

Issue 46

ODD BOB

Newsletter of the



March 1996

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Information for contributors

The editor welcomes any contributions for consideration for publication in Odd Bob. Send your contributions to the editor at the following address : Mr John R Martin, 90 Fairway Avenue, Tilehurst, Reading, Berks, RG30 4QB. Whilst hand-written copy is perfectly acceptable, electronic copies would be welcomed. Line drawings and photographs to illustrate your articles would also be welcome. I can accept a number of word processor formats (MS Word, WordPerfect, etc.) on either 3.5" or 5.25" diskettes. I will return the disks and other submitted material. Alternatively if you have access to a modem and a computer, you might like to send your contributions via the Ringers BBS on 01794 514754 (addressed to john martin) or via internet to john.martin@ukonline.co.uk

The next issue of Odd Bob is scheduled to be distributed at the Guild festival in July. All contributions to me by 14th June 1996 please.

Odd Bob back issues The editor has in his possession a number of copies of back issues. I am happy to send these to anyone who may be short of one or two issues to complete their collections. Just give me a call and I can quickly confirm whether I have the copies you need.

**Odd Bob depends on YOUR contributions !
Send them in NOW**

Master's Last Mutterings

Seven years ago, when I was elected to the post of Master, I had little idea of how inspiring I would find the next few years. In answer to my questions regarding the responsibilities of the Master, I would get comments like "chair the Guild meetings", "attend branch meetings", "just be yourself", or "do your own thing"! Ron Thorne and Henry Lawrenson offered much encouragement in the early months, and Bill Butler and Marie Cross, with their wealth of experience, have given me a lot of guidance over the years, and I am grateful to these 4 for their support.

Now, 7 years later, after chairing 20 Guild meetings, attending 56 sub-committee meetings and about 90 branch meetings, I think it is time to stand aside and let someone else enjoy the experience that I have had.

It has been a pleasure and a great honour to be Master of this Guild. The Oxford Diocesan Guild is one of the largest and most active in the country, and commands much respect from ringers from all areas. Apart from the routine meetings, I have been pleased to represent the Guild on a number of special occasions. There were 2 particular highlights: the service on 25th May 1991 to celebrate the centenary of the Central Council when I was joined by John Wells and Brian Gatward in the procession at St. Paul's Cathedral, and the service on 3rd December 1992 at Christ Church Cathedral to celebrate the 450th anniversary of the Diocese, when I almost met the Queen!

Another duty of the Master is to organize the Festival service. They say there has been no "feel good factor" in recent years, but I can assure you that when you have corresponded for some weeks with Bishops and Cathedral authorities, vicars and choristers, and spent many hours checking the fine details to ensure that everything runs smoothly on the day, it really does feel good to receive comments of appreciation from members and clergy after the service. Many branch secretaries, ringing masters and tower captains doubtless will have felt the same from time to time. I am certain that the more effort we put into all that we do, the more "feel good factor" we get in return! The 11 dedication services that I have attended have provided good evidence for this theory. After months and years of planning, fund raising and hard labour, it is a very special day for the parish when the bells are rededicated to the glory of God, and the local ringers have every right to enjoy the celebrations.

To a large extent I have "done my own thing" during my period in office. Some of my ideas have led to successful conclusions, others have died at the initial discussion stage, but it has been a very challenging and satisfying period of my life. No doubt I have "left undone those things which I ought to have done" and "done those things which I ought not to have done", but I trust the health of the Guild has not suffered too much as a consequence!

The work of the Master is less burdensome if the officer is supported by a good deputy, secretary and treasurer. I have been fortunate in that the occupants of these posts have been very capable and dedicated, and have been a pleasure to work with. I thank them all for their support. There are so many people who keep the Guild activities running smoothly - officers and members of the General Committee, members of the Towers & Belfries Committee who help to keep the bells in our Diocese in good order (and who have taught me a great deal about bell maintenance), members of the Education Committee who run the Guild training courses each year, branch secretaries who organize Guild activities in their areas and who provide a vital link between the Guild Committee and the members, and tower captains who teach new learners and keep their bands ringing together

week by week. Even if you do not fall into one of these categories, you are a valued member of the Guild if you help to keep the bells of your church ringing regularly for Sunday service. I thank each and every one of you for the contribution that you make towards the ringing in this Diocese.

In my home town of High Wycombe, we have a tradition of "weighing-in" the Mayor, and weighing him again at the end of his year of office to see how much weight he has put on at the expense of the towns-folk. I am relieved that we do not have this tradition in ringing. I must have put on several pounds over the years after the number of ringers' teas and dinners that I have consumed. Thank you for your hospitality at branch meetings. I have always received a warm welcome, and feel that I have made many new friends around the Guild. Although I am standing down as Master, I do hope to continue to be involved with Guild activities, particularly on the educational side, and I hope I will be able to visit some of your branch meetings and practices in the future.

Patricia Newton

Assistant General Treasurer

(It could be you !)

At the recent meeting of the finance & general purposes sub-committee, the Guild Treasurer, Brian Gatward, indicated that he would be looking to relinquishing office within the next year or so. He feels that, having been elected to the post in 1979, he is in extreme danger of becoming a permanent fixture and that some thought should be given to a successor. At present there are 3 aspects to the post, the Guild general fund, the restoration fund and the bell fund. The sub-committee is aware that responsibility for all 3 of these is a lot to ask one person to take on 'from cold' and is suggesting that the Guild appoint an Assistant General Treasurer. The person elected to this post would then work alongside Brian, initially on the general fund, with a view to becoming general Treasurer if members so wish. The future care of the other aspects of Brian's work are open for discussion and no decisions have been made at this stage. In this way the transition from one treasurer to another should be reasonably smooth. The general committee will be asked to approve the creation of the new post at the March meeting so that someone can be appointed at the AGM in May.

Clearly the responsibilities of the post require someone with accounting and associated financial skills, but in a Guild as large as ours there must be a number of suitably qualified and able people who could do a good job.

The Guild is on a sound financial basis, thanks to Brian's care and expertise, and clearly we would wish it to remain that way, so now is the time to think about who might take up the reins. Are you interested or do you know someone who would be? If so, come forward or do a bit of persuading. Don't leave it to someone else. Please feel free to contact Brian to chat about what is involved but, above all, think about it and then do something.

John Wells

Oxford Guild on the World Wide Web

I am sure that many of you will have heard the term 'internet' used in the media over the last couple of years. The Guild committee decided at its meeting in November to establish a trial presence on the internet and this short article is to explain what this service is intended to provide.

Firstly some words of explanation for the uninitiated. Many of us who work in offices will be familiar with the idea of a so-called network of computers. In the office scenario, a network is often provided to make the sharing of data files and office equipment such as printers easy. Typically we might be familiar with a few dozen computers linked together. The term internet refers to a world-wide network of computers which are able to share data and other information which has been placed onto the network. There are estimates that the number of computers connected to the internet exceeds 10 million !

There are a number of standard tools which are available to users of the internet. The most widely used is email (an abbreviation of *electronic mail*), a tool which allows any internet user to communicate with any other in the world very cheaply and quickly. For example, I have seen a delivery time of 13 seconds quoted for an email to be transferred from the sender in America to the recipient in Antarctica.

A second tool which is growing in popularity very quickly is the World Wide Web. This tool allows information of many kinds (textual data, photographs, sounds, even video film) to be retrieved from a computer anywhere in the world. The term 'web' alludes to the fact that many pieces of data are linked or intertwined in such a way that a searcher can easily be directed to the particular information that he or she requires.

The Guild has decided to place a small amount of information about itself on the World Wide Web. At the moment this information is restricted to details of the current Guild officers and a directory of Guild towers. In the near future it is hoped to include contact details for branch secretaries as well. The benefits of making this information available are :

- 1 It is always up to date - compare this with the Guild report which is updated annually and this publication, which is only updated every 3 or 4 months.
- 2 It is available on demand, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.
- 3 Distributing information in this way may well become the cheapest and most efficient means of distribution in the future.

There has been much hype written about how the internet will revolutionise everything that we do. I do not necessarily believe the hype but I do believe that now is the appropriate time for the Guild to experiment with this technology, so that we will build up some experience for the future. We are by no means the first Guild to have done this - the Winchester & Portsmouth Diocesan Guild and Middlesex County Association are just a couple of those who have already set up their information.

I'm sorry but it's time to get technical! The Guild information may be found at <http://www.dra.hmg.gb/odg/odg.html> for those with the necessary equipment to look at it. We are very grateful to the Defence Research Agency for providing some computer space to host the information. If you have your own home page and would like me to include a link to it please let me know. Also if you have any comments or suggestions after looking at the page, or would like further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

John Martin

Guild accounts 1995

Bell Restoration Fund - Registered Charity Accounts for the year ending 31 December 1995

1994			1995
£			£
	Balance Brought Forward 1 January 1995		
3784.81	Investments	4006.06	
1000.00	Loan - General Fund	1000.00	
568.45	Loan - Reserve Fund	568.45	
5353.26			5574.51
2.00	P.C.C. Donations	62.65	
	Other donations		
50.00	Great Tew		
20.00	Sonning Deanery Branch		
	Old North Berks Branch	20.00	
	Ringing World	5.00	
	Four Shires Guild	80.00	
	Interest on Investments		
7.16	3.5% War Loan	7.16	
22.58	4% Consols	22.58	
33.24	9.5% Treasury Stock	33.24	
1.57	T.S.B. Savings Account	2.72	
184.7	Central Board of Finance Deposit	234.18	
321.25			299.88
5674.51			6042.04
	Grants		
100.00	Somerton		
	Marsworth	150.00	
5574.51	Balance Carried Forward 31 December 1995		5892.04
4006.06	Investments	4323.59	
1000.00	Loan - General Fund	1000.00	
568.45	Loan - Reserve Fund	568.45	
5574.51			5892.04
	Represented by :		
205.58	3.5% War Loan	205.58	
500.73	4% Consols	500.73	
299.31	9.5% Treasury Stock	299.31	
467.67	T.S.B. Savings Account	889.03	
338.01	Lloyds Bank PLC	0	
3763.21	Central Board of Finance Deposit	3997.39	
5574.51			5892.04
	B J Gatward CPFA, MBCS		
	Honorary Treasurer		
	31 January 1996		
	Reserve Fund		
	Balance Brought Forward 1 January 1995		
568.45	Loan - Bell Restoration Fund		
	Balance Carried Forward 31 December 1995		
	Loan - Bell Restoration Fund	568.45	
568.45			568.45
	B J Gatward CPFA, MBCS		
	Honorary Treasurer		
	31 January 1996		

General fund - accounts for the year ended 31 December 1995

1994			1995
£	Receipts	£	£
	Branch subscriptions		
325.40	Banbury	297.60	
282.00	Bicester	182.40	
533.10	Central Bucks	537.60	
390.40	Chiltern	387.20	
256.00	Chipping Norton	246.40	
960.00	East Berks & South Bucks	1027.20	
345.60	Newbury	342.40	
691.10	Old North Berks	672.00	
553.60	North Bucks	425.60	
249.60	Oxford City	281.60	
540.80	Reading	633.00	
547.20	Sonning Deanery	540.80	
291.20	South Oxon	339.20	
179.20	Vale of the White Horse	169.60	
458.10	Witney & Woodstock	435.20	
6603.30			6517.80
114.25	Non-Resident Life Subscriptions		155.00
140.50	Sale of Reports		190.70
27.00	Sale of Badges		19.00
33.00	Sale of Guild History		12.00
677.00	Peal Fees		789.95
22.50	Donations		38.50
7617.55			7722.95
	Payments		
102.77	Expenses - Master/Deputy Master	76.00	
48.95	Expenses - Secretary/Treasurer/Stewards	42.90	
222.05	Stationery and postages	336.73	
352.13	Printing	365.04	
			820.67
147.15	Expenses - Library		241.35
2450.66	Insurance		2531.63
636.00	Purchase of Guild Reports		792.00
1540.00	Printing 'Odd Bob'		1189.48
24.00	Central Council Affiliation Fee		24.00
25.00	C C Secretary - Retirement Donation		
220.00	Ringing World - Donation		120.00
156.00	Ringing World - Notices Account		199.60
91.00	Hire of halls for meetings		84.00
-130.28	Bank Charges		-184.26
338.50	Share of administrative expenses of Bell Fund		394.97
976.26	Downs Barn Project		-90.99
417.36	Excess of Income over Expenses		1600.5
7617.55			7722.95

Balance sheet as at 31 December 1995

General fund	£	£	£
Balance brought forward 1 January 1995	4207.11		
Excess of income over expenses	1600.50		
			5807.61
Education committee			
Balance brought forward 1 January 1995		3898.00	
Easthampstead course fees	4385.00		

Less expenses	3299.50	
		1085.50
Youth weekend fees	490.00	
Less expenses	464.10	
		25.90
Radley course fees	360.00	
Less expenses	222.80	
		137.20
Tower Leadership Courses (2)		-11.73
Leaflet Sales	89.25	
		89.25
Display Boards Purchased		395.68
		4828.44
		10636.05
<i>Represented by</i>		
Cash at bank	9636.05	
Loan to Restoration fund	1000.00	
		10636.05
B J Gatward CPFA, MBCS		
Honorary Treasurer		
31.1.96		

10 bell course report

This 1-day course was nominally for Little Bob Royal and Cambridge Royal, however, after we had all shown we could cope with a touch of Little Bob, with much trepidation we embarked on Cambridge for the rest of the day.

Bobbie May had organised the course and John Wells was our patient tutor. We spent the morning with the lovely bells at Amersham. After a short but helpful theory session full of useful tips, coffee was provided by the efficient Bobbie. She then collected our orders for lunch and phoned them through to the pub in Slough - a brilliant move as it turned out. The rest of the morning was spent ringing half courses of Cambridge. 2 or 3 learners in at a time. 16 helpers had nobly turned up to nurse the 8 students along. Even for those, like me, who reckon they have no ropesight on 10, it is amazing how a pattern begins to emerge with steady ringers around you and a quiet word in your ear at the right moment.

Our afternoon tower was Slough, about 12 miles away, and a generous 2½ hours had been allowed for driving there and having our lunch - much too long, you might think. We left Amersham with the famous last words ringing in our ears : "car park and pub just round the corner from the church - you can't miss them !" We realised the wisdom of the long break, when, an hour later, most of us were still wandering round Slough on foot looking for both ! How thankful we were to find our lunch ready and waiting for us after our scenic walk. One student never actually found the pub at all; but all was not lost, as we took her lunch in a doggy bag to the church ! In the afternoon we all had to have a go at different bells - and just as we were beginning to get the hang of it too. However, by trying like mad to look for signposts as instructed, and with the help of our longsuffering helpers, I think we all achieved even more than we had hoped for. Our very grateful thanks to Bobbie, John and our tireless helpers for a brilliant day.

Rosemary Hogan

Next 10 bell course

There will be a 10 bell course on 1st June - a.m. at Thatcham and p.m. at St Laurence, Reading. Methods - Grandsire and Stedman. Course tutor - Mike Till. Applications for the course to Bobbie May on 01734 884172.

Banbury

Branch practices are continuing twice monthly, with mixed attendance. A Stedman course was held in November and proved useful to those attending. Several branch members and others from neighbouring branches enjoyed a weekend in Devon in October, organised by Ron and Anne Thorne. The highlight of the weekend was undoubtedly ringing at Exeter Cathedral on Sunday afternoon. Two long-standing members of the branch died recently - Harry Bishop of Banbury and Len Roper. Mollington ringers rang a quarter peal in memory of Mr Roper :

At Mollington, Oxon on 20th September 1995

1260 Doubles (4 methods)

1 R G Smith

2 C T Wightman

3 K Abbott

4 Diana Reeves

5 R A Reeves (C)

6 B J E Satter

Rung in memory of Mr H L Roper who introduced the conductor to change ringing, and has also been instrumental in getting a band started at Mollington.

Sue Burchell

Central Bucks

Following from the last report we have visited Haddenham, Winslow and Hardwick for our branch practices. In February we held our annual meeting at Aylesbury. We were pleased to conclude the year with all our members fully paid up which helps my job as treasurer. To any branch secretaries which border our branch, we would welcome a copy of any newsletter you produce and we are happy to publish details of branch practices in our own newsletter, already sent to neighbouring branches.

Mark Sellin

Chipping Norton

In early December a peal attempt was made at Burford, to celebrate 50 years ringing by the tower captain, Mike Collett. Unfortunately the attempt was lost, so was the quarter attempt! Whilst sorrows were being drowned in the pub afterwards, a presentation was made to Mike of a shooting stick, which had been organised by the other Burford ringers. Congratulations go to Mike, who has always been loyal to Burford and supported the branch as much as he possibly can; may he continue to carry on ringing as long as he is able.

Congratulations must also go to Mick and Sally Austin from Hook Norton, who had a son in November, Daniel, and also from Hook Norton, Tim and Helen Burchell, who had a second son, Adam, on New Year's Eve (*must be something in the "water" ! - Ed*)

Branch practices continue on the first Saturday of the month, they are varied and cater for all abilities. However, both December and January meetings were not all that well attended, but this was compensated for by the attendance at Spelsbury on 3rd February, when there were 19 ringers present. With the help of members from Witney & Woodstock branch we were able to

ring some London Minor ! Let's hope that we get another good turn-out in March at Churchill.

Claire E Tarrant

East Berks & South Bucks

The EBSB have continued with their programme of both Surprise and branch practices each month. These have been reasonably well attended, with various methods being attempted. The half-yearly meeting and Lorna Newton striking competition final was held at Penn, where High Wycombe "B" narrowly beat Lane End in a close run contest to win the Lorna Newton Cup. There was some lively discussion at the meeting with regard to branch funding for the proposed major restoration for Langley tower and bells and possible help towards the cost of the Easthampstead and youth weekend training courses. A branch "half term" outing was held in October in the Middlesex area, with a number of youngsters putting in a good effort. All in all, a thoroughly enjoyable day was had by those attending. Plans are well underway for another such outing in February. The year was nicely rounded off with the Christmas social, hosted by Bray this year. Following a well attended branch practice, some 40 members enjoyed an excellent cheese and wine evening, combined with an "identify the church" competition which wasn't quite as easy as it looked !

Congratulations to Gordon Limmer of Burnham who has been a member of that band for over 70 years - a wonderful achievement. Unfortunately a peal attempt came to grief but a quarter peal was successfully rung by a local band to mark the occasion. Sadly, Ernie and Cora Eldridge of Cookham passed away, within just a few weeks of each other. Each had been ringers for over 50 years, and although neither had rung in the tower for several years, they were both, nonetheless, widely known and loved in the area. They will be sadly missed. A quarter peal was rung in special memory of them, following Ernie's funeral on 28th December.

On a brighter note, plans for the immediate future include a branch dinner, to take place in March. We haven't held a dinner for some time and it is hoped that a new and more affordable venue will attract renewed support. We are also attempting a branch ladies peal as part of the centenary celebrations of the first tower bell peal rung by a lady ringer.

Branch ringing for the year will again follow quite a heavy schedule with Surprise and branch practices each month, together with bands competing in branch, Guild and possibly national striking competitions yet again.

Marcia Dieppe

North Bucks

In the last Odd Bob we had no report because it was lost in the post and so never reached the editor, therefore this one is longer than usual.

The 1995 July and August branch practices were on the pleasant 6 at Clifton Reynes and the long-draughted 8 at Newton Longville. At the latter a branch band also rang for the flower festival on a very wet day !

Our Western outpost of Tingewick welcomed us warmly for the September quarterly and the interesting 5 received good varied use, preceded by the little-rung 6 at Twyford (Bucks). Also in September, Bradwell won our branch call change contest at Wavendon.

We again came fourth in the Guild 10 bell contest on Festival day and we were represented by Woughton-on-the Green in the Guild 6 bell competition on 7th October. In the heat at Iffley they were placed third but could not keep up the momentum for the final at Marston, and thus came home empty-handed after a rather wet but stimulating day.

Towcester branch again won the annual contest 2-1, and this time we beat them in the Grandsire section. A new feature this year was the additional event for the trophy in memory of George Holland, a popular ringer in both branches who died in 1993. His favourite, Stedman, must be rung for this and we are grateful to his daughter Mrs Freeman for the donation of a handsome traditional shield. The first name to go on this is Towcester, but we hope to change this next year !

In addition to the regular service ringing, a number of quarter peals were rung for the VE anniversary, and we thank Godfrey Foat for his organisation of the lovely branch outing to Taylors foundry and museum, with ringing at 3 towers in Leicestershire on the way home.

The December quarterly at Downs Barn was a happy event, and we finished the year with a well attended practice at Bradwell. 1996 has started with a small net increase in membership but several officers are not offering themselves for re-election at our AGM in March, so by the time you read this the branch will have a refurbished management team. The retiring officers give thanks to all who have helped and supported them.

John Lonsbrough

Old North Berks

Abingdon came in second place in the finals of the Guild 6 bell striking competition at Marston on 7th October. As the highest placed team from Oxfordshire, they were eligible to enter the Four Shires Guild contest at Guiting Power in Gloucestershire on 11th November, which they did, and succeeded in coming first in the competition. Well done ! Congratulations also to Jon and Kay Chamberlain who celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary at Christmas.

The traditional New Years Day ringing was held at Milton tower and the coffee and raffle raised £40 which was given to Milton PCC. Jim and Helen Diserens are now back in England from Canada and it was good to see them both at the meeting. Sadly, we said goodbye to Steve and Lucy Crick, who are leaving Milton. Lucy was tower correspondent at Milton for the last 2 years.

We had our winter social at the "Walnut Tree Inn" at Cholsey on 9th December on a bitterly cold evening. Andy Utting kept us all busy with a quiz and a tasty evening meal was enjoyed by all. Branch practices continue to be well supported and a good variety of methods have been rung. Nick Clarke has initiated a special series of Surprise Major practices for advanced ringers, commencing in February at Sutton Courtenay.

Peter Starling

Oxford City

It has become a tradition at St Peter's, Wolvercote, for the parishioners and ringers from several City branch towers to gather for a service in the last minutes of the old year. This December was no exception and the half-muffled bells rang out in 1995; after a short service and some nimble fingerwork to remove the muffles there followed 20 minutes of open ringing to welcome 1996. Despite the late hour and New Year's Eve celebratory dinners only a short

while earlier most of us found a corner for a warm mince pie and mulled wine. Far from the tuneless chorusing of *Auld Lang Syne* or other familiar rites, this has to be one of the more rewarding ways to reflect on the past and prepare for the future.

There are some towers in the branch finding difficulty maintaining a band for Sunday service ringing or for practices, but not all. Kidlington is benefitting from several ready-made ringers who have moved into the area bringing the attendance to double figures at practices and services. The annual celebration of the re-hanging of the bells was held on 6th December and attended by 40 ringers, families and friends. It was, by all accounts, a most enjoyable evening with ringing followed by a buffet supper.

Marston, too, has an energetic and active band. There is a regular quarter peal band who managed 19 quarters during 1995; Christmas services were well attended and the handbell carols were broadcast on the local hospital radio. Several ringers have returned after a period of absence and the aim is to ring quarters twice a month before Sunday morning service. There is even a plan to have an outing, an event which has not had support for a number of years.

On a more serious note, the ringers of St Giles' and members of the City branch towers were saddened to learn of the death of Philip Walker's wife, Beryl. Many times she accompanied Philip to the church while we rang for service and I am sure she will be greatly missed by her family and friends. St Giles' bells were rung, half-muffled, at the funeral service.

To finish as I began: a wedding took place on New Year's Eve at Cuddesdon, at 5 o'clock in the afternoon. The ancient church was beautifully decorated and lit by candles, outside floodlights illuminated the churchyard and pathway for the bridal party. As the bells pealed out at the end of the ceremony, to the consternation of the ringers, and probably everyone else as well, there was a power failure and everyone was plunged into stygian darkness. I wonder what happened to the striking ?

Katie Lane

Reading

In October the Tilehurst band came third in the Guild 6 bell final at Marston. Having beaten Abingdon in the heats the roles were reversed, both teams capitulating to Easthampstead from the other heat. The branch practice at Streatley in November was fairly low on numbers, but it was a useful practice for learners who did appear, there being just enough experienced ringers to make it worth their while. The December meeting at St Laurence was rather better attended: I think word has got out now about the mince pies and mulled wine and last year's success was repeated.

Over the next few years we look forward to 2 restorations: the bells at South Stoke will be rehung in celebration of VE Day and Purley is planning to have its bells in working order for the millennium. What is more, with continued effort from Pangbourne tower captain, Len Palfrey, it will have a band to ring them.

Bobbie May

Sonning Deanery

Wargrave bells have now been rehung and were rung again at Christmas. Fundraising continues at 2 other towers. Barkham hope that the bell hangers, Whites of Appleton, will start work in autumn 1996. The 2, 3 and 4 are to be completely rehung on metal headstocks

and the treble needs a new slider mechanism. At present it is a ground-floor ring with the ropes hanging through the ceiling of the church porch; this prevents access by the congregation during ringing, so it is planned that in future the bells will be rung from the floor above. Before rehangng commences, this floor is to be lowered by 2 ft in order to make room for a sound box below the bells. 5 new ringers are learning at Barkham.

Rehangng at All Saints Binfield is due to start in September 1996, and so far about half the £16,000 needed has been raised. There was a Valentines Day concert at St Mark's Binfield on 14th February, and a flower festival with tower open during the weekend of 28-30 June. China, tea towels and other items will be on sale.

Monthly Saturday evening branch practices continue. At Twyford there is an elementary practice on the first Friday and a more advanced practice on the third Friday each month. Experienced ringers are required to assist Warfield (10 bells) at its practices every Wednesday from 7.45 to 9pm.

Pam Elliston

South Oxon

Work on the tenor is finally underway at Wheatley and it will hopefully be completed by March - whilst the bells have been silent, practices have alternated between Kirtlington and Wood Eaton. At Thame, "... the PCC have given permission for the faculty to be applied for and the order placed for the work needed to install a steel grillage to secure the bellframe. The tower members have been busy during the last 18 months trying to raise the funds required and after several fund raising events and some generous donations are now in the happy position of having raised £23,000 of the £30,000 required. This amount is sufficient to pay for the grillage but we will continue to hold fund-raising events over the next 12 months in order to try to raise the balance. We are holding a lace day on 17th February as this proved very popular last year and the lacemakers requested us to hold another one. We are also very lucky to have the Oxford Welsh male voice choir coming to give a concert in the church on 23rd March. We hope many bellringers will support these events. The tower will be open on the lace day when we hope many visitors will come to see the bells and watch them being rung. We anticipate that it will be about a year before White's of Appleton will be able to carry out the work and that when it is completed, we will be able to re-decorate the ringing chamber and also overhaul the clock ..."

Hilarie Rogers

Vale of the White Horse

Most of the bells in the Branch have been worked well over the Christmas and New Year period keeping all branch ringers well occupied. Tony Crabtree and his working party have been busy visiting our branches unringable and very nearly unringable towers and after several broom, sack and bird muck sessions have successfully cleared the way to seeing what else is in the tower - mostly lots more hard work, but that's progress!

Looking back, on the 4th November the branch held another of its popular 'raising and lowering' workshops. Run from 10 - noon, including a brief talk about the topic, lots of practice of raising and lowering in peal and a coffee break, these workshops have proved very popular and effective within the branch. The branch dinner was once again held at the beginning of December in Faringdon and although numbers were somewhat reduced from the usual, mainly due to so many ringers being hit by flu, those that were well enough enjoyed the

evening - even if, due to an unfortunate lack of communication, we had no handbells for the after-dinner entertainment!

A former Stanford in the Vale ringer, George Belcher and his wife Martha, celebrated their diamond (60th) wedding anniversary on 14th December aided and abetted by a quarter peal on the Stanford bells. Unfortunately George was suffering badly from flu and not only missed greeting the ringers after the quarter but also missed his anniversary party the following weekend. However, I'm pleased to report that George is now back on his feet again.

Looking ahead, Anne Jones is already hard at work organising our Branch summer outing. We are going by coach to the Wiltshire/Hampshire border area.

Jackie O'Hagan

Witney & Woodstock

One of the branch events which has been well supported in recent years is the autumn coach outing. This year's event was again a success and was enjoyed in lovely autumn weather. The destination was the Forest of Dean where our first tower was Newent. One or 2 of the bells were a little difficult to hear due to an overhanging clock gallery in the ringing chamber. From Newent we moved on to the light 8 at Bridstow just outside Ross-on-Wye. At this ground floor tower we managed a presentable touch of Stedman Triples. Lunch was taken in a pleasant hotel on the banks of the Wye where some were able to sit in the warm sunshine. The afternoon continued with ringing at Goodrich, Ruardean and finished at the challenging heavy 6 of Westbury-on-Severn, hung in a detached tower. The Ringing World regularly prints quarter peals by the local band on these bells and we left the tower with the greatest admiration of these ringers!

Tim Martin

News from Kintbury

Bill Butler's tongue must be suffering from a bad case of cheek implant, judging from his letter to November's Odd Bob. Nothing happening in the Newbury branch? Come off it, Bill - you live in Thatcham, right at the heart of the area. Or perhaps you have been asleep at the last few A.G.M.'s! Our steeple keeper was so incensed that he insisted I write to put the record straight, although not being retired and with time on my hands, I could have let the matter rest myself!

The other hundred odd members of the Newbury branch cannot fail to have been aware that 1995 was the year in which Kintbury bells were rehung, as a culmination of 7 years of hard effort. Not just rehung, but augmented to 8 as a result of a successful appeal to the racing fraternity by our honorary "godmother", Billee Chapman Pincher. H.M. the Queen, H.M. the Queen Mother, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, and H.R.H. Princess Michael of Kent all sent donations to provide a bell in memory of Sir Gordon Richards. The other bell has the names of all the tower members on its back. As reported in the Ringing World, H.M. the Queen came in March to the blessing of the 2 new bells, a cause for great celebration.

Brian White and Graham Clifton have done a superb job at Kintbury, and it was quite a magical moment when all 8 rang out for the first time to a touch of Stedman Triples. The old 6 were very heavy to ring and quite odd struck - although this stood us in good stead when we won the branch striking competition this year at Aldermaston! All our visitors have been

extremely impressed with Whites of Appleton's work, whose attention to detail is second to none. Members of the Newbury branch were quick to draw comparisons with a tower somewhat closer to Newbury, rehung by a rival firm about 15 years ago, but which is still notoriously odd struck.

Despite all the hard work, the tower has found time in the last few years to enjoy several excellent 2, 3 and even 4 day outings organised by Derek and Gill Clements to Devon, Yorkshire, and Norfolk. This year's outing to North Devon and Lundy was especially memorable, on which we were accompanied by Tony Woodville, Rosemary Morgan, Cathy Fittell, Joan Marshall and Phil & Bini Miles from the rest of the branch. Nothing happening in Newbury? It's alive and kicking, OK! Maybe if those peal ringers were to take part a bit more in branch activities ...

Adam Rae-Smith

All Saints, Lathbury bells

At the request of the churchwardens 4 of the bells were chimed before the carol service on Sunday 17th December. The congregation were very pleased that we rang. The church has been subject to a major restoration over recent years, this has cost £196,000. During this time the bells have been unringable. After work on the tower masonry and a visit by Alan Frost the bells have been declared ringable for short periods. A replacement for a broken gudgeon strap on the third has been made and will be installed very soon. The third can then be raised from its temporary blocks. The bells are basically ringable, but some work is still required to make the installation safe for regular ringing and more work is needed on replacement gudgeon straps and repairs to wheels. Doug Hird is preparing a proposal for this work which will be put to the church council and to the branch in the hope of receiving a grant towards this work. A service of thanksgiving for the completion of the building work and repair of the organ will be held in April and we intend to ring all the bells at the service. Consideration is being given to a special open day where all the tower grabbers who have yearned to ring the bells will be able to contribute towards the restoration work. Current thinking is to request a high donation for this privilege.

Godfrey Foat

A traveller's tale

Friday 17th November saw Ted and I setting off from Bradwell to visit relatives in Cheltenham, 1½ hours away. On the Buckingham bypass we became aware of a small convoy built up behind a vehicle and trailer travelling about 40 mph. Resigned to slow progress I started looking at the countryside more and let my mind wander - you'll be pleased to know Ted was doing the driving ! Just as we reached the Buckingham golf course something drew my attention back to the vehicle and the flat-bed trailer and I shrieked at Ted (which he didn't appreciate - he's used to me being semi-comatose) "It's bells, on the trailer, it's church bells!" Suddenly we didn't mind being in this queue of traffic at all - this was interesting !

At Finmere we turned left for Bicester and as cars ahead overtook we gained on the trailer and could make out one large bell with 3 smaller ones around it. Where were they going ? To or from a foundry or White's of Appleton ? Where were they from ? With a couple of cars between we could see the smaller bells still had canons. Finally we were behind them and we could see "Ash..." on the left hand bell and "bells" on the right hand one. Then we saw "Ashill bells" on the largest. One question answered, but where was Ashill ? The trailer stopped at the mini-roundabout in Bicester and with my nose pressed to the windscreen I reported to Ted

that the trailer hire firm was in Norfolk. Eventually we passed them on the Bicester straight to find there were actually 6 bells in total, the smallest 4 with canons, being towed by an Isuzu Trooper. The most interesting part of the trip was over ! Our 1988 edition of Dove has an Ashill, Norfolk St Nicholas (GF), 6, 11cwt in G - Unringable. Can anyone tell us about them and the purpose of their journey ?

Becky Fawcett

Letter from a learner

Dear Billie, You asked how the bellringing was progressing. Alarmingly, would be the short answer. However, we've survived the first half dozen lessons, and discovered early on that there was more to it than flexing your arm muscles and tugging gaily at a length of rope. It's an art - almost a science. For a start, there are 2 different places to catch hold of the rope, and woe betide if you grab it too high or too low. At first you are so mesmerized by the rope going up and down in front of your nose, you're glad to have caught it at all. One place to aim at is fairly high on the fluffy bit, called the sally (one of the ringers is called Sally, so it gets rather confusing). The other place is at the very end of the rope, which rises right up and pulls your arms out of their sockets if you're on the short side like me. This is when the rope is wrapped round the rim of a large wheel beside the bell. That's all in the next chamber up, the belfry. No bats in ours - they'd be deafened. You're not allowed to look up at the rope disappearing through the mousehole in the ceiling, because of the muck dropping down into your eyes. Pull the rope too hard, and the bell bounces back too quickly. Pull it too gently, and the bell doesn't swing far enough. Either way you're in dead trouble because the rope starts snaking about instead of resembling an oversized poker.

By the way, you know that bells ring when they're upside down don't you ? Not like those pretty pictures of wedding bells, hanging demurely downwards. Most of the expert ringers seemed to have learned the art at father's knee, or as teenagers at the latest. You should see the way one slip of a girl handles her bell - cool and calm as you please. No flap, no fuss. We're all hot and flustered, and wondering whether our instructor's nerve or ours is going to break first. Talking of breaking - each bell has a supposedly stout piece of ash, a stay, bolted to it, to stop the bell doing a somersault or two and taking you up to the ceiling with it. Every now and then, when it has been clouted too hard against the frame, it gives up the uneven struggle and snaps. You then find yourself soaring upwards, just like Mary Poppins, and they all shout "Let go, let go!" When you finally do so, the rope whips up your arm, removing the skin as it goes. Yes, last week's scar is healing nicely, thank you.

Remember those tenderfoot tests we did as youngsters, with a test-card and skills to be ticked off? They have a chart just like that, only a hundred times more difficult. We've added a skill to the list. It's called "stay-breaking". There are 3 ticks for our crowd of beginners. Never a dull moment. Will keep you posted. Gus

South Oxon branch newsletter

Wedding fee survey 1996

This is the result of a poll of towers within a 15-20 mile radius of Newbury. Fees are correct as at 1st January 1996. Note that towers vary considerably as to how they split the fee between ringers and bell fund, etc. Also, some 8 & 10 bell towers only guarantee 6 ringers for a wedding.

Tower	Bells	Charge (£)	Tower	Bells	Charge (£)
Abingdon, St Helen	10	70	Kingsclere	8	50

Abingdon, St Nicolas	6	50	Kintbury	8	50
Aldbourne	8	45	Lambourn	8	50
Aldermaston	8	60	Marlborough	8	30
Andover	8	50	Midgham	6	30
Basingstoke, St Michael	8	54	Mortimer, St John	6	50
Basingstoke, All Saints	9	50	Mortimer, SMV	8	60
Baughurst	6	35	Newbury	10	50
Beedon	6	35	Newtown	4	30
Beenham	6	35	Overton	8	44
Blewbury	8	50	Padworth	6	40
Bradfield	6	30	Peasemore	6	30
Brightwalton	6	30	Pewsey	6	30
Bucklebury	8	32	Preshute	6	24
Burghclere	6	40	St Mary Bourne	6	50
Chaddleworth	4	20	Speen	6	30
Chieveley	8	50	Stanford Dingley	4	24
Chilton Foliat	5	25	Streatley	6	36
Chiseldon	6	40	Tangley	5	40
Compton	6	30	Thatcham	10	80
East Garston	6	30	Theale	6	55
East Ilsley	8	50	Tilehurst	8	75
East Woodhay	6	40	Upper Chute	6	48
Ecchinswell	3	25	Wantage	8	50
Englefield	6	30	Whitchurch (Hants)	8	48
Farnborough	5	40	Whitchurch (Oxon)	6	40
Goring	8	28	Wolverton	6	35
Highclere	8	50	Yattendon	6	36
Hungerford	8	48			

No of bells	Mean charge (£)	Range (£)
6	38	24 - 55
8	49	28 - 75
10	67	50 - 80

Tony Woodville

Tower Snippets

Congratulations are due to **Alan Keen** of Watlington who rang his first peal in December - he rang the tenor at West Wycombe.

A quarter peal of Plain Bob Doubles at Binfield on 25th December was special for **John Rance**. The quarter was specially arranged for John's 80th birthday at the tower where he learnt to ring. John's daughter rang the 2nd and his grandchildren rang the treble and tenor too.

A quarter peal of Doubles in 6 methods was rung at **Bradwell** as a 90th birthday compliment to **Bill French**.

Congratulations to **Kenneth Ockwell** who rang his first peal, at Kirtlington on 25th November.

Brian Snell rang his first quarter, at the first attempt, at Sonning on 5th November.

Another first quarter pealer, **Graham Munday**, aged 10 years, rang the treble to a quarter peal of Plain Bob Minor at Twyford on 10th November. He was surrounded by friendly faces - his mum, dad, brother and grandad as well as Mike Dane who had done much to help Graham's progress.

Jill Betts and **Chris Atkinson** also rang their first quarter peal, at Arborfield on 11th November.

A quarter peal of Oxford Treble Bob Minor was rung at **Bradwell** on 3rd December as a compliment to **John Lonsbrough** on attaining 50 years membership of the Guild.

Guild directory and information

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

1. The encouragement of the attendance of its members both at service ringing and at public worship.
2. 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.
3. The promotion of interest in the care of all the bells within the Diocese.
4. The promotion of the art of change ringing.
5. 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 Marie R Cross, *see education sub-committee listing*.

Library

The Guild maintains a comprehensive Library from which books may be borrowed. For details contact Mr Philip G Brown, *see librarian in Guild officers listing*.

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 openings, public libraries, etc. A full list of the material can be found in Odd Bob, July 1991, page 36. Contact Mrs Bobbie May, *see public relations officer in Guild officers listing.*

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 Richard C Stevens, *see towers and belfries sub-committee listing.*

The Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund

This makes grants towards bell restoration. Any donations or assistance in fund raising will help this objective. Contact Mr Brian J Gatward, *see general treasurer in Guild officers listing.*

Guild Officers for 1995 - 1996

Master	Mrs Patricia M Newton	The White House, 11 Plowden Park, Aston Rowant, Watlington Oxon, OX9 5SX	01844 352926
Deputy Master	Mr John S White	70 Selwyn Court, Long Meadow, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP21 7EQ	01296 85822
General Secretary	Mr E John Wells	'Victoria Lodge', 91 Waverley Road, Reading, Berks, RG30 2QB	01734 572552
General Treasurer	Mr Brian J Gatward	'Grangewood', Mill Lane, Calcot, Reading, Berks, RG31 7RS	01734 413097
Librarian	Mr Philip G Brown	'Lucketts', Clay Bank, Hook Norton, Banbury, Oxon, OX15 5PA	01608 737207
Report Editor	Mr John F Payne	53 Walker Road, Maidenhead, Berks, SL6 2QU	01628 24490
Newsletter Editor	Mr John R Martin	90 Fairway Avenue, Tilehurst, Reading, Berks, RG30 4QB	01734 414530
Peal Secretary	Mrs Elizabeth W Struckett	30 Blagrove Lane, Wokingham, Reading, Berks, RG41 4BA	01734 890072
Public Relations Officer	Mrs Bobbie May	4 Halfacre Close, Spencers Wood, Reading, Berks, RG7 1DZ	01734 884172
Membership Secretary	Mr Stephen Murrell	The Old Chapel, Salford, Chipping Norton, Oxon	01608 645303
Guild Stewards	Mr R (Bob) Datson (Banbury, Chipping Norton & Witney & Woodstock)	Glebe Farm, Spelsbury Chipping Norton, Oxon OX7 3JR	01608 810398
	Mr Ken R Davenport (Sonning, Reading & Newbury)	47 Brookside Wokingham Berks, RG41 2ST	01734 786554
	Mr Simon Cole (Bicester, Oxford City & South Oxon)	83 Bristol Road, Bicester Oxon, OX6 7TH	01869 247525
	Mr David M Joyce (North Bucks, Central Bucks & Chiltern)	4 Woad Lane, Great Linford Village, Milton Keynes, Bucks, MK14 5HE	01908 667025
	Mr Colin Fowles (EBSB, V of the W II & Old North Berks)	127 Meadfield Road, Langley, Slough, Berks, SL3 8HY	01753 671507

6 General Committee members

Mr Graham J Clifton	Mr A (Tony) Crabtree	Mrs Wenda Fowles
Mr W (Willy) Haynes	Mr N David Lane	Mr Brian Newman

Central Council Representatives

Mr W (Bill) Butler	8 The Waverleys, Thatcham, Newbury, Berks, RG18 3EZ	01635 862309
Mr John R Martin	(See Newsletter Editor)	
Mr John A Harrison	2 Murdoch Road, Wokingham, Berks, RG40 2DA	01734 785520
Dr Tim G Pett	20 St Amand Drive, Abingdon, Oxon, OX14 5RQ	01235 526033
Mrs Patricia M Newton	(See Guild Master)	
Mr Ken R Davenport	(See Guild Stewards)	

Financial information

Subscriptions	Resident members	£5.00
	Non-resident life members	£5.00

Peal fees	30p per person
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Annual report	£2.50 (+50p postage and packing)
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Badges	£1.00
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Guild History	£3.00
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Branch Secretaries

Banbury	Mrs Sue Burchell	11 Old Rd, Great Tew, Chipping Norton, Oxon, OX7 4AN	01608 683255
Bicester	Mr Richard C Stevens	'Dellow', Blackthorn Rd, Launton, Bicester, Oxon, OX6 0DA	01869 243920
Central Bucks	Mrs J Sellin	4 Stocklake, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP20 1DN	01296 392175
Chiltern	Mr Barry W M Cowper	'Avondale', 45 Longfield Drive, Amersham, Bucks, HP6 5HE	01494 725566
Chipping Norton	Mrs Claire E Tarrant	6 Marlborough Place, Charlbury, Oxon, OX7 3SH	01608 811290
East Berks & South Bucks	Mrs Marcia Dieppe	1b King's Grove, Maidenhead, Berks, SL6 4DA	01628 74343
Newbury	Mrs Fiona Rock-Evans	'Brae House', Salisbury Rd, Hungerford, Berks, RG17 0LH	01488 682747
North Bucks (Acting)	Mr Brian Newman	6 Martin Close, Neath Hill, Milton Keynes, MK14 6JG	01908 668347
Old North Berks	Mr Peter P Starling	7 Chambray Close, Appleford, Abingdon, Oxon, OX14 4NT	01235 847469
Oxford City	Mrs Katie Lane	'Catchmole Cottage', 12 High St, Wheatley, Oxon, OX33 1XX	01865 874026
Reading	Mrs Rosemary Morgan	'Rosene', Dark Lane, Bradfield, Berks, RG7 6DE	01734 744624
Sonning Deanery	Mrs Pam Elliston	142 Butts Hill Rd, Woodley, Reading, Berks, RG5 4NS	01734 695967
South Oxon	Mrs Hilarie Rogers	4 High St, Drayton St Leonard, Wallingford, Oxon, OX10 7BA	01865 890163
Vale of the White Horse	Mrs Jackie O'Hagan	'Brubell', 13 Chapel Rd, Stanford in the Vale, Faringdon, Oxon, SN7 8LE	01367 718994

Witney &
Woodstock

Lorna Smale

43 Knott Oaks, Combe, Oxon, OX8 8PJ

01993
891721

Education sub-committee

Chairman	Miss Marie R Cross	6 Radley Rd, Abingdon, Oxon, OX14 3PQ	01235 520868
Secretary	Mr Mike K Till	17 Quarrington Close, Thatcham, Berks, RG19 4YE	01635 866186
Members	Mr Alan J Griffin	'Rosebank', Bloxham, Banbury, Oxon	01295 720359
	Mr John A Harrison	(See Central Council reps).	
	Mrs Bobbie May	(See Public Relations Officer)	
	Mr E John Wells	(See General Secretary)	
*	Mrs Patricia M Newton	(See Guild Master)	

Guild educational leaflets

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Rope splicing | 2. Bibliography | 3. Plain Hunt to Bob Doubles |
| 4. Maintenance | 5. Running a 1 day course | 6. Sound control |
| 7. Stedman | 8. Grandsire | 9. Bob calling for beginners |
| 10. Handbell ringing | 11. 8 Doubles methods | |
| 12. Surprise Minor : Cambridge to London, Part 1 (Cambridge) | | |
| 12. Surprise Minor : Cambridge to London, Part 2 (Building on Cambridge) | | |
| 12. Surprise Minor : Cambridge to London, Part 3 (London) Parts 2 & 3 form a single leaflet | | |

50p per copy inc. P&P. Set of 13 titles £6.00. Discounts for bulk orders. Cheques to *Oxford Diocesan Guild* please. From : Mrs Anne Carpenter 41 Napier Rd, Crowthorne, Berks, RG11 7EJ.

Education committee - course titles

Plain Hunt	10 bell methods
Plain Bob Doubles	Towards better conducting
Grandsire Doubles	Towards better striking
Stedman Doubles	Raising and lowering in peal
Doubles and Minor	Tower leadership (seminar)
Plain Bob Minor	Computers & simulators in ringing
Cambridge Minor	Rope splicing
Triples methods	Tower maintenance (by T&B committee)
Stedman Triples	Handbell ringing (methods)
Plain Major methods	Listening
Surprise Major methods	Bell handling on video

Towers and belfries sub-committee

Chairman	Mr Richard C Stevens	'Dellow', Blackthorn Rd, Launton, Bicester, Oxon, OX6 0DA	01869 243920
Secretary	Mr Peter G Davies	'Narrogin', Longworth Rd, Charney Bassett, Wantage, Oxon, OX12 0ET	01235 868646
Members	Mr Nick Balshaw	3 The Crescent, East Hagbourne, Didcot, Oxon, OX11 9JY	01235 815452
	Mr John Blackall	2 Alpin Rd, Bedgrove, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP21 9BT	01296 27930
	Mr Philip Brown	(See Guild Librarian)	
	Mr Graham J Clifton	'Stedman Cottage', Middle Aston, Oxford, OX5 3PZ	01869 47273
	Mr John Davidge	'Rowallan', Back Lane, Chalfont St Giles, Bucks, HP8 4PD	01494 873325
	Mr W (Willy) Haynes	'Brinsmore House', Oddington, Kidlington, Oxon, OX5 2QZ	01865 331303
	Mr Len Palfrey	62 Horseshoe Rd, Pangbourne, Reading, Berks, RG8 7JL	01734 842698

Mr Bernard J Stone	3 Bell Close, Grove, Wantage, Oxon, OX12 7NH	01235 766673
Mr Ralph A Elmes	'Phoenix Cottage', Nuffield, Oxon, RG9 5TE	01491 641874
* Mrs Patricia M Newton	(See Guild Master)	
* Mr E John Wells	(See General Secretary)	
* Mr Brian J Gatward	(See General Treasurer)	

* denotes ex-officio member

Guild information on the internet

<http://www.dra.hmg.gb/odg/odg.html>

Diary of Events for 1996

*	Subject to confirmation	SC	Striking Competition
BP	Branch Practice	HY	Half Yearly Meeting
SP	Surprise Practice	QM	Quarterly Meeting
EP	Elementary Practice	AP	Advanced Practice
SM	Surprise Major	AG	Annual General Meeting

MARCH

Sat	9	Guild		General Committee Meeting - Bletchley	2.30
Sat	9	Central Bucks	BP	Long Crendon *	6.30 - 8.30
Sat	9	EBSB	SP	Farnham Royal (access through side door)	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	9	Witney & W'stck	BP	Bladon	3.30 - 5.00
Fri	15	North Bucks	BP	Hanslope (DNCB Major)	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	16	Banbury	SC	Sandford St Martin	
Sat	16	Chiltern	BP	Weston Turville	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	16	Old North Berks	AG	Brightwell (also 6 bell SC)	4.00 - 9.00
Sat	16	Sonning Deanery	BP	Wokingham, All Saints	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	23	EBSB	BP	Chenies *	
Sat	23	South Oxon	SC	Berrick Salome *	2.00
Thur	28	V of the W H	BP	Hinton Waldrist	7.30 - 9.00
Fri	29	Guild		Start of youth weekend - Dorney	
Sat	30	Bicester		Branch outing - Worcestershire	
Sat	30	Chipping Norton	BP	Ascott under Wychwood	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	30	Newbury		Branch outing - Gloucester	
Sat	30	Sonning Deanery		Joint meeting with Guildford D G	

APRIL

Sat	6	Guild		Handbell Day - Reading	All day
Wed	10	Banbury	BP	Mollington	7.30 - 9.00
Wed	10	EBSB	SP	Windsor, St John	7.30 - 9.00
Thu	11	Bicester	BP	Woodeaton	7.30
Sat	13	Guild		Radley course	All day
Sat	13	Central Bucks	BP	Granborough	6.30 - 8.30
Sat	13	Witney & W'stck	BP	Combe	7.30 - 9.00
Tue	16	Old North Berks	BP	Abingdon, St Helen	7.30 - 9.00
Fri	19	North Bucks	BP	Drayton Parslow (Double Court Minor)	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	20	Banbury	AG	Great Tew	
Sat	20	Chiltern	AG	Little Missenden & Great Missenden	2.45
Sat	20	Sonning Deanery	SC	Sandhurst, St Michael	
Sat	27	EBSB	AG	Marlow	
Sat	27	South Oxon	AG	Ewelme *	2.30 *
Tue	30	V of the W H	BP	Stanford in the Vale	7.30 - 9.00

MAY

Thu	2	Banbury	BP	Rousham	7.30 - 9.00
Fri	3	Bicester	BP	Kirtlington	7.30
Sat	4	Chipping Norton	AG	Charlbury *	3.00

Mon	6	Guild		Ringling Day & 8 bell striking contest (Harwell) - Old North Berks Branch	
Sat	11	Central Bucks	BP	Mursley	6.30 - 8.30
Sat	11	EBSB	SP	Lane End	7.00 - 9.00
Fri	17	North Bucks	BP	Shalstone (St Remigius & Huntley Pl Dbles)	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	18	Guild	AG	Islip	
Sat	18	Chiltern	BP	Mentmore	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	18	Sonning Deanery	BP	Arborfield	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	25	EBSB	BP	Stoke Poges	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	25	South Oxon	BP	Warborough	7.00 - 9.00
Tue	28	V of the W H	BP	Uffington	7.30 - 9.00

JUNE

Sat	1	Chipping Norton	BP	Kingham *	7 - 8.30
Sat	1	North Bucks	SC	6 bell contest & Qtrly mtg - M K Village	3.00
Sat	1	Old North Berks		Social event at East Hendred *	
Mon	3	Bicester	BP	Brill	7.30
Sat	8	Central Bucks	SC	Padbury *	2.30
Sat	8	EBSB	SC	Winkfield	
Sat	15	Chiltern	SC	Wendover	6.30
Sat	15	Sonning Deanery	BP	Sonning	7.00 - 9.00
Fri	21	North Bucks	BP	Whaddon (Perivale Alliance Minor)	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	22	EBSB	BP	Long Crendon	7.00 - 8.30
Sat	22	South Oxon	BP	Shabbington *	7.00 - 9.00
Mon	24	V of the W H	BP	Faringdon	7.30 - 9.00

JULY

Tue	2	Bicester	BP	Islip	7.30
Sat	6	Chipping Norton	BP	Chastleton *	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	6	EBSB	SP	Bray	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	6	V of the W H		Summer coach outing	All day
Mon	8	Old North Berks	BP	Sutton Courtenay	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	13	Guild		Festival - Adderbury	All day
Sat	13	Guild	SC	10 bell competition - Banbury	
Sat	13	Central Bucks	BP	Quainton	6.30 - 8.30
Sat	20	Chiltern	BP	Ellesborough	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	20	Sonning Deanery	BP	Wokingham, St Paul	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	27	EBSB		Bar-B-Q & Social - Beaconsfield	
Sat	27	South Oxon	BP	Dorchester	7.00 - 9.00

AUGUST

Sat	3	Chipping Norton	BP	Shipton under Wychwood *	7.30 - 9.00
Wed	7	Bicester	BP	Middleton Stoney	7.30
Thur	8	Old North Berks	BP	Sparsholt *	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	10	Central Bucks	BP	Hillesden *	6.30 - 8.30
Sat	10	EBSB	AP	Amersham	6.30 - 8.30
Wed	14	Old North Berks	BP	North Moreton	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	17	Chiltern	BP	Slapton	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	17	Sonning Deanery	BP	Shottesbrooke	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	24	EBSB	BP	Hughenden	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	24	South Oxon	BP	Aston Rowant	7.00 - 9.00
Wed	28	V of the W H	BP	Shellingford	7.30 - 9.00

SEPTEMBER

Thu	5	Bicester	BP	Wotton Underwood	7.30
Sat	7	Chipping Norton	BP	Leafeld *	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	7	EBSB	SP	Chesham	7.00 - 9.00
Fri	13	Guild		Start of Easthampstead course	

Sat	14	Central Bucks		Branch Outing *	
Sat	21	Chiltern	BP	Stoke Mandeville	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	21	Old North Berks	HY	West Hanney	Evening
Sat	21	Sonning Deanery	SC	8 bell contest at Wargrave	
Sat	28	EBSB	BP	Wooburn	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	28	South Oxon	BP	Great Haseley	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	28	V of the W H	HY	Coleshill	

OCTOBER

Fri	4	Guild		Branch secretaries meeting - Radley	
Fri	4	Bicester	BP	Ludgershall	7.30
Sat	5	Guild	SC	6 bell competition - Reading branch	
Sat	5	Chipping Norton	BP	Chipping Norton	7.30 - 9.00
Thu	10	Old North Berks	BP	Sunningwell	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	12	EBSB	AP	Slough	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	19	Central Bucks		Orchard Cup - <i>see Chiltern branch</i>	
Sat	19	Chiltern	HY	Great Kimble - Meeting & Orchard cup	2.30
Sat	19	EBSB		Hillingdon joint meeting	
Sat	19	Sonning Deanery	BP	Finchampstead	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	19	V of the W H		Autumn car outing	p.m only
Sat	26	Bicester		Branch ½ day outing	
Sat	26	EBSB	HY	Meeting & Lorna Newton final - Hambledon	
Sat	26	South Oxon	HY	Towersey	

NOVEMBER

Sat	2	Chipping Norton	BP	Enstone	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	2	Sonning Deanery		Start of branch quarter peal week	
Mon	4	Bicester	BP	Bicester	7.30
Sat	9	Central Bucks	BP	Aston Abbots	6.30 - 8.30
Sat	9	EBSB	SP	Chalfont St Giles	7.00 - 9.00
Thu	14	Old North Berks	BP	Wallingford	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	16	Chiltern	BP	Marsworth	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	16	Sonning Deanery		Committee meeting - Warfield	
Sat	23	Guild		Autumn general committee meeting - Witney & Woodstock branch	
Sat	23	EBSB	BP	Wraysbury	6.30 - 8.30
Sat	23	South Oxon	BP	Brightwell Baldwin	7.00 - 9.00
Wed	27	V of the W H	BP	Ashbury	7.30 - 9.00

DECEMBER

Tue	3	Bicester	BP	Islip	7.30
Fri	6	V of the W H		Branch dinner	7.30
Sat	7	Chipping Norton	BP	Burford	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	14	Central Bucks	BP	Cuddington	6.30 - 8.30
Sat	14	EBSB	BP	High Wycombe (also Christmas social)	
Sat	14	Old North Berks		Branch social	Evening
Sat	14	South Oxon	BP	Watlington	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	21	Chiltern	BP	Bledlow	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	21	Sonning Deanery	BP	Waltham St Lawrence	7.00 - 9.00

1997 Guild events

8th March	Spring general committee meeting	Vale of the White Horse
5th May	8 bell striking contest & ringing day	South Oxon
17th May	Guild annual general meeting	Sonning Deanery