost touch, seeing each other at Guild meetings and occasionally for peals. He was very pleased when I succeeded Marie Cross as Guild Secretary in 1970, and helped considerably in the formation of the Guild Education Committee. He loved teaching ringing, and he was one of the first tutors we used at Easthampstead. If he had a fault, it was that you couldn't stop him talking, and many of his students from that time will remember how some of his sessions seemed to run on and on and on....

In the last few months of his life we again saw each other regularly, and although his illness had made him more gaunt, he was still immediately recognisable as the Bill Birmingham I met all those years ago. The twinkle in the eye was still there although dimmed; his mind was active though physically he grew steadily weaker. He still carried the red pen with which he corrected the English of everything he read. His faith was positive, and although he was reluctant to leave this earthly life he knew a better one awaited him. He always liked the Ringers' Hymn, and the phrase "Called home to rest at last" describes his passing precisely.

Bill Butler

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

WILLIAM BIRMINGHAM - St.Mary's, Slough**ADDRESS at the Funeral of Bill Birmingham****December 6th 1993**

The words of Jesus which we have just heard in the Lesson (John 14 1 to 6) speak to us all on this occasion. They were first addressed to the disciples and carried a very particular message. Jesus knew that this was the last opportunity he had to talk to his disciples, and he uses it to prepare them for what they must go through in just a few hours. Jesus knew that they would have their lives turned upside down. His being taken from them was something for which they were entirely unprepared... And so he talks ; 'Trust God; trust me'; remarkable words, spoken in the full knowledge of what Good Friday must bring, but words which also put both his dying and ours within the providence of God. He goes on to speak of 'going ahead', 'preparing a place', 'returning to the Father'. And there is the clue. For we come from God and we return to God, and we enter into the life for which we were made. That is the faith by which Bill lived, it is the faith in which we commend him on with faith and hope.

Bill lived his early life in Nettlebed. It was a country life which instilled in him so many of the things which became so valuable in later life. There he learned his love of nature. There he learned to ring bells. He started ringing in 1929. But a date which will perhaps always have its special importance in the Birmingham family is September 1931. By then Bill had passed to Henley Grammar School and after that had gone to college to study theology. But with that behind him he took up his first post at St. Mary Church of England School in Datchet - the very same day as Freda also began her teaching career at the very same school. From then on, things never looked back. Bill soon moved to another Church School in Eton Pawney, and taught there for some years before moving to Burnham.

By this time the war had come, and Bill wanted to do his bit but he was in principle opposed to killing. He therefore enlisted in the RAMC, wanting to save life, not to destroy it. He became a Radiographer, which meant that he had to study to get qualified. This was hard for him, but he succeeded, and over the next four years he served in North Africa, Algeria, Tunisia and Italy, spending nine months in his beloved Assisi. He learned Italian from his patients and those he worked with, and was widely used as an interpreter. Bill loved Assisi, and had a talent for finding where the church was. He met the Archbishops of Algiers and Assisi. From this distance we find it difficult to imagine what it was like to be caught up in some of these events. It meant to Bill that he did not see his daughter until she was fully two.

With 1945 and the end of the war Bill returned home to find that in his absence he had been elected Tower Captain - a post he held with great distinction for 42 years. Of course, during the war years the bells had remained silent, but on his return Bill set about achieving a dream - that St Mary's should have a peal of Ten bells, not just the eight already in place. It was members of the Horlicks family who donated the two treble bells which were to be added. It was Bill's task to see to their hanging. This he did with thoroughness and energy. I wonder how many bottles of bath salts go into the hanging of ten bells! The whole of the Birmingham household was caught up in this great enterprise, and there were coffee evenings and social gatherings and all kinds of money raising events to make it all

possible. The aim was achieved and the first peal on the ten bells was rung on March 26th 1961 - there is a board in the tower commemorating this event. As Tower Captain he taught countless people to ring, and gave them a love and knowledge of this most skilful art.

Bill, of course was a teacher not just in the Belfry but in his professional life too. It is difficult to say how many young lives he touched by his knowledge and his understanding and example. Throughout his career he taught only in Church schools, itself a mark of his commitment to the Christian way above all others. For precious though bell-ringing was to Bill, it did not come first. Bill was first a Christian before all else, and he loved the Church he served in so many ways. He was Warden for four years. He regularly administered the chalice and took communion to the sick and housebound. Bill lived his faith with enthusiasm and spoke the truth as he saw it, in season and out of season. If that led to disagreements on occasions, such disagreements never marred the friendships which surrounded him. He was a man whose love prompted many an act of kindness, quietly done. His was a living faith which he readily shared with those around him. His more than sixty years association with St.Mary's, and in particular its Tower, have been rich in faith and service. And it is in that faith which we now, his family and friends commend him on with great love and affection and gratitude. If there is a text that gathers our thoughts together, it is this, "Well done thou good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of thy Lord".

Address given by The Rev. Richard A.Ferguson - Team Rector of Upton cum Chalvey in St. Mary Church, Slough.

LANGLEY MARISH, BUCKS. 16.Dec.1993 1260 Doubles (3m): Ben Parcell 1, Clare Carpenter 2, Jenny Instone 3, Graham Jones 4, Mark Instone (C) 5, Francis Adams 6. Rung as a Thanksgiving for the life of William Birmingham (1910 - 1993), always a good friend to Langley Tower.

HUGHENDEN, BUCKS. 5 Dec.1993 1280 Pudsey S.Major: A.Newton 1, Sheila Bruce 2, Joyce Cornwall 3, W.Hamilton (1st in m) 4, Gillian Hazell 5, Rebecca Bruce 6, D.A.Cornwall 7, R.G.Hazell (C) 8. In memory of William Butler of Slough. SLOUGH, BERKS. 5th Dec.1993 1259 Grandsire Caters: L.Miranda Buck 1, Jeffery C.Birt 2, Lloyd S.Cartwright 3, Nicholas L.Brown 4, Amy H.Wood 5, Stephen A.Wheeler (C) 6, Patrick P.McDermott 7, Trevor J.E.Woodward 8, Ian S.G. Blagrove 9, Eileen Stevenson 10.

SLOUGH, BERKS. 5.Dec.1993 1296 P.B.Caters: William Birmingham Jnr.1, David Moore 2, Graham Jones 3, Eileen Stevenson 4, Mark Instone 5, Alistair E. Roberts 6, Nicholas L.Brown 7, Trevor J.E.Woodward 8, Jeffrey C.Birt (C) 9, Ian R.Talboys 10. The quarters at Slough were rung before Morning Service and Evensong respectively in thanks for the life of Bill Birmingham, latterly Tower Captain of St.Mary's Slough, who died Tuesday, 30th November 1993 SLOUGH, BERKS. Wed. Dec.15 1993 in 2hrs 59mins - 5003 GRANDSIRE CATERS 1. Stephen A.Wheeler, 2. Nigel C.Smith, 3.Andrew Deamer, 4. Jeffrey C.Birt 5. Patricia M.Newton, 6. Harold W.Rogers, 7. William Butler (C), 8.Matthew J.Hilling, 9.David P.Hilling, 10. Frederick A.Scott. (Comp.H.Johnson) Rung with grateful thanks for the life and work of William Birmingham, a faithful Christian and good friend to the band. In the final words of the Ringers Hymn, "Called home to rest at last."

THATCHAM, BERKS. Fri. Dec.10 1993 in 2hrs 53mins. 5040 Kennett S.Royal 1. Brian Bladon, 2. Charlotte Everett, 3. Revd.Barry J.Fry, 4. Colin M. Turner 5. Jennifer Butler, 6. Martin J.Turner, 7. William Butler (C), 8. Clive Holloway, 9. Timothy G.Pett, 10. Peter Bridle. (Comp.E.Morris) A thanksgiving for the life and work of William Birmingham 1910 - 1993

FRED MYNARD - (Emberton, Bradwell, Great Linford, Old Wolverton)

Ringers in the North Bucks Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild were saddened to hear of Fred Mynard's death on 13th November 1993. We had known of his visits to hospital over the last few months, but he had said very little about them. We offer our sympathy and prayers to his widow Gwen, and daughters Rita and Dylis and their families.

Fred lived, worked and rang in the same locality all his life : which was of quiet service. He was born at Olney, his father Frederick J Mynard, was a well-known local ringer. When he was four, the family moved to nearby Emberton, where Fred lived until 1955 when he moved to New Bradwell where he remained until his death.

At Emberton he first took hold of a bellrope at the age of nine. His father was very active as a ringer and conductor in the area, and in June 1923 at that tower had taken part in a Double Peal of Minor (14 extents of 14 methods). The 70th anniversary prompted an attempt to duplicate the feat, but the attempt failed, although another attempt in December was successful, sadly too late for Fred to share in the band's triumph. Fred was an able ringer, his membership of the Guild stretching over 55 years and four towers, Emberton, Bradwell, Great Linford and Old Wolverton. Ringing memories of Fred and his father remain at Emberton Church, where there is an old photograph of the local ringers which includes Fred as a young boy. Many of us will remember his quiet attendance at local practices and service ringing and his willingness to help other ringers, especially learners.

He also served the Church through the choir. At the age of 11 Fred won the All-England Choral competition as a boy soprano. Later he held the position of Choirmaster at St. Lawrence, Bradwell for some twenty years. Fred had hoped to pursue singing as a career, but the Second World War came and the opportunity was lost.

During the war, Fred's skills were put to use in manufacturing shells, keeping him from active service, but he did serve in the local Home Guard. His working life of 47 years was spent as an Axle Turner, in the Wheel Shop of British Railways Workshops at Wolverton.

Fred did not keep personal records of his ringing, but we know he rang at least four peals locally, and he was always willing to stand in for a quarter peal. He took pleasure in his own successes, but in a modest way, and his wife Gwen would only receive a brief report (this applied to failures as well, with no time wasted on recriminations).

Local members of the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths rang a half-muffled peal in memory of Fred on 20th November at Great Linford, and a number of Quarter peals were rung throughout the Branch.

GREAT LINFORD, BUCKS. 20th Nov. 1993 in 3hrs 17mins - 5040 Doubles (240 Stedman, 1200 St. Simon's, 1320 Grandsire, 1080 St. Martin's, 1200 P.B.)

1. Susan M. Ferrie, 2. A.J. Marchbank, 3. L. Ruth Stokes, 4. R.J. Snack (C)
5. D.M. Joyce, 6. Christine E. Marchbank.

Rung for the Royal Society of Cumberland Youths.

Rung half muffled in memory of Frederick W. Mynard who died on Saturday 13th November 1993. Also in memory of Colin Snack and Katherine Marchbank.

NEWPORT PAGNELL, BUCKS: 14.11.1993 1260 Stedman Triples - 1. R. Haseldene, 2. Nicki King, 3. G.L. Foat, 4. B.D. Hird, 5. R. Keeves, 6. M.W. Lowndes (C), 7. P.D. Taylor, 8. G.R. Stratton.

For Evensong on Remembrance Sunday and in memory of George Holland and Fred Mynard.

COSGROVE, NORTHANTS. 15.11.1993 1440 (720 each of Violet and Woodbine) Minor
1. Paula Cochrane, 2. B.D. Hird, 3. Ruth Stokes, 4. C. Stokes, 5. J. White,

6. B.Eglesfield (C)

Rung half muffled in memory of Fred Mynard.

OLD BRADWELL,BUCKS. 17.11.1993 - 1260 Grandsire and P.B.Doubles.

1. Christine Abbott,2 Jenny Brookman, 3. Jill Joyce, 4. E.Fawcett,
5.D.Joyce (C), 6. G.Abbott.

Half-muffled in memory of Fred Mynard. First quarter peal on the new raised ringing floor.

EMBERTON, BUCKS. 22.11.1993 - 1260 Grandsire Doubles

1. Sheila Watts, 2. G.Foat, 3 Anne Stainsby, 4. B.K.Smith, 5. M.W.Gilbert (C)
6. D.Stainsby.

Rung half-muffled in memory of Fred Mynard and of Mrs Margaret Daniell (née Lovell), who were associated with the bellringers at All Saints, Emberton for many years.

OLD BRADWELL, BUCKS. 21.11.1993 720 Plain Bob Minor

1 Jenny Brookman, 2. E.Fawcett, 3. Becky Fawcett, 4. M.Petchey, 5. I.Green
6. D.Joyce (C)

Rung after a failed quarter attempt prior to Sunday morning service. In thanksgiving for the life of Fred Mynard.

GEORGE W.HOLLAND - Maids Moreton 1917 - 1993

It was with much sadness that we learnt of the death of George Holland, just hours after leading down after practice at Maids Moreton. His passing will be deeply felt in the Buckingham area, where he had rung since the age of 14, being part of the band at Buckingham and captain in his home village of Maids Moreton.

George was born in Maids Moreton and lived there all his life. On leaving school at the age of 14 he followed his father's trade of printer, obtaining an apprenticeship with the Buckingham firm of Hilliers, and remaining with the firm and its successor until his retirement. However, he never really retired and until recently would be asked back to do some specialised work. George was a craftsman and his whole life was like a well printed page - neat, tidy and well-ordered.

George served in the Army for six years during the Second World War, rising to the rank of Sergeant, and was for four years in the Burma Campaign. He was a good footballer, playing for Buckingham Town and scoring all three goals that won Buckingham the Berks and Bucks Cup in the 1950's. His interest in the game never faltered, and often he would rush home from ringing on a Wednesday evening to watch the match on television. Indeed his own boots still hang in his shed.

Bellringing was, however, the greatest love in George's life. He had rung in excess of 500 peals, many on heavy bells which he always rang with precision and apparent ease. He had rung the Surprise Major and Royal Alphabet but always enjoyed well struck Stedman, which he also conducted with quiet efficiency.

There are a good few of us who owe our own change-ringing abilities to George's tutoring. He was a hard task-master, always demanding the very best, but always leading by example with a firm but kind approach. His practice at Maids Moreton has always been a place of encouragement to those learning the art. He had little time for time-wasters and demanded dedication. George was always active in local ringing, for years (1960 -1970) as Ringing Master of the North Bucks Branch, as a loyal supporter of the Towcester Branch and as a regular member of the band at Wicken that pioneered Surprise Major in the North Bucks/South Northants area.

George was a man of firm Christian faith. His church at Maids Moreton was

not just his ringing home but his spiritual home also, where he would slip quietly into the back pew after coming down from the tower. He served on the PCC, and was always at hand when help was needed.

Two years ago George lost his wife Dorothy just before they would have celebrated their Golden Wedding, and despite much care from a loving family he never really recovered from that sudden blow.

The six bells at Maids Moreton were rung half-muffled by friends as his coffin left the church for interment with Dorothy in Leckhamstead Churchyard, and then past and present members of the band rang a quarter peal of Stedman Doubles to a standard that George would have expected and approved.

To Anne and Chris and their family we offer our sympathy and prayers at this time. George will be missed by us all, but he and his contribution to our art will live on in the memories of many for many years to come. May he rest in peace.

R.W.Y.

Soon after I learned to ring in 1960 I was introduced to George. I suppose from the first time, even in my elementary stages of ringing, I found that his bell handling and certainly his heavy bell ringing stood out in the Branch to our group of youngsters. It was an awesome sight to see the care with which he rang any tenor, almost like a machine, while most others struggled on them. We were also struck by his quiet and calm nature, even when provoked by the most obstreperous young reprobate.

Another remarkable thing, well at least for us in our tender years (if you can imagine that) was the fact that whenever we went to ring at Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford and said where we rang his name was always mentioned in the reply. He was revered among many notable ringers including such people as Walter Judge and Alan Pink for his accuracy and reliability round the back end in peals.

I suppose at that time he seemed such a healthy tower of strength that we thought he would still be ringing at 100. I was privileged that George rang in my first peal and kept a watchful eye on my first as conductor. Afterwards I rang many peals and quarters with him.

Unfortunately age took its toll, and George did not fulfil all his ambitions. He always expressed the desire to ring the tenor at Westbury, in Wiltshire, 35cwt, which we were going to arrange for him. He also wanted to go back to Woburn as he was always proud of a peal of Bristol he conducted there.

It was therefore my sad pleasure to be organist at his funeral. The hymns "All things bright and beautiful" and "O Jesus I have promised" were very appropriate as we thought of George leading down the bells of Maids Moreton the night before his death.

Barry Eglesfield

WOBURN, BEDS. 28.10.1993: 1250 Cambridge S.Major

1. Ruth Stokes, 2. M.Lowndes, 3. J.M.Baker, 4. R.Haseldine, 5.R.Watkin, 6. R.Churchill. 7.C.Stokes, 8. B.R.Eglesfield (C) - In memory of George Holland.

GREAT LINFORD, BUCKS. 30.10.1993: 1260 Grandsire Doubles

1. D.M.Joyce, 2. A.J.Marchbank, 3.Jill Joyce, 4. R.J.Snack (C), 5.M.G.Hooton, 6. G.Foat - In memory of George Holland by members of the North Bucks Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild.

MAIDS MORETON, BUCKS. 3.11.1993: 1260 Grandsire Doubles

1. Helen Stanworth, 2. T.H.O.Lewis, 3. L.Gibson, 4. A.J.E.Lloyd, 5.W.A.Yates (C), 6. D.Goodger.

MAIDS MORETON, BUCKS. 4.11.1993 1260 STEDMAN DOUBLES

1. R.W.Yates (C), 2. R.A.Vickers, 3. W.A.Yates, 4. D.Goodger, 5. R.S.Stanworth,
6. P.J.Nicholson

Both rung Half-muffled in memory of George Holland.

BUCKINGHAM, BUCKS Sat. Nov.6, 1993 in 3hrs 15mins.

5040 STEDMAN TRIPLES (Comp. F.H.Dexter)

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. L.Ruth Stokes | 5. Christopher C.Stokes |
| 2. Rev. John Nixon | 6. George E.Green |
| 3. Richard S.Stanworth | 7. Richard W.Yates (C) |
| 4. William A.Yates | 8. Barry R.Eglesfield |

In thanksgiving for the life of George W.Holland, ringer at this tower and captain of the band at Maids Moreton in the Buckingham North Parish.

WICKEN, NORTHANTS. Sat. Nov. 13, 1993 in 2hrs 57 mins.

5088 LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR (comp.J.W.Washbrook)

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. William A.Yates | 5. Raymond A.Vickers |
| 2. Ronald J.Snack | 6. Lynn M.Walters |
| 3. Richard S.Stanworth | 7. George E.Green |
| 4. Alan J.Marchbank | 8. G.Nigel Williams (C) |

First S.Major as conductor. In thanksgiving for the life of George Holland of Maids Moreton, ringer at this tower.

MRS BETTY BOND - BRAY, BERKS.

Concern was expressed in Bray tower when Betty did not turn up for ringing on Sunday morning, 12th December. After her regulation two halves in the Albion following practice on Thursday, she had cheerfully bid us "Good-night, see you on Sunday". It was with shock and sadness that we learned later that Sunday that she had been found dead in bed.

Although not a ringer of great renown, never having rung a peal in her life, she was one of the most reliable members of the Bray band, rarely missing attending practice or service ringing, and more often than not being the first to arrive.

Betty learned to ring on the five bells at All Saints, Braywood, and was probably the last remaining link with them before they were removed to Beer on the demolition of Braywood Church. After marrying she gave up ringing for a time, but returned to join the Bray band some 20 years ago when her daughter started to learn to ring.

D.Fowles

MRS DENISE FRANCES LAWRENCE 1938-1993 WENDOVER, BUCKS

On Saturday 11th December 1993 a band of Wendover ringers met to ring a Quarter Peal of Plain Bob Doubles to celebrate the life of Denise Lawrence.

Denise passed away on 29th November 1993 at Aylesbury Hospice, Florence Nightingale House, after a short illness. She will be greatly missed, not only by her family, but Wendover ringers as a whole, to say nothing of many friends throughout the Chiltern Branch.

All three of her children, Beverley, Andrew and Philip learnt to handle a bell soon after we moved to Aylesbury from Bristol in 1972, joined shortly afterwards by myself (Her husband). We all became keen ringers and were often out ringing together, leaving her at home. By the end of 1973 she had had enough and decided "If you can't fight 'em then join 'em!" Bob Gerhardi took her in hand, and she soon learnt to handle a bell, little realising what she had let herself in for.

She enjoyed her ringing and although she never became a great method ringer, she could give a fair performance at Bob Doubles, Bob Minor and just a little Grandsire. We spent many happy hours on a Wednesday practice night with the

Gill family, Doris Jones, Cyril and Jonathan Williamson and many others. Denise took part in may quarter peals, was a regular Sunday ringer, and by 1980 found herself in the position of Tower Secretary at Wendover. In this capacity Denise arranged many a good ringing tour, which were eagerly supported by friends from neighbouring towers. When John and Ann Gill left Wendover just over two years ago, she took on the additional duties of Tower Treasurer, and had to arrange the teams for weddings etc..

Denise (or Dee as she was affectionately known) will always be remembered for her warm, friendly personality and her encouragement of new ringers. She could also be relied upon to help out at neighbouring towers when called, for weddings, funerals or just Sunday ringing. There is no doubt that she leaves a hole at Wendover that will be difficult to fill.

Stuart Lawrence.

JACK VENN 1915 - 1994 WOOTTON, WOODSTOCK 1964 - 1994

ST ALDATE'S, OXFORD 1948 - 1964

Obituary under Witney and Woodstock Branch.

WOOTTON, OXON. 20 January 1994 1260 GRANDSIRE DOUBLES

1. Jean E. Blackman 2. Catherine Ross, 3. Judy F. Venn, 4. Rev P. R. Blackman, 5. E. R. Venn (C), 6. Pamela E. Venn

Rung half-muffled in memory of Jack Venn, whose funeral service had taken place at this church earlier in the day.

MICHAEL BEST 1934 - 1994 ALL SAINTS, BOYNE HILL, MAIDENHEAD

Ringing Master East Berks and South Bucks Branch.

oo

BELL MAINTENANCE COURSE

Saturday, 7th MAY 1994

Central Bucks Branch area

Contact:

Justin Baker - 081 200 6039

83 Church Drive, Kingsbury, London, NW9 8DP

NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

BICESTER BRANCH:-

The Bicester Branch held its AGM on 19th February at Islip. There was one new face on the committee - Simon Cole was elected as the Branch Ringing Master, and we all wish him a successful term in office.

Items on the Agenda included a plan to help the people of Ambrosden look after their bells and learn to ring them. An open evening has been planned for early March. The new Ringing Master has plans for one or two outings during the year and details will be circulated in due course.

A recent inspection of the unringable peal of five bells at Bletchington has left a number of queries to be answered. Plans are afoot to meet the church architect in due course.

The members of the Bicester Branch would like to send their compliments to Marie Cross who has edited ODD BOB for the past seven years. We understand that Marie is now standing down from this task, and we would like to thank her for her sterling work on our behalf.

Richard Stevens
Branch Secretary

CENTRAL BUCKS BRANCH:-

BRANCH PRACTICES - Although the weather at the last few Branch practices has turned very cold it was heartening to note the number of ringers who came a long way to the practices. At Bierton it was noticed that everyone not ringing was having a good chat around a solitary heater. I hope the lighter evenings will bring even more ringers from other towers within and outside the branch.

BELL MAINTENANCE COURSE - 7th May 1994. Central Bucks will be host to the Guild Towers and Belfries Committee on the 7th May to give a bell maintenance course. The course is open to anyone interested in learning more about, bells, their fixtures, frames, stays, ropes and splicing.

The format will be to meet at a tower (to be confirmed) in the morning and depending on numbers, split after lunch to two towers. The tutors will give advice on general maintenance, what to look for if you suspect a problem in your tower. There will also be an opportunity to try your hand at rope splicing (please bring a bit of rope with you). The tutors will also be very happy to answer any questions you may have about your own tower's problems.

If you wish to participate:

SEE ADVERTISEMENT

page 21

Justin Baker
Branch Secretary

CHILTERN BRANCH:-

Practices over the Christmas and New Year period have been well attended. Those at Aston Clinton in December, Great Missenden in January and Cheddington in February all saw some 25 - 30% of the Branch membership present - a pleasing turnout.

The Branch was very saddened to learn of the death of Dee Lawrence, who had been a ringer at Wendover for some 20 years. Her husband, Stuart, has written a tribute to her for ODD BOB. We extend our deepest sympathy to Stuart and the rest of Dee's family. She will be greatly missed at Wendover and throughout the rest of the Branch.

Our annual Pub Games Evening, held on November 27th was another success. Over £200 was raised for Downs Barn. The challenge shield was carried off by Aston Clinton.

John White
Branch Secretary

CHIPPING NORTON BRANCH:-

The first Branch Practice of the year at Spelsbury was fairly well attended on 3rd January. The participants had been invited to Glebe Farm afterwards, and an enjoyable social hour was spent, at the home of Mr and Mrs R. Datson. Thanks to them for this hospitality as there is a pub lacking in the village.

February has seemed to be a busy month so far, three Branch members attended the Tower Captains' Seminar at Witney on the 5th and one of them writes:-

"This very worthwhile seminar was held in the meeting room of St. Mary the Virgin, Witney. Along with 15 other ringers representing an area from Hungerford, Berks to Hook Norton, Oxon, we seated ourselves for what was to be a very helpful and informative day, from 10.00 to 5.00pm. Bill Butler was the man who conducted the proceedings of the day.

The aim of the day was to evaluate the needs and requirements of a tower leader to be able to run a well managed tower, i.e. liaison, delegation and effecting the best possible and useful ways in running practices for learners and ringers of his/her local tower.

Beginners and learners were very much on the Agenda. When do you start beginners? How do you start them? How can I improve or you improve one's teaching abilities? Questions from Bill to us, questions from us to Bill. Some answers were obvious, some came from discussion. Many questions were answered in an hour long practical session, in the ringing chamber. Ringing included backward hunting, repeat leads of Bob Doubles and call change ringing for people to practice calling bells up or down.

The hour passed quickly, but I am sure that everyone had some useful tips and ideas to take back to their home tower. Back to the classroom for more discussion, questions and answers, a cup of tea. At about 5.00pm the day was ended.

I'm sure much was realised and learnt by most, if not all. A big thank you to Bill Butler" M.J. Austin

That evening at Chipping Norton was one of those evenings when nothing seemed to go right, I think that everyone was having an off night, not just me!

The following Saturday, 12th, two Branch members attended the Simulator Course held at Spelsbury, which was very informative and supported by people from all parts of the Guild, as well as some from neighbouring counties. Thanks go to John Harrison for arranging this day and of course to those who came and helped. It was apparent how important it was to listen to the striking at all times, and not rely on ropesight completely.

It was shown that simulators are an important teaching aid, and how they can help people learn methods, if there are not enough to have a practice. Thanks once again to Mr and Mrs Datson for providing a very welcome and satisfying lunch in their home.

February has also seen a Golden Wedding in the Branch, that of Mary and Charlie Sheffield of Enstone. A peal was rung on the 19th at St.Kenelm, Enstone, to celebrate this.

ENSTONE 19.2.94 5040 Minor (720 St.Nicholas,1440 each of Rev.Canterbury St.Clements, and Plain Bob) in 2hrs 45 mins.

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Maureen A. Sparling | 4. Brian J. Curtis |
| 2. Sally A. Austin | 5. Ken J. Wakefield |
| 3. Mick J. Austin | 6. Graham J. Clifton (C) |

QUARTER PEALS

BURFORD 6.12.93 1264 Plain Bob Major

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. B. J. Curtis | 5. C. F. M. Collett |
| 2. Lindsey C. Cutler | 6. T. M. Martin |
| 3. Claire C. Tarrant (1st in Method) | 7. B. W. Hall |
| 4. M. J. Austin | 8. T. J. Hester (C) |

HOOK NORTON 16.1.94 1260 Grandsire Doubles (468 covering)

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. G. Hemmings | 5. F. G. Brown |
| 2. Jill M. Roberts | 6. N. J. Slade |
| 3. Sally A. Austin (C) | 7. M. J. Austin |
| 4. T. R. Burchell | 8. D. W. Clarke |

Rung for Evensong

BRANCH PRACTICES AND MEETINGS

* March	26	Kingham (8)	7.00 - 8.30pm
May	7	Branch A.G.M	Hook Norton 3.00pm onward
* June	4	Salford (5)	7.00 - 8.30pm
* July	2	Churchill (8)	7.30 - 9.00pm

* Subject to confirmation

Claire E. Tarrant
Branch Secretary

NEWBURY BRANCH:-

The Newbury Branch A.G.M. was held at Hungerford on 9th October 1993 and the Branch kept up its tradition of having few long meetings per year rather than many short ones - this one lasted nearly an hour and a half! By the end of it we had quite a lot of new faces on the committee and five new members.

Before that, however, Adam Rae-Smith gave an update on progress with the proposed re-hanging at Kintbury. After some bargaining with the P.C.C. and friends of St. Mary's (the church's fund-raising wing) a tentative start date for the works has been set for January 1995. Needless to say the fund-raising must still continue, and the local band is left to its own devices. The band is again offering its arm-power for weddings (the fees for which would be donated to the Appeal. A raffle is to be run and a real live Treasure Hunt is to be made for the long lost Kintbury Bell, the subject of a dubious local legend. The band also hosted the Branch's Christmas Party, raising £9) in doing so. Congratulations to Joan Marshall of Bucklebury on winning a "substantial two figure sum in the 200 Club Christmas Draw that night!

At the election for new members, Heather Fittell (Hungerford) was welcomed to the Guild and a clutch of Speen ringers - Keith Butcher, Liz and Nick

Robbins and Julia Cruse. (I am particularly grateful there were no votes against Liz Robbins' election, as will become apparent under the election of Branch Secretary - Ex-Branch Secretary's note).

The officers' reports generally expressed disappointment at the poor support for ringing events especially in the later half of the year. Some Saturday practices had been short of a full band, and sometimes those who turned up had no ringing to reward them for their journey. Rock bottom was reached when the Branch Outing had to be cancelled at 24 hours notice when only two seats on the coach had been filled. The Great Missenden band, to whom I extend our apologies, were left in the lurch to find a band for a wedding at which we were due to ring. But it has not been all gloom - other events have flourished - skittles, rounders, the half-day outing all attracted a good crowd. The interest is out there somewhere and the new Branch officers will be trying to unlock it in a membership questionnaire.

At the election of officers, John Durham and Paul Bodenham were not seeking re-election as Ringing Master and Secretary respectively.

Our new officers are:-

Chairman	Angela Croft (re-elected)
Ringing Masters	Richard Marshal, Paul Bodenham
Joint Secretaries	Julie Lloyd (Newbury), Liz Robbins (Speen) a member at the time of some 20 minutes standing. Julie will deal with the publicity side (newsletter, reports etc) and Liz with the administration (events, correspondence). For most purposes readers of ODD BOB will need only Julie's address, which is 25, Rectory Close, Newbury RG14 6DF Tel. 0635 43067
Treasurer	Adam Rae-Smith (re-elected)
Branch Representative	Ron Christopher
200 club Organiser	Rod Lloyds

Paul Bodenham

Note The above report was received too late for December ODD BOB

We fulfilled a busy programme for 1993. This included, for the second year a learners Striking Competition, won by Newbury Tower. I rang in this. I have a lot to learn yet about ringing. We also had a car outing into the Cotswolds but unfortunately had to cancel the Autumn Coach Trip. Kintbury Tower are busy raising funds towards the cost of rehanging their bells. Their more recent event was a Supper to Celebrate Burns Night.

Liz Robbins

NORTH BUCKS BRANCH:-

We tried a Branch Ringing Course in October, being prepared for a complete Fri/Sun Timetable if needed, but final numbers were low (5 students) so it covered Fri/Sat and two basic methods plus some general discussion. It was successful, in that the students got a lot of intensive practice (on different rings) and showed progress to different degrees. Anyone thinking of such a course may like to contact us for information.

In December the second attempt to duplicate the 1923 Double Peal at Emberton was successful. The band deserve congratulations for putting themselves into the limelight, their commitment to practice beforehand, and sticking with the attempt despite the cold day. It consisted of 14 extents in 14 different methods, some of which are no longer rung, and was completed in 5 hours.

Tower news is that Bradwell now have an upstairs ringing room, and the bells at Hanslope will be out of action for some time for repairs to the frame and fittings.

The regular Branch practices on the 3rd Friday, with special methods, have continued to widen our horizons. Whilst numbers attending have reduced, we have been able to concentrate on the special methods, including some other than Surprise, with improved success. We have, for example, scored Double Norwich, Erin Triples and Grandsire Minor, over the last few months, even with attendances down.

Our December quarterly meeting was held at Hanslope, with ringing beforehand at Tyringham (an anti-clockwise 5).

Monty Gilbert
Branch Chairman

OLD NORTH BERKS BRANCH:-

Anenjoyable New Years Day ringing was held at Appleton on a bright frosty morning. Coffee and a raffle raised £43 - 50 which was donated to the Downs Barn Appeal. Thanks to all who supported the event.

The half Yearly Meeting was held at Marcham on January 8th. Our Ringing Master, Andy Utting, reluctantly offered his resignation due to his working hours conflicting with many of the Branch events. We shall miss him, thank you Andy for all your work which is greatly appreciated. At the meeting Barbara Payne was elected Ringing Master and Nick Clarke was elected Deputy Ringing Master. Branch Practices will now be in the very capable hands of Barbara and Nick and we wish them every success. We also elected five new members to the Guild.

From Cumnor - Karen Topping, Sarah Taylor, Rod Harris and Matthew Hall.
From East Hagbourne - Mary Napper

We welcome these new members into the Branch.

The matter of holding the A.G.M. in January was discussed at length but no majority opinion emerged. The matter was referred to the Branch Committee to come up with a recommendation. The year's fund raising enabled donations to be made to Downs Barn, the Bell Fund and the Kilifi project.

At the following Branch Committee Meeting it was decided to recommend that the date of the A.G.M. be left as it is but starting later in the evening. Mrs Ida Garrud from Radley was elected a member of the Guild and welcomed. It was noted that Brightwell tower has decided to change their practice night from Monday to Tuesday. The date of the 6-Bell Striking Competition was fixed for the 23rd April at 6.30 p.m. and would be held at Sunningwell tower.

On a final note, congratulations to Mike and Carole Poole on the birth of a son, William James.

Peter Starling
Branch Secretary

OXFORD CITY BRANCH:-

It has been a quiet period. However ringers from Kidlington and Islip have been collaborating for a Saturday afternoon practice of Grandsire Triples. Together with helpers from the City Branch this has been a beneficial exercise which has enabled a number of ringers to progress. No doubt a third practice will be arranged soon.

Handbell ringers in the Branch were invited to demonstrate their art at the Friends of St. Mary's Iffley Winter Party. After ringing Plain Bob Minor and Plain Bob Major a form of lapping was used involving members of the audience anxious to achieve Plain Hunt on 8. This was enjoyed by participants as well as the audience.

Would record keepers please note that, in spite of what is reported in the Guild Report, the Tower Correspondent for Headington is now Mrs Catherine Hughes, 35, Stapleton Road, Headington.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS - Half-Yearly Meeting May 14, 1994
 Branch 6-Bell Competition Saturday June 11, 1994
 David Lane
 Branch Secretary

READING BRANCH:-

January 3rd produced Reading's first Open Day in about eight years and it was well supported. All the ringable towers in the Branch were available and the chiming three at Sulhampstead Abbots brought forth a flurry of interest. Ringers came from all points of the compass south of Lancaster, braving the cold and the rain. A very big thank-you to all tower captains, tea brigades and stewards who put in several hours in freezing surroundings for a good cause. We grossed some £860.

At the A.G.M. in February we decided to set up a small Branch Fund for donations to work which is not covered by the rules of the Bell Fund and the rest of the money was divided equally between The Bell Fund and the Downs Barn Appeal. At the meeting Stephanie May (Whitchurch) was elected Ringing Master when John Wells stepped down and Len Palfrey (Pangbourne) became Branch Representative. There was no further change in officers.

Bobbie May
 Branch Secretary

SONNING DEANERY BRANCH:-

Our A.G.M. was held at St. Pauls, Wokingham on the 19th February. Ringers sat down to a delicious hot tea prepared by the local ringers. John Harper stood down as treasurer due to pressure of other commitments and was thanked for his 8 years of meticulous hard work in handling the accounts. Sue Ferguson from Wargrave was unanimously elected to take his place.

The remaining officers are unchanged, namely, Stewart Gibson (Chairman), Peter Munday (Ringing Master), Michael Pickup (Deputy Ringing Master), Michael Dane and Bill Mills (Branch Representatives to the Guild). Michael Dane continues to edit the newsletter. The venues for our monthly Saturday evening practices were finalised. There was much discussion about fundraising as the work at Hurst on the tenor gudgeons and the clappers of the remaining bells will cost approximately £4000. Wargrave Bells may need to be rehung in the near future and there is still the outstanding Debt to be cleared at Downs Barn.

On a somewhat different note in January this year, Arborfield handbell ringers organised a very successful get-together of local handbell teams. Eight teams gave a selection from their repertoires and we heard tunes as varied as Christmas Carols, English and Russian Folk tunes, and classics such as Pomp and Circumstance and the Trumpet Voluntary. Particularly impressive was the soloist Lizza McAndrew from Bishops Waltham, who played a selection of tunes using probably 20 - 30 bells arranged in a typewriter-style array on a table, usually with keyboard accompaniment. Some members of our Branch rang a course of Bob Major, plus Hunt on 10. Janet Menhinick explained the principles of change ringing to the audience, who were mostly tune ringers. During the interval we were invited to try out the Finchampstead Strikerometer, which automatically evaluated the regularity with which the operator could strike 6 keys repeatedly in succession, and/or the ABEL software, which simulated change ringing on a screen, permitting the operator to play one or more bells in a method while the computer supplied the remaining bells in perfect time.

In December a "See yourself handling on video" course was held for Sonning ringers at All Saints, Wokingham - thanks to the organisers John Harrison, Ken Lovell, Mike Pickup and Len Palfrey for their time and expertise.

A variety of quarter peals have been rung. Congratulations to Richard Grist of St Paul's, Wokingham and Derek Brayne from White Waltham on ringing their first quarters.

Pam Elliston
Branch Secretary

VALE OF WHITE HORSE BRANCH:-

Last, but not least we hope! The Vale of White Horse Branch decided at its January Committee Meeting to support the Guild Autumn General Committee Meeting's suggestion to support the Kilifi project by sponsored ringing but decided to hold a sponsored quarter peal week during the last week in February rather than January. Thus as this is being written, we have successfully completed quarter peals in three towers with a further six planned ahead thus (hopefully) completing one in each properly ringable tower in the Branch. Congratulations to the 'firsts' so far - Heidi Sydor, who rang her first quarter peal at Buckland on Saturday 19th February and Emma Beooks who rang her first quarter on an inside bell at Stanford-in-the-Vale on Sunday 20th February.

The Branch Dinner held in early December was once again well attended and enjoyed by all. Only one Branch Practice since the last ODD BOB - this was held at Faringdon on 31st January and was attended by 29 ringers.

Work is scheduled to start in April on the rehanging of Shellingford's 4 bells and Coleshill PCC have given approval to the tenor bell being welded to restore Coleshill to a ring of six after more than 50 years being rung as a five. Further quotations are being sought and lots of fund raising is being planned before anything else happens but at last it does look as if progress is being made.

Gail and Harry Norton (Shellingford) and Jackie O'Hagan (Stanford-in-the-Vale) were the only Branch members to attend the Tower Leadership Course on Saturday 5th February at Witney. The rest of the Branch missed a very useful and enjoyable discussion. Thanks to Pat and Bill for their organisation and leadership.

Oh and by the way, despite what you may have read in the Oxford Mail (and its sister papers), the bells at Stanford-in-the-Vale have not been silent for 20 years nor are they not being rehung. After all it is only just over 20 years since they were installed in the tower (having previously hung in St. Peter-in-the-East, in Oxford). The clock chimes, however, which have not worked for a number of years (nowhere near 20) **ARE BEING REPAIRED** along with the church clock which has not worked at all for the last two years.

Jackie O'Hagan
Branch Secretary

BRANCH QUARTER PEALS

SHRIVENHAM, OXON Sunday 5th December 1993 in 43 minutes
1260 Plain Bob and Grandsire Doubles

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Helen Pepler | 4. Eric Sutton |
| 2. Teresa Sugden | 5. Tony Crabtree (C) |
| 3. Gordon Belcher | 6. Jed Brown (first Quarter) |
- For Christingle Service

HINTON WALDRIST, OXON Thursday 16th December 1993
1260 Plain Bob and Grandsire Doubles

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Dennis Leslie (C) | 4. Norman Leslie |
| 2. Anne Jones | 5. Anthony Williams |
| 3. Dick Miles | |

After meeting short for practice.

FARINGDON, OXON 20th December 1993

1260 Plain Bob and Grandsire Doubles (768 covering)

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Anne Jones | 5. Dick Miles |
| 2. Norman Leslie (C) | 6. Edwin Monk |
| 3. Dennis Leslie | 7. Doreen Leslie |
| 4. Jackie O'Hagan | 8. Anthony Williams |
- Belated compliment to Dennis Leslie, Branch ringing Master, retiring after 21 years in office.

SHRIVENHAM, OXON 26th December 1993 in 42 mins.

1260 St Simon and St Martin Doubles

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Vanessa Hacker | 4. Gordon Belcher |
| 2. Ann Stevens (First in Methods) | 5. Tony Crabtree (C) |
| 3. Eric Sutton | 6. Jed Brown |
- For Evensong

WITNEY AND WOODSTOCK BRANCH:-

Jack Venn died on 14th January. He had been ringing at Wootton-by-Woodstock over a period of some thirty years, and before that had been a member of the band at St Aldate's, Oxford. Having been involved in the restoration of St. Aldate's bells during his time there, he was able to put that experience to good use when the Wootton bells were rehung a few years ago. He will be sadly missed.

A representative band from the Branch rang Wootton bells half-muffled after his funeral, and members of his family rang a quarter peal later the same day.

His son Ted Venn, has returned to the Branch after a few years in Scotland, and is now living at Broughton Poggs, which is as far as you can go without becoming a member of the Gloucester and Bristol D.A. We look forward to ringing with him regularly.

Christopher Walworth
Branch Secretary

SOUTH OXON BRANCH:

The Bells of St. Helen's Church, Benson.

A few years ago during a routine clean up of the belfry we found that one section of the timber bell frame had decayed. Whites of Appleton were called in and provided an estimate for strengthening the decayed section. The quotation was accepted and the money raised by the ringers to cover this. This work was not considered urgent but it is hoped it will be carried out shortly.

The 7th and Tenor bells are not particularly easy to handle and it has been suggested that some useful work could be undertaken to make some improvements and remove some of the wear which has taken place over the years.

Following the sudden death of our tower captain, Stan Day, in March last year, a memorial fund was started from the funeral collection and into which further donations have been received to enable this work to be carried out.

We now have to raise a further £7,000 - £8,000 (including V.A.T)

We have commenced fund raising to add to the money already donated. A Barn Dance was held in February. We hope to hold a jumble sale and are looking at various other events. We have received a grant from our local Community Association and we are also hoping to obtain a grant from the Benson Parish Council.

John Tchighianoff
Tower Captain

BANBURY BRANCH:-

STEEPLE ASTON - Steeple Aston have had a busy winter. In October they rang for the Institution and Licensing of the new Rector at Rousham.

A Quiz Evening was held on 30th October and £96.70 was raised for church funds.

The advent of the best kept tower competition caused a flurry of activity. Two of the lady ringers were absent - due to another meeting - but they were much impressed on the following Sunday by the appearance of the ringers and were prepared to believe that higher up the tower the change was just as impressive.

In November the Guild Autumn Committee Meeting was held at Steeple Aston and at Christmas the handbell ringers did their usual door-to-door Christmas collection, this time for Oxfam.

DEEDINGTON:- Deddington has lost Robin Hall who has moved away and are looking for new ringers. They are 12 in number.

BODICOTE:- Bodicote practices on Monday evenings. Their learners are making steady progress but new recruits would be welcome to swell their numbers. Unfortunately two of their more useful youngsters seem to have been lost. They are organised a Barn Dance in February as their contribution to the current Church Restoration Appeal. They two have entered the Best Kept Tower Competition and hope to beat Steeple Aston.

(Editor's Note:- It was from this tower that the idea originated for a best kept tower competition as a memorial to Alison Jane Roderick, a member of the band.)

GREAT TEW:- The old book found in Great Tew's spring clean is now to be kept in the Oxford Diocesan Guild Library.

BLOXHAM:- The band is short of ringers again. Adrian Gardner is now at Southampton University. They have however four learners. Their Sunday morning ringing is a bit thin but, with the help of visitors can manage Olain Bob Triples. The visitors have been learning changing ringing on handbells and can manage Plain Bob Minor, Grandsire Doubles and even Plain Hunt on eight.

BRANCH STRIKING COMPETITION - This was held at Mollington on Friday 7th January. Laura McMahon and Bob Datson acted as judges. The Mollington Bandrang first and set a good standard with Plain Bob Doubles. After the genuine entries the judges were told there were two more bands. A 'scratch' band of 'experts' rang first. They pulled the bells off, and the rounds became faster and faster until the bells were half way down. They then rang Plain Bob Minor at a ridiculous speed, before ringing the bells up again to stand at the end. They were followed by an all-ladies band.

RESULTS:-	1st	Mollington	32 faults
	2nd	Steeple Aston	36 faults
	3rd	Banbury	37 faults
	4th	Bodicote	59½ faults
	5th	Bloxham	83½ faults

The scratch team of "experts" had scored only 18 faults but were awarded 25 penalty faults for showing off! The ladies band scored 23 faults.

Extracted from the Branch News
Leeter.

PLAIN MAJOR METHODS IN BRIEF

METHOD	TREBLE WORK	OTHER BELLS
PLAIN BOB	Hunts to 8ths place and back	when treble leads: one bell makes 2nds, other bells dodge.
REVERSE BOB	Hunts to 8ths place and back	when treble leads: one bell makes 8ths, other bells plain hunt. when treble makes 8ths; one bell makes 7ths, other bells dodge.
DOUBLE BOB	Hunts to 8ths place and back.	when treble leads; one bell makes 2nds, other bells dodge. when treble makes 8ths; one bell makes 7ths other bells dodge.
LITTLE BOB	Hunts to 4ths place and back.	when treble leads; one bell makes 2nds, other bells dodge. when treble makes 4ths; one bell leads, bells in 5-6 and 7-8 dodge. bells in 2-3 plain hunt.
GAINSBOROUGH LITTLE BOB	Hunts to 6ths place and back.	when treble leads; one bell makes 2nds, other bells dodge. when treble makes 6ths; one bell leads, bells in 7-8 dodge, other bells plain hunt.
BASTOW LITTLE COURT	Makes 2nds and leads throughout.	when treble leads; one bell makes 8ths, other bells plain hunt. when treble makes 2nds; one bell leads, other bells dodge.

N.B: all methods start the same as Plain Bob except for Bastow Little Court where the bells in 3-4,5-6, 7-8 start with a dodge. P.M.N.

PRACTICE METHODS FOR KENT TREBLE BOB.

Often a band has problems in stiking when moving from Plain Minor or Major, especially if the majority have had little or no practice in Treble Bob.

Bastow Little Court teaches the T.B. work of the inside bells.

Treble Bob Hunt, although it has repeat changes, can help with the 'feel' of the rhythm as does Plain Hunting in Plain Methods. Here every bell starts with a dodge.

STEDMAN QUICK OR ST HELEN'S

This is an excellent method for teaching odd bell dodging where bands have been brought up on even bell dodging and wish to ring Stedman.

The treble and 2nd hunt to 3rds place and back to lead. The other bells double dodge in 4-5 and 6-7 as in Stedman, going in and out quick to Quick. At the start all bells plain hunt except 5th in Doubles and 7th in Triples.

DOUBLE LENGTH PEAL AT EMBERTON

70 years ago a band local to All Saints, Emberton, rang a double length peal of 10,080 changes in 14 minor methods at the second attempt. It was the longest length rung by all the band except the conductor - Charles Clarke and the most minor rung for the Bedfordshire Association. The first attempt on the previous Whit. Monday had failed after 5 hours ringing when a rope broke.

On Saturday 11th December 1993 a band from the ODG, mainly the North Bucks Branch, repeated the performance ringing the same 14 methods in 5 hours exactly. This also was a second attempt, the first go in June failed in the 6th extent. The longest length rung by all the band, this is also the most Minor rung on tower bells for the Guild.

The details of the peal are as follows:

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS.

Emberton, All Saints, Bucks. 9 cwt.

Saturday 11th December 1993, 5 hours.

10,080 Minor (14 Methods)

(One extent each: Violet, College Pleasure, London Scholars Pleasure, College Exercise, Cambridge Surprise, Woodbine, Oxford Treble Bob, Kent Treble Bob, Double Oxford, Double Court, College Bob, St. Clements, Oxford Bob, Plain Bob.)

Treble	Alan J Marchbank
2	L Ruth Stokes
3	John S White
4	B Douglas Hird
5	Christopher Stokes
6	Barry R Eglesfield (C)

Rung for the 70th Anniversary of the 1923 double peal.

Longest length rung by all.

Most Minor rung on tower bells for the Guild.

As Sheila Watts, Emberton's tower captain, was heard to remark afterwards;

"It was a tremendous feat to repeat the 1923 double peal. The only difference being that this team did it on glucose tablets rather than beer!"

The whole band wish to record their thanks to Sheila Watts and Sheila Ware who made all the necessary arrangements with the church and the Village to let attempts go ahead and to Shirley Waterhouse who so often made the method practice possible.

ALAN MARCHBANK

From Branch News Letter

GUILD FACILITIES

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

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

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

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

LIBRARY – The Guild maintains a comprehensive Library from which books may be borrowed. For details contact Mr W. Butler, 8 The Waverleys, Thatcham, Newbury, Berks. RG13 4AW. Tel: (0635) 862309

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

EXHIBITION DISPLAY MATERIAL – This, together with the necessary stands, is available for tower open days, Public Libraries etc. A full list of the material can be found in ODD BOB July 1991 Page 36. Contact Mr S.A. Rossiter, 1 Pemberton Gardens, Calcot, Reading, RG3 7DY. Tel: (0734) 411146

TOWERS AND BELFRIES – The Towers and Belfries Committee exists to help your tower with any problems which you might have with your bells, their fittings, sound control or the tower itself. We can—with the help of the Education Committee—arrange a maintenance course for your area, or on a smaller scale, show you what you should be doing to maintain your own tower. Contact Mr P.G. Davies, Narrogin, Longworth Road, Charney Bassett, Wantage, Oxon, OX12 0ET. Tel: (0235) 868646

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

GUILD OFFICERS 1993–1994

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Education Miss M.R.Cross

Towers and Belfries Mr P. Davies

Best Kept Tower Competition: Mr P. Davies, "Narrogin", Longworth Rd, Charney Bassett,
Wantage, Oxon OX12 0ET

Subscriptions: Resident Members £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

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- Banbury: Mrs S.Burchell 11 Old Road, Great Tew, Chipping Norton, Oxon.
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- Old North Berks: Mr P.Starling 7 Chambray Close, Appleford, Abingdon, Oxon.
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South Oxon:	Miss T.Ruff	14 North Close, Tiddington, Oxon. OX9 2LT Ickford (0844) 339783
Vale of White Horse:	Mrs J.A.O'Hagan	"Brubell", 13 Chapel Road, Stanford-in-the-Vale, Faringdon, Oxon. Stanford-in-the-Vale (0367) 718994 SN7 8LE
Witney and Woodstock:	Mr C.Wallworth	5 Parkside, Woodstock, Oxon. OX20 1UR Woodstock (0993) 812187

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Mr P. Brown	6 Bell Hill, Hook Norton, Oxon. OX15 5NG Hook Norton (0608) 737207

Banbury

Mr R. Grange*	1 The Square, Swalcliffe, Banbury, Oxon. OX15 7EL Banbury (0295) 78651
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Bicester / Witney and Woodstock Branches

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Mr J. Baker	83 Church Drive, Kingsbury, London NW9 8DP (081)200 6039 (home) / (081)450 4646 (work)

Chiltern / East Berks and South Bucks / Sonning Deanery Branches

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

Mr P.G. Davies*	Narrogin, Longworth Road, Charney Bassett, Wantage, Oxon OX12 0ET Tel: Abingdon (0235) 868646 / Fax: (0235) 868928
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Old North Berks / Oxford City / Vale of White Horse

Mr B.J. Stone	3 Bell Close, Grove, Wantage, Oxon. OX12 7NP Wantage (02357) 66673
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Reading / South Oxon Branches

* denotes co-opted member.

BEST KEPT TOWER COMPETITION

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

O.D.G. EDUCATIONAL LEAFLETS

Plain Hunt to Bob Doubles	Handbell Ringing	Sound Control
Grandsire	Maintenance	Bibliography
Stedman	Rope Splicing	Eight Doubles Methods
Bob Calling for Beginners	Running a One Day Course	
Surprise Minor: Cambridge to London	Pt 1 Cambridge	} 1 leaflet
Surprise Minor: Cambridge to London	Pt 2 Building on Cambridge	
	Pt 3 London	
50p per copy inc. p & p. Set of 13 titles £6.00. Discounts for bulk orders.		
from: Mrs A. Carpenter, 41 Napier Road, Crowthorne, Berks. RG11 7EJ		
(Cheques to <i>Oxford Diocesan Guild</i> please)		

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Miss M.R. Cross, 6 Radley Road, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 3PQ
Abingdon (0235) 520868

Mrs B. May, 4 Halfacre Close, Spencers Wood, Reading. RG7 1DZ
Reading (0734) 884172

Mr J. Harrison, 2 Murdoch Road, Wokingham, Berks.
Wokingham (0734) 785520

Mr J. Wells, Victoria Lodge, 91 Waverley Road, Reading. RG3 2QB
Reading (0734) 572552

Mr A.J. Griffin*, Rosebank, Bloxham, Banbury, Oxon.
Banbury (0295) 720359

Mr M. Till, 17 Quarrington Close, Thatcham, Berks. RG13 4YE
Thatcham (0635) 866186

Education Committee - COURSE TITLES

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| 1. Plain Hunt | 12. Ten-Bell Methods |
| 2. Plain Bob Doubles | 13. Towards Better Conducting |
| 3. Grandsire Doubles | 14. Towards Better Striking |
| 4. Stedman Doubles | 15. Raising and Lowering in Peal |
| 5. Doubles and Minor | 16. Tower Leadership (Seminar) |
| 6. Plain Bob Minor | 17. Computers and Simulators in Ringing |
| 7. Cambridge Minor | 18. Rope Splicing |
| 8. Triples Methods | 19. Tower Maintenance (by Towers and Belfries Committee) |
| 9. Stedman Triples | 20. Handbell Ringing (Methods) |
| 10. Plain Major Methods | 21. Listening |
| 11. Surprise Major Methods | 22. Bell Handling on Video |

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

MARCH

Sat. 12	SPRING GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING – Tilehurst		
	C.Bucks	B.P. Cuddington (6)	6.30
	W & W	B.P. Bampton	7.30–9.00
Fri. 18	N.Bucks	B.P. Emberton (Oxford T.B.)	
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
	Sonning	Joint practice with Farnham Branch at Easthampstead	
Thur. 23	V.of W.H.	B.P. Ashbury (6)	
Sat. 26	C.Norton	B.P. Kingham	7.00–8.30
Sat. 26	S.Oxon	S.C. Tetsworth	

APRIL

Sat. 2	HANDBELL DAY – Reading		
Mon. 4	N.Bucks	Easter Egg Hunt	Downs Barn
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	C.Bucks	B.P. Linslade (8)	6.30
	N.Bucks	Wine and Wisdom Evening	Downs Barn
	Reading	B.P. Padworth (6)*	7.00–9.00
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		
Fri. 15	N.Bucks	B.P. TBA (Double Norwich)	
Sat. 16	Banbury	A.G.M. Bloxham (8)	
	Chiltern	A.G.M. Little Missenden	3.00
	Sonning	S.C.(6-bell) Arborfield	
Sat. 23	O.N.B.	S.C.(6-bell) Sunningwell	
	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	C.Bucks	Bell Maintenance Course	
	C.Norton	A.G.M. Hook Norton	
	W & W	B.P. Yarnton	7.30–9.00
Mon. 9	Bicester	B.P. Brill	7.30
	O.N.B.	B.P. North Moreton	7.30–9.00
Thur. 12	Banbury	B.P. Wroxton (General)	7.30–9.00

DIARY OF EVENTS cont'd.

MAY cont'd.

Sat.	14	C.Bucks	$\frac{1}{2}$ ly	Padbury (6)	3.00
		Oxford City	$\frac{1}{2}$ ly		
		Reading	B.P.	Lower Basildon (4)* + Whitchurch (6)*	7.00-9.00
Fri.	20	N.Bucks	B.P.	Tingewick (Winchendon & St. Nicholas)	
Sat.	21	GUILD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - Downs Barn			
		10-BELL STRIKING COMPETITION (Long Crendon)			
		Chiltern	B.P.	Ellesborough	7.00-9.00
		Banbury	B.P.	Swalcliffe (Treble Bob)	7.30-9.00
		Sonning	B.P.	Sonning	7.00-9.00
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
Sat.	4	C.Norton	B.P.	Salford	7.30-9.00
Sat.	4	N.Bucks	$\frac{1}{2}$ ly/6-bell	Competition Bradwell	
Tue.	7	Bicester	B.P.	Islip	7.30
Sat.	11	C.Bucks	S.C.	Mursley (6)*	2.30
		Oxford City	S.C.(6-bell)		
		Reading	B.P.	Mapledurham (6)*	7.00-9.00
Fri.	17	N.Bucks	B.P.	Chicheley (Little Bob Minor & Cambridge)	
Sat.	18	Chiltern	S.C.	Stoke Mandeville	6.30-9.00
		O.N.B.	A.G.M.	Sutton Courtenay*	
		Sonning	B.P.	Shottesbrooke	7.00-9.00
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)			
		C.Norton	B.P.	Churchill	7.30-9.00
Mon.	4	Chiltern	B.P.(8-bell)	Bledlow	7.45-9.00
Wed.	6	Bicester	B.P.	Launton	7.30
Sat.	9	C.Bucks	B.P.	Long Crendon (10)*	6.30
		Reading	B.P.	Goring-on-Thames (8)* [Video + handbells]	7.00-9.00
Sun.	10	C.Norton	Farm Walk	Glebe Farm, Spelsbury	1.00pm
Mon.	11	O.N.B.	B.P.	Steventon*	7.30-9.00
Sat.	16	Chiltern	B.P.	Ivinghoe or Slapton	7.00-9.00
		Sonning	B.P.	Warfield	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
Sat.	6	C.Norton	B.P.	Chastleton	7.30-9.00
		Reading	B.P.	Shiplake (8)*	7.00-9.00
Tue.	9	O.N.B.	B.P.	Little Wittenham	7.30-9.00
Sat.	13	C.Bucks	B.P.	East Claydon (5)*	6.30
Sat.	20	Chiltern	B.P.	Weston Turville	7.00-9.00
		Sonning	B.P.	White Waltham	7.00-9.00
		S. Oxon	B.P.	Wheatley	7.00-9.00
Thur.	25	V.of W.H.	B.P.	Shellingford (4)	

DIARY OF EVENTS cont'd.

SEPTEMBER

Fri.	2	Bicester	B.P.	Ludgershall	7.30
Sat.	3	C.Norton	B.P.	Shipton-u-Wychwood	7.30-9.00
Sat.	3	Reading	S.C.	Nettlebed (6)*	
Tue.	6	Chiltern	B.P.(8-bell)	Stoke Mandeville	7.30-9.00
Fri.	9-11	EASTHAMPSTEAD COURSE - Easthampstead			
Sat.	10	Branch Outing (London)			
Tue.	13	O.N.B.	B.P.	Brightwell	7.30-9.00
Sat.	17	Chiltern	B.P.	Bledlow	7.00-9.00
Sat.	17	Sonning	S.C.(8-bell)	Easthampstead; evening practice at All Saints	Wokingham
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 - Finchampstead			
		C.Norton	B.P.	Taynton	7.30-9.00
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
Sat.	8	Reading	B.P.		
Tue.	11	O.N.B.	B.P.	Wantage*	7.30-9.00
Sat.	15	Banbury	1/2ly	Cropredy	
		Chiltern/	S.C./ 1/2ly	Orchard Cup - Wendover	2.00
		C.Bucks			
		Sonning	B.P.	Wargrave	7.00-9.00
Thur.	20	Bicester	A.G.M.	Bicester	
Sat.	22	S.Oxon	1/2ly	Aston Rowant	
		V.of W.H.		Autumn Outing	
Sat.	29	C.Norton	B.P.	Enstone	7.30-9.00

NOVEMBER

Tue.	1	Bicester	B.P.	Islip	7.30
Mon.	7	Chiltern	B.P.(8-bell)	Bledlow	7.45-9.00
Sat.	12	C.Bucks	A.G.M.	Aylesbury (8)	3.00
		Reading	B.P.	Caversham (8)*	
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
		Sonning	B.P.	Waltham St Lawrence (preceded by Br.Committee Meeting)	
Sat.	26	AUTUMN GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING - East Hagbourne			
		S.Oxon	B.P.	Shabbington	7.00-9.00
Tues.	29	V.of W.H.	B.P.	Uffington (6)	

DECEMBER

Sat.	3	C.Norton	B.P.	Burford	7.30-9.00
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	
Sat.	10	C.Bucks	B.P.	Waddesdon (6)*	6.30
		Reading	B.P.	Reading S.Laurence (12)* [Mince pies + wine]	
Wed.	14	O.N.B.	B.P.	Cholsey*	7.30-9.00
Sat.	17	Chiltern	B.P.	Aston Clinton	7.00-9.00
		Sonning	B.P.	Warfield	7.00-9.00
		S.Oxon	B.P.	Watlington	7.00-9.00

NEWBURY BRANCH

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 1994

1994 Dates	Event	Venue & Details
7th February (Mon)	Open House Practice	Newbury Tower - 7.30pm.
12th March (Sat)	Skittles Evening	Crown & Horns, East Ilsley 7.30 for 8pm Start.
16th March (Wed)	Open House Practice	Bucklebury Tower - 7.30pm.
9th April (Sat)	Six Bell Striking Competition and Half Yearly Meeting	Yattendon Tower - 2.30pm. Meeting in Village Hall at 5-30pm. Bring picnic tea.
22nd April (Fri)	Open House Practice	Brightwalton Tower - 7.30pm.
21st May (Sat)	Aim High Practice	Aldermaston Tower - 7.30pm.
9th June (Thu)	Open House Practice	Midgham Tower - 7.30pm.
11th June (Sat)	Rounders Match and Bar-B-Q Evening	Croft Field, Hungerford Rounders start - 6.30pm.
2nd July (Sat)	Marshall Shield - 6 Bell Striking Competition	Chieveley Tower - 5pm. (Open to non-winners in the last 2 years)
23rd July (Sat)	Aim High Practice	Thatcham Tower - 7.30pm.
15th September (Thu)	Open House Practice	Aldermaston Tower - 8pm.
24th September (Sat)	Coach Outing	Venue & details to follow.
8th October (Sat)	Newbury Branch A.G.M.	Newbury Tower from 3pm. Service at 4.30pm. Tea at 5.30pm. A.G.M. at 6pm.
22nd October (Sat)	Aim High Practice	Bucklebury - 7.30pm.
2nd November (Thu)	Open House Practice	Beenham Tower - 7.30pm.
12th November (Sat)	Car Outing	Venue & details to follow.
6th December (Tue)	Open House Practice & Xmas 200 Club Draw	Speen Tower - 7.30pm. Buffet Supper Available.
1995 Dates		
12th January (Thu)	Open House Practice	Peasemore Tower - 7.30pm.
21st January (Sat)	Aim High Practice	Newbury Tower - 7.30pm.