

Issue 50

ODD BOB

Newsletter of the



July 1997

Contents

Master's Mutterings.....	3
Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund.....	4
Group Personal Accident Insurance.....	4
Treasurer's workload - Reminder.....	5
Towers and Belfries Committee.....	6
Millennium Commission grants announced.....	6
Banbury.....	7
Bicester.....	7
Chiltern.....	8
Chipping Norton.....	9
East Berks & South Bucks.....	9
Newbury.....	10
North Bucks.....	11
Old North Berks.....	12
Oxford City.....	13
Reading.....	13
Sonning Deanery.....	14
South Oxon.....	14
Witney & Woodstock.....	15
100th Central Council Meeting.....	16
Youth Day	18
ODG grabs Badgers Bottom.....	19
Draw methods using MS Word.....	21
Points from Peals.....	21
Guild Directory and Information.....	23
Guild Officers for 1997 - 98.....	24
Diary of Events for 1997.....	27

Information for contributors:

The editor welcomes contributions for publication in 'Odd Bob'. Send your contribution to the editor at the following address:

Mr A Rex Agg, 25 Wilton Road, Beaconsfield, Bucks HP9 2DE.

Whilst hand-written or typed copy is perfectly acceptable, you may also submit 3.5" diskettes prepared in MS WordPerfect, Works or Word format. Line drawings or photographs to illustrate your article will also be welcomed.

The next issue of 'Odd Bob' is scheduled to be distributed at the Guild committee meeting on 22 November 1997. All contributions to the editor please not later than **27 October 1997**.

'Odd Bob' is YOUR Newsletter - send your contribution NOW!

Master's Mutterings

We are now well into the early stages of the Millennium Project with the successful completion of the first three seminars. The first of these, Steve Coleman's demonstration of one way to teach bell handling, was well attended and enjoyed by all. Steve gave us plenty to think about and presented his ideas with enthusiasm and humour. Our thanks to Martin Winfield for being the guinea pig for this event. This seminar will be followed by a number of one-day courses which will be based in the branches, initially in response to direct requests. The first will be on 21 June for the South Oxon Branch. Others will be arranged in the autumn for branches which have indicated their need on the questionnaire returns. If other branches or towers wish to host such a course, please contact me or Pat Newton.

The seminar on Recruiting and Retention was not well attended, but was nevertheless very fruitful in focusing ideas on this subject. My thanks to all those who contributed to a lively afternoon. The report on this seminar will be ready for distribution very soon. Please read it and consider the implications for your tower or branch. This is a subject where there are no universal answers and each tower will need to develop its own recruitment policy. What is clear is that we should not just rely on our past practices but reconsider our whole approach to how we attract new ringers and what we need to do to keep them.

The third seminar was on the topic of dealing with the media. This involved a lively presentation from the Revd Richard Thomas and touched on all aspects of communication. He advocated that tower bands should develop their own Communications Strategy both with reference to communication within the band as well as outside it. Again, there will be a more detailed report on this seminar which should allow towers to make a start. This is an area which is relatively new to most of us but we cannot afford to ignore it. Ringing is gaining, and will continue to gain, a higher profile and we should make sure that the publicity we achieve is of the best kind. Some branches have appointed Public Relations Officers and perhaps the other branches should consider doing so as well.

The other major event in the recent months was, of course, the AGM. My thanks to the Sonning Deanery Branch for making the arrangements for the day. We were very pleased to welcome Bishop Dominic, the new Bishop of Reading, to the meeting and hope to see him at other Guild events when he can fit them into his busy schedule. The meeting was reasonably uneventful, perhaps because we have not quite finished the review of the Guild Rules! There were a few changes in the officers. John White, the Deputy Master, and John Martin, the Newsletter Editor, both stood down for personal reasons. My thanks to both of them for all they have done over the past few years. Neither post is an easy one and they have executed their respective roles efficiently for the benefit of the Guild. The new Deputy Master is Ken Davenport and the new Newsletter Editor is Rex Agg. My thanks to both for taking on these roles. Please support them as much as you can.

The other events, such as the Handbell Day, the Radley Course and the Youth Day, were very successful and show that the Guild continues to thrive. This is also borne out by the fact that a number of our ideas on the Millennium Project are being used by the Central Council for its Ring in 2000 project. The Guild will continue to thrive only with the support of all the members. It is very easy to leave things to a dedicated and enthusiastic few, but we need more people to come forward to contribute what they can to the well-being of ringing in the diocese.

John Wells

Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund

Fund raising

New money raised in the period January to May 1997 amounted to £4699.59. This represents an excellent start to the year.

The main sources of income are £2366.16 from branch donations, £385.00 from towers, £246.00 from PCCs and £777.85 from the Annual Ringing Day.

Other items include:

- covenanted donations of £197.00 (a reminder that I am happy to provide on request the necessary forms for you to make covenanted donations or Gift Aid donations to the Bell Fund if you prefer);
- donations totalling £600 in memory of Bob Datson: this is a fine tribute and shows the respect and affection for him by so many people.

Progress with projects

Grants have been paid to Barkham, Monks Risborough and Linslade following the satisfactory completion of work. Inspections of completed work at three other towers are currently being undertaken by members of the Towers and Belfries Committee.

Legacies

At the recent AGM I was requested to publicise a form of wording for those who may wish to include a legacy in their will. The following may be used:

Form of Bequest: I bequeath to the Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund (Registered Charity Number 286390), c/o Mr B J Gatward (Honorary Treasurer), Grangewood, Mill Lane, Calcot, Reading RG31 7RS, the sum of £..... free of duty, to be applied to the purposes of the Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund, and I declare that the receipt of the Honorary Treasurer or other proper officer for the time being of the Fund shall be sufficient discharge for the same.

Residue: I give all my property not otherwise disposed of by this my will subject to and after payment of my funeral and testamentary expenses to the Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund (Registered Charity Number 286390) to be applied to the purposes of that Fund and I declare that the receipt of the Honorary Treasurer or other proper officer for the time being of the Fund shall be sufficient discharge for the same.

May I, on behalf of the Managing Trustees, thank everyone for their support which is so important for the continued success of the Bell Fund. We are especially keen to ensure that the extra projects associated with the Millennium are able to be fully supported by the Bell Fund.

Brian J Gatward

Group Personal Accident Insurance

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

Scope of coverage

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

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

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

Benefits payable in the event of a claim

Age range (years)	Temporary total disablement	Permanent disablement	Death
16 - 70	£100 per week for up to 104 weeks	£10 000	£10 000
9 - 16	Nil	£500	£500
71 - 75	Nil	£1000	£1000
76 - 80	Nil	Nil	£1000

Claims and queries concerning the operation of the insurance

Claims and queries should be directed in the first instance to the Honorary General Treasurer (*see Guild Officers list*) and must be confirmed in writing. Please remember that it is a condition of all policies that claims must be reported to the Insurers as soon as practicable. A claim which is not notified within a reasonable time may be rejected.

Brian J Gatward

Treasurer's workload - Reminder

General Fund

Please send money and invoices, and requests for payment, to Terry Wagstaff (*see Assistant Treasurer in Guild Officers list*) and he will take the necessary action. Please ensure that cheques are made payable to 'Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers'.

Bell Fund and the Restoration Fund

Please continue to send items relating to the Bell Fund and the Restoration Fund to me (*see General Treasurer in Guild Officers list*). Thank you for your co-operation.

Brian J Gatward

Towers and Belfries Committee

The Towers and Belfries Committee exists to fulfil a number of roles. One of its prime objectives is to provide independent advice to the members of the Guild on maintenance and proposals for restoration and augmentation.

As a result of carrying out numerous inspections of bell installations, the committee members have built up a considerable practical knowledge with respect to bells and bell installations and can provide guidance on a wide range of topics associated with the maintenance, repair, restoration and augmentation of bells, their frames and fittings.

From the results of the questionnaire sent out by the Millennium Project committee we know that there are, potentially, 47 restorations/ augmentations and indications are that a number of towers would welcome an inspection or a maintenance course.

The committee is very willing to inspect your bells and provide a report on their condition and advice on any maintenance problems that may exist or are just around the corner. However, we cannot do anything without an invitation from the Incumbent or someone in authority such as the Tower Captain or Churchwarden. We can also provide help with applications for grant to a variety of charitable bodies that give money to bell restoration / installation / augmentation projects

We will also arrange maintenance courses to help with the practical side of bell maintenance. If you would like to take advantage of any of our services, please contact your nearest committee member (*see Guild Directory for contact names and addresses*) or the Chairman, Len Palfrey, on 0118 984 2698. We await your calls.

Finally, an advance notification of the next Best Kept Tower competition. Once every two years the Towers and Belfries committee judge this competition and the next one is scheduled for springtime 1998. So now is the time to start a good clean up and carry out those maintenance jobs that you have been putting off for months and months. If you would like some advice on what the judges are looking for then we will be happy to give it. More details of the competition in the next issue of ODD BOB.

Call us now for that:-

- INSPECTION
- MAINTENANCE COURSE
- ADVICE

Len Palfrey

Millennium Commission grants announced

Three towers in the Oxford Diocese have been included in the first allocation of funds from the Millennium Commission's scheme "Ringing in the Millennium" (*RW, 1997, page 624*). These are:

St Peter & Paul, Wingrave	£16,792
St Mary the Virgin, Souldern	£12,650
St Andrew, South Stoke	£ 4,304

We await news of the scope of the work and its successful completion with interest.

Banbury

It hardly seems any time since the last Odd Bob - this has to be a sign of age! Things continue to tick over in the north of the Guild area and there are positive things to report. We had one of the best-attended AGMs for some time at Steeple Aston in April, with 50 people sitting down for tea and the meeting: something to do with the catering at Steeple Aston? The only change in officers was the election of Bob Reeves as ringing master, with Sue Burchell as his deputy. In previous reports I have referred to our falling membership, so it was pleasing to elect 14 new members (eight of them youngsters) and I know that there are quite a few more in the pipeline.

During the last six months we have run two successful courses, one of them (Bob Doubles) being heavily oversubscribed. Our ringing master has been asked to continue the prominent training role of his predecessor.

As the Great Tew outing in September is the only "coach" day out in the branch, we have decided to adopt it as an official Branch Outing, and if necessary underwrite it from subscriptions.

Our monthly practices continue to be reasonably well supported as are the Surprise Major practices with our neighbours from Chipping Norton and Bicester.

On the social side, our Branch Dinner in February was voted the best for many years. Bloxham school proved an excellent venue, the food was good, and Brian White an excellent speaker, enjoyed by both ringers and non-ringing partners. Thanks to organiser Alan Griffin - or was it Margaret?

Our branch six-bell striking competition was won by Mollington who, as a prize, will be hosting the Guild Striking Competition in October.

Ian Rodrick

Bicester

The following is an abridged account of the branch outing which took place on 5 April:

To be outside the Red Lion at 7.45 on a Saturday morning was, I think, regarded by some as a tall order. With all aboard the coach, having collected other ringers at Bicester and Kirtlington, we were soon trundling through the countryside with a backdrop of Berkshire and Wiltshire Downland on a slightly overcast morning.

Melksham came into view an hour early. We were quick to find the local tea rooms for a pot of their best tea or coffee, toasted tea-cakes or even a full and late breakfast! Now replete, we soon found ourselves outside St Michael and All Angels in the rather attractive Canon Square (actually a triangle); then inside the church and into the ringing chamber. As a novice, I was a little worried as this now meant that we were to be trusted with ringing somebody else's precious set of bells. At Melksham it was a fairly heavy set of eight. I rang number 6 for some call changes and found that, apart from my usual worry about catching or not catching the sally first time, the ring was a pleasure, especially the plump new sally.

Once we had negotiated some very difficult bends for buses in Bradford on Avon, we were deposited only a stone's throw from Holy Trinity. A steep climb led to a truly vast chamber with eight ropes, on the ends of which hung eight bells of considerable weight. The tenor, cast in 1882 at a cost of 42 shillings per hundredweight, totalled 32 cwt making the original bill for that bell the princely sum of £67-4s-0d. I rang the sixth at Simon's suggestion. I found this a truly daunting prospect. I had never attempted to control a Leviathan such as this. At 19 cwt, the heaviest that I have ever come close to. My worries were not well founded. This was, as no doubt were the others with the possible exception of number seven, sweet to ring if a little slow to respond on account of that weight.

Time for lunch already, and out into the Spring sunshine and blossoms. A quick visit to the interesting neighbouring Saxon church with an interesting history as a dwelling, and then the pressing search for a hostelry serving a good lunch. After a little confusion in a pub with nowhere left to sit, some of us found ourselves in the unlikely sounding "Sprat and Carrot". We all agreed that the food and drink here was most enjoyable.

After a good lunch some seemed to be wondering about the wisdom of picking on Christ Church, Bradford as the next. Christ Church lies at the top of a very steep hill and I noticed that a few were turning around to admire the view, possibly as an excuse for a pause! The bells here were lighter than those in the valley but there was a high ceiling with the inevitable result that the longer ropes whipped a little. However, these were a sweet-running eight.

Off again now crossing rolling Wiltshire countryside to Steeple Ashton, a splendid little village on high ground with long views. St Mary the Virgin was a rather imposing church with spires that seemed to owe something to the architecture of Oxford colleges. The six bells here were of some considerable weight and did not allow for anything so racy as a quick change. However, the sound was very full and grand.

And so to Bishops Canning and the eight lighter bells with wasp-coloured sallies. The ringing bells caused the tower to move so much that the peal boards were sent swaying on their rails on the walls. These bells, which were recast and rehung in the early 1970s, were a pleasure to ring and the half-course of Yorkshire brought a fitting end to a day of good ringing.

All that remained was the journey home and a raffle along the way. It was unanimously agreed to have been a rewarding day out in good company. Don't miss the next outing.

Anthony Bibbings (Islip)

Chiltern

It has been a sad time. After an illness which struck her some months ago, Innes White died on 18 May. Innes was a wonderful person and will be sadly missed by the Aston Clinton community. Not only was she a stalwart of the choir and did much to get things done in the parish, she was also an accomplished ringer and loyal branch treasurer for 21 years. The church was packed for her funeral on 23 May and many ringers were there. The bells were rung open in celebration for her life both before and after the service by all who wanted to take part. There was also a marvellous tea laid on in the churchyard. It was a good send-off for a well-loved lady. Our thoughts go out to Arthur, John, Louise and Richard (ringers all) at this time.

It was nice that Innes was able to make it to our AGM at Cheddington on 19 April. We

were able to pay formal tribute to her for all her work as treasurer for so many years. It was a good, well-attended meeting, preceded by ringing at Mentmore and Cheddington and the annual service in Cheddington church. That, too, was a memorable event. The Rector, the Revd Roger Hale, spoke warmly of the commitment of the ringers in the towers of his benefice (Cheddington, Marsworth and Mentmore) and spoke of the power that church bells have in raising awareness in people's minds of things above the mundane life. For our benefit he, rather cheekily, inserted an extra verse into Psalm 150 - "Praise him with peals of bells"!

Mike Davis

Chipping Norton

At the AGM held at Spelsbury on 26 April, all officers were re-elected. There were several new members, and one re-election as well.

A quarter peal was rung at Taynton on 11 May, the second Sunday in the month. It is hoped that Taynton bells will be rung on a regular basis on the second Sunday.

Congratulations go to Keith and Rhonda Mitchell from Chadlington who had a son, Callum, on 17 May. All are doing well; perhaps there will be another ringer at Chadlington in a few years' time?!

A quarter peal of Cambridge Surprise Minor was rung at Churchill on 15 May, although it was supposed to be a Surprise Major practice. Unfortunately we met short and, after several attempts at London Minor, it was decided to ring a quarter of Cambridge. The Surprise Minor practices continue about once a month and London is usually rung during the course of the evening. At the branch practice at Hook Norton on 7 June, methods up to and including Cambridge Major were attempted with varying results!

Four branch members (and perhaps a future ringer?) had an enjoyable weekend with friends in the Brecon area over the Bank Holiday weekend at the end of May. The weather was glorious and the scenery marvellous: perhaps a return visit another year?

Practices continue at Leafield on Thursday evenings. Perhaps it will be possible to ring in all ringable towers for the Millennium?!

Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond anyone's control, the branch was not represented at the Media Meeting at Diocesan Church House on 31 May.

Claire E Tarrant

East Berks & South Bucks

Since Christmas the EBSB Branch has held a Half-Term Outing, a Branch Committee Meeting, an AGM and eight Branch Practices, as well as a Branch Dinner. How many did you support?

A very successful Half-Term Outing was held in February, ably arranged by Mark Instone, and was enjoyed by all who attended. Haddenham, Great Kimble, Wendover, Great Missenden and Little Missenden were visited. The next Half-Term Outing will be held on 31 October so please make a diary note. Details will be sent out nearer the time.

A very successful Dinner, organised by Clive Buswell, was held at Amersham and thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. The Guest Speaker was the Revd Will Adam, the Curate at Beaconsfield. Although Will is not an active ringer these days, it was refreshing to have a member of the Clergy with an affinity with ringers. *[Will has since been appointed a Team Vicar at Witney and, together with his wife Lindsay, will be moving in July - Ed.]*

At the AGM we were pleased to welcome our Guild Secretary, Barry Cowper. Prior to the meeting, a service was held in Marlow Church and was followed by an excellent tea provided by the Marlow ringers.

At the meeting all your officers gave their reports and were re-elected. Seven new members were elected to the Guild, together with 17 elections which were ratified at the AGM. Jeff Birt reported on the activities of the Fund Raising Committee, giving a very comprehensive list of goods available and locations visited for the sale of the vast variety of products. A new Bellingrings' Recipe Book is in preparation: if you have a favourite recipe you would like included, do let us have it. Please see the yellow poster for further details, or contact the Branch Secretary or a member of the Fund Raising Committee.

The Millennium Project Liaison Team reported to the meeting. Some towers had still not returned their questionnaires. These are vital to enable the team to find the true overall picture of the towers in the branch.

Following the augmentation, Langley bells were ringable for the Re-dedication Service at the end of March. However, Mark Instone advised the AGM that Whitechapel still had some work to do on them.

The branch officers were disappointed to note that only 13 towers were represented at the AGM. Also, it was suggested that the format of the branch practices should be reviewed because of low attendances at both sorts of practices. Your branch officers will be meeting to discuss this and we would be grateful to receive your suggestions.

On 14 June we will be holding our Branch Six-Bell Competition. As I write, the competition is still to come but we are hoping for more teams to come forward.

The future calendar looks busy - Branch Striking Competition, Guild Festival and Barn Dance, and Branch Social at Cookham, and this is in addition to the branch practices. Your officers arrange them for you, so please come along - you might even enjoy yourself!

Jane Payne

Newbury

First of all, the Newbury Branch would wish to take the opportunity of congratulating 'Odd Bob' on achieving its fiftieth edition, and to thank John Martin for all his hard work as its previous editor. We hope that he and his family will feel assured of our love and prayers. Of course, we also want to wish Rex every success in taking over this "not-inconsiderable task", as an erstwhile prime minister might have said.

Our monthly branch practices, held at various towers around the area, have been very well attended, and seem to have been enjoyed by the participants. We started by nominating a method or two beforehand for people to learn, but have moved on to a position

whereby everybody brings their copy of 'Diagrams' and we ring what the Spirit moves people to ask for. On one occasion, we had about thirty ringers for a practice at a six bell tower, although that may have been due to an oversight in the booking procedure. We are now having a rest from these practices for the summer months until September; we are hoping to have an eight bell tower in the north-west of the branch for the first Friday of that month and, as always, all will be welcome.

Our ten-bell practices, alternating between Thatcham and Newbury and held jointly with the Winchester and Portsmouth Guild, have also been successful, with an average of twenty to twenty-five ringers attending. Methods rung have included Grandsire and Stedman Caters, and Plain Bob, Little Bob, Cambridge and Yorkshire Royal. Rumour has it that there might even have been the sound of A Certain Touch Of Little Bob Royal being rung by the Newbury Branch attendees of one of the recent meetings....

Please contact a branch officer for details of either the branch or the ten-bell practices.

Back in January, we said that we were hoping to hold quarterly get-togethers around the branch. Since the last edition of this magazine, we have been invited to Brightwalton to ring there on 28 June, and our thanks go to David Vince for asking us. Obviously, by the time you read this, the meeting will have been and gone, but I promise you that we will have had a super afternoon. (Sorry, but I was never very good at the Future Pluperfect tense.)

With regard to the Millennium, our main problem - in the more rural areas of the branch - is a lack of ringers, rather than unringable towers, so we're concentrating on a recruitment drive, aided by the Guild's literature and advertisements. We've followed up the promised Easter announcement from the Clergy with a letter from the branch, asking that we can come to give a presentation at a P.C.C. meeting, and we've also formulated a list of thirty teachers who have been (or who are about to be!) "invited" to take part in a series of concentrated teaching efforts.

Finally, if anyone prefers to contact Newbury branch via e-mail, the addresses for three of the officers are:

- * Mike Till (Chairman): miket@enterprise.net
- * Dave Smith (Hon Sec): daved_smith@uk.ibm.com
- * Richard Marshall (Newsletter editor): r_marshall@uol.ac.uk

The usual requests about "spam" and unsolicited commercial e-mail naturally apply.

Dave Smith

North Bucks

At our AGM at Bradwell in March, there were several changes of officers. The major change was the election of a new chairman. Doug Hird succeeds Brian Newman who had been chairman for three years. Our thanks to him for his service to the branch.

In May we held a joint meeting at Olney with the Luton District of the Bedfordshire Association. This was well attended by our neighbours - but rather poorly supported by our own branch. Let's hope we have more members at the joint picnic with the Bedford District on 2 August. Ringing will be at Bromham, followed by a picnic at Bromham Mill. The evening ringing is yet to be confirmed.

Loughton won the branch six-bell striking competition held at Great Linford at the

beginning of June and will represent the branch at the Guild final. Thanks to Nigel Williams and Jim Linnell from Greens Norton for judging this competition which had six entries, the most we have had for several years.

Helen Stanworth

Old North Berks

There were no changes of officers at the branch AGM held at Drayton on 15 March. Branch membership remained almost constant over the year and 12 new members were elected to the Guild. The six-bell striking contest took place on the same day, judged by Pat and Robert Newton who placed Appleton first with the two teams from Abingdon being awarded second and third places. Sutton Courtenay came in fourth place, with East Hagbourne and West Hanney coming in fifth and sixth places. Branch practices have had patchy attendances during the last six months, with good attendances at Harwell and Appleton and poor turnouts at Appleford and West Hendred.

Two 10-bell practices for beginners were held at Abingdon St. Helens in February and April under the direction of Jon Chamberlain, Nick Clarke and Barbara Payne. Plain Hunt Caters, Grandsire Caters and Plain Bob Caters were among the methods rung. Nick Clarke has continued to run the popular Surprise Major practices at regular intervals over the past year at most of the eight-bell towers in the branch.

The Radley Course got off to a good start on Saturday, 12 April with a beautiful sunny day ahead. The enlarged course had 28 students who visited 15 towers with five tutors in attendance. A superb meal prepared by Daphne Pollard and her helpers awaited the returning students in the evening after an intensive day of instruction. Thank you to the many people who helped to make the day such a success.

The branch entered a strong team in the Guild eight-bell striking competition at Warborough on 15 May and was successful in being placed third after Reading and High Wycombe.

Colin Turner and Nicola Crichton have been giving instruction to beginners from Sunningwell and Appleford over the winter months on Tuesdays at Sunningwell tower. Most have now learned to handle a bell and can ring rounds and call changes. It is hoped that ringing can start at Appleford soon.

Jon Chamberlain has also been giving instruction to learners from surrounding churches at Cholsey on Saturday mornings, whilst Shirley Haines has started regular practice on the first Wednesday of each month at Childrey. All of this activity will hopefully produce more ringers for the Millennium ringing.

Finally, our congratulations go to Nicola Crichton on ringing her 1000th peal on 5 March 1997 and becoming the first female resident member of the Oxford Diocesan Guild to ring 1000 peals. The peals have been rung in 672 different towers with 554 different people for 26 different associations.

Peter Starling

Oxford City

Saturday, 12 April saw virtually all the resources of the Marston ringers called upon as an outing to the Cotswolds and a wedding at St Nicholas' church coincided. The early summer weather blessed the day for the ringers and the bridal couple.

Marston ringers also continue their quarter peal successes: Hugh Deam conducted his first quarter (seven methods, four variations) on Sunday, 23 March. At Easter, Ben Abbott conducted two quarters and another quarter marked the 18th birthday of his brother, Tim.

Helen Wharton from Abingdon, who learned to ring at Marston 10 years ago, was married to Douglas Smith on Saturday 31 May. On a warm afternoon she was rung in and out of church in the time-honoured manner.

Garsington celebrated rather less recent marriages: a peal of Cambridge Surprise Minor was rung as a Golden Wedding compliment to Basil and Rose Townsend, Basil being the local tower captain. It was a pity that such a joyous occasion could not have been celebrated by a City Branch band. There was also a quarter rung at Garsington for the Ruby Wedding anniversary of Muriel and Barry Greenaway from Marsh Baldon. All City Branch members wish the couples many more happy years together.

The branch practices have been well supported and enjoyed by those present. The Surprise Practices at St Aldates continue and we have managed to take members from treble bob to London Surprise Minor; on a good week we are even splicing two or three methods. We still rely on ringers from neighbouring branches to make this possible and welcome visitors for this Surprise practice on the second and fourth Mondays of the month.

Katie Lane

Reading

We welcome Rex as the new Odd Bob editor and hope he will enjoy the job. Our thanks go to John Martin for all his hard work over the last few years and best wishes to both Cathy and John, particularly at this time.

The Reading Branch continues to be a thriving one with plenty of enthusiastic ringers - both experienced and not so experienced.

The monthly practices have been enjoyable and well attended although numbers have been slightly down on the corresponding months last year. Surprise Major practices continue to attract a good number of people from several different towers.

In the national 12-bell striking competition, the Reading team were fourth in their heat with 76.6%. They were in a very high scoring heat: actually there were only four teams with a higher score overall so, assuming the marking schemes were similar in the different heats, they were fifth out of 24. Congratulations to all who rang. On 5 May three teams from our branch entered the Guild eight-bell striking competition. St Mary/St Laurence were placed first again: congratulations to the ringers in this team as well as our other two teams.

Some of the Henley learners have evidently fallen by the wayside, but a good nucleus are still making good progress. We look forward to seeing some of them at future branch practices.

As a result of an article in a parish newsletter, Bradfield have three new absolute beginners and two returned lapsed ringers - all from the neighbouring village of Basildon. We hope they continue to make good progress.

Rosemary Morgan

Sonning Deanery

Easthampstead bells were declared unringable in March 1997, and are likely to remain out of action for some time to come. The last quinquennial survey revealed a small rotten area in the southwest corner of the frame. The problem appeared to be very localized, and a minor repair was put in hand. However, as workmen cut away the rotten section, the damage was clearly much worse than expected. Death watch beetle had bored along the middle of a lower frame member and into one of the main supporting beams. Death watch beetle acts on the inside of beams, so faulty beams can appear sound when tapped or prodded with screwdrivers. A full structural survey of the frame is awaited, and the church architect has imposed a ban on ringing until work to make the frame safe is completed. The cost of repair is likely to be between £10 000 and £20 000.

Binfield bells are still at the bellhangers, and the service touch for the Guild AGM was rung on handbells. Congratulations to Ken Davenport for being elected Deputy Master of the Guild.

Thanks to John Harrison for running two training courses: one on conducting, at All Saints' Wokingham, and one on leading up and down in peal, at Shottesbrooke. These were much appreciated by those who attended.

The 6-bell striking competition was held at Shottesbrooke and was won by All Saints' Wokingham. Many thanks to Bobbie May and Tim Pett for judging the eleven teams who entered.

Congratulations to Rosalind French, Joanne Paterson and Peter Kew, who have recently rung their first quarters.

Pam Elliston

South Oxon

The branch hosted the Guild Ringing Day this Spring, which proved to be a very busy day with most towers opening for half-an-hour longer than advertised to allow the 100+ ringers to pass through! The eight-bell striking competition took place at Warborough, and it was a treat to listen to an excellent afternoon's ringing. Unfortunately, the day was marred by a few ill-mannered ringers (hopefully not from our Guild) and relations were somewhat strained in some villages.

In addition to our monthly branch practices, we now hold Surprise Major and basic eight-bell practices on a regular basis. Some towers are making good efforts to recruit new

ringers, and we have been given the opportunity for several ringers to be trained in how to teach. The AGM was held at Shabbington in April: most officers were re-elected, although Andrew Gillard stood down as Branch Representative and we welcomed Tina Ruff back to the committee in his place.

The branch six-bell striking competition took place at Tetsworth in March, on a lovely Spring day, as is customary. Only three bands were able to take part, namely Chinnor, Drayton St Leonard and Warborough, and the ringing was not without problems! The first band mis-called the touch and overran the 120 changes; the second band had problems with the fourth bell, and the third band had difficulty controlling the fifth. The competition resulted in a win for Chinnor. Chinnor also won the Holloway Shield for the first time - Aston Rowant and Drayton St Leonard tied for second place, Towersey were fourth, and Great Milton and Wheatley joint fifth.

Work at Thame was completed in May, and the bells have been re-dedicated. The ringing chamber and stairway have been redecorated and the seating refurbished; also there is a new carpet and blinds at the windows, and it is rumoured that holiday bookings are being taken!

Michael Hayes of Great Milton rang his first quarter on 7 April at this home tower, when he was one of three covers for Plain Bob Doubles. Another quarter of Bob Doubles was rung at Great Haseley on 2 April as a fiftieth birthday compliment to Tina Ruff. Sue Dyke and Kay Tuckwell rang their first York Minor, at Shabbington, in February; and at Watlington in March, Andrew Davis rang a quarter of Grandsire Triples. Andrew Gillard rang his first Cambridge inside at Horspath in March; and Kay Tuckwell rang her first Lincolnshire Major at Warborough in April. Mark Walker rang inside for a peal on Cambridge Minor at Garsington. The quarter of Bob Doubles on 21 April at Monks Risborough was the 50th together for Tina Ruff and Gordon Smith. Two days later, at Horspath, Tina and Kay Bartholomew rang their 25th together, for St George's Day. Congratulations to all.

Hilarie Rogers

Witney & Woodstock

The AGM this year was held at Tackley and was very well attended, with lots of ringers coming to try out the recently rehung bells. We were also delighted to have Stirling McGuire as the Guild Representative who gave an interesting and informative talk about the Millennium Project. A new Ringing Master, Anthony Cole; a new Treasurer, Alan Eustace; and a Newsletter Editor, Brian Curtis, were all elected. The Chairman and Secretary were re-elected. The branch are very grateful to Roger Barnes, the retiring Ringing Master, for his hard work and for carrying them through some difficult times during the last few years; and also to Charles Carrington for all his work as Treasurer from 1988 to 1997.

Branch practices have all been very well attended with a lot of new, enthusiastic ringers. Consequently the emphasis has been on rounds and call changes (up to Plain Bob and Grandsire Doubles), helping towers with the preparations for the Millennium. In addition, advanced practices have been organized. Cambridge and Yorkshire Surprise Major both proved very popular at the last practice held at Witney.

As those who attended from the branch will know, the ODG held a fascinating course on Teaching Bell Handling at Witney, where Steve Coleman taught a person to ring in two

hours, entertaining us all as he did so. The course was very useful to the inexperienced and experienced alike.

The Stonesfield Bell Appeal was closed at the beginning of April, when the target of £17 000 was exceeded after only four months, thanks to the generosity and hard work of a lot of people. The restoration work has now been completed and the bells are being rung again. A very big 'thank you' to all who helped. The bells will be re-dedicated by the Bishop of Dorchester on Thursday, 19 June 1997.

On the morning of 24 May, Anthony organized a very successful branch outing attended by 20 or so enthusiastic ringers eager to gain more experience and try a few new towers. The first tower at Hinton Waldrist was a delightful six-bell tower, followed by Appleton where a few ringers tried their hand for the first time on 10 bells. The morning finished at Cumnor where we had an interesting ring on eight bells.

It was with deep sadness that we learned of the death in April of Reg Franklin, aged 88 years. He was Tower Captain at Stonesfield for many years and a life member of the ODG. It was very poignant that the bells were absent at this time, although a half-muffled quarter peal was rung in his memory at Combe. He will be missed by all who knew him.

Finally congratulations to Tim Martin on his promotion and new appointment in Bournemouth. I am sure everyone in the branch will join me in wishing Tim and his family all the best for the future, and thank him for his support over the years, especially as Branch Secretary and Chairman. His presence and invaluable help and advice will be very much missed in the branch, especially at Yarnton where he has successfully taught and started a new band of ringers.

Lorna Smale

100th Central Council Meeting

It was appropriate that the Council should be invited to hold its 100th meeting in Cambridge during the Centenary year of the Ely Diocesan Association, and we were honoured to be able to use St. John's College for the main meeting.

The open meeting on the Sunday afternoon was well attended by Council members and non-members, evidence of the support and interest in the Ring in 2000 project. This national project is to be launched on 9 September, and the aim will be to train new bands in struggling and silent towers in preparation for the Millennium. Praise for the Oxford Guild was expressed on several occasions at this meeting as we seem to be well ahead of most of the country with identifying the scale of the problem, publicity, recruitment, contact with the clergy, teaching ringers to teach bell handling, etc, and the CC Public Relations Committee have taken on board many of our suggestions.

The subject of Ringing Centres was discussed. We do not have one in our Guild, but perhaps it is something we should consider. A suitable tower would contain easy going bells, with unlimited access (available to all ringers in the area, not just the local band), preferably with a simulator, space for classroom teaching, toilet/catering facilities, local support and a workable management structure. They don't ask for much!! I cannot think of anywhere in my own branch that would come close to fitting the bill, but if any tower elsewhere in the Guild might be suitable, I would be interested to hear of it.

The subject of the Child Protection Act was raised, as apparently yet more legislation is on its way. The CC Administrative Committee have undertaken to produce some guidelines in the context of child abuse. Discussion then led on to insurance - not in the event of a claim in respect of child abuse, as our own Guild Treasurer is currently investigating - but with respect to accident insurance. Once again the ODG seems to be well organized and ahead of the rest of the exercise.

Charging for teaching bellringing was mentioned, but fortunately there was no time to discuss this topic before the service at St. Mary the Great. It was a shame that the tenor clapper was out for the service ringing - I did suggest uncovered Stedman Cinques, but the locals were not impressed! The church was packed for the service, and I am sure the quality and volume of singing was well above average.

At the evening reception, a presentation was made to David Thorne on his retirement after 15 years as editor of the Ringing World, and he was honoured further the following day at the meeting when he was elected a life member of the Council. His successor, Tina Stoecklin, was also present and, from her report of the Council meeting in the Ringing World, I think we can look forward to some interesting reading in the future.

Reports of the various Council committees were published in the Ringing World during April and May, and most were accepted by the Council with little discussion. Much to my surprise the proposal to accept variable cover peals (RW p376) was accepted by a vast majority. The suggestion that ageing tenor ringers, such as Peter Border, could be given a rest when they get tired caused some amusement! However, the College Youths' performance of variable cover Stedman Cinques rung in 1995 was not accepted retrospectively as this would be contrary to usual procedure. (Hard luck chaps, you will have to do it again, or will the "other society" get there first?)

I was disappointed that the proposal regarding the CC Bell Restoration Fund met with such opposition. Once again the ODG probably leads the field with restoration funds, and I could see no objection to the Council extending its fund by advertising nationally and trying to get money from sources that would not normally be tapped by local associations. We may lose some income to our bell fund, but on the other hand we may benefit from the increase in publicity. It was agreed by a small majority that the fund should be developed, but the committee were asked to review their proposed criteria for allocating grants to ensure that the Council is seen to be fair.

Lyn Forbes and Stella Bianco gave an update on the Millennium Bells project. A grant of £3 million has been announced by the Millennium Commission, and 500 initial applications have been received. Allocation of the first batch of grants should be announced in early June. Two representatives from the bellfounding industry expressed their concern because of the volume of work that they will have to complete in the next 30 months!

It was a shame that Tony Kench did not attend the open meeting on Ring in 2000 where his objections to the project could have been discussed more fully and less formally. His opinion is that it is not possible to have all the bells in the country rung simultaneously, and proposed something to the effect that our immediate target should be that as far as practicable, bells should be rung at some time on 1 January, 2000. This was accepted by a vote of about 2:1. Discussion over tea made it apparent that there had been some confusion, and that many people did not appreciate the effect of what they had voted for as this would be contrary to

the request from the Open Churches Trust to ring all bells at 12.00 noon on that day. Unfortunately I missed the end of the meeting (to get back to our practice night at High Wycombe where I have had nine new learners start in response to our Millennium appeal), but I understand that the subject was reopened under any other business. From reports that I heard I missed some excitement and more confusion, but the decision seems to have been amended again so we are back on track to try to ring at midday where possible. Since we have already launched our own project (with a slightly different emphasis), and many of our officers and members have done a great deal of work already towards recruitment and training for the millennium, I was much relieved to hear that our efforts have not been wasted.

In preparation for the millennium, the CC Education committee has produced a video on teaching bell handling. John Wells and I have Guild copies which can be borrowed, or further copies are available (see Ringing World adverts). All branch secretaries have been given a copy of the "Starting a New Band" booklet, which I would thoroughly recommend, and hopefully support and advice for the Millennium project will continue to come from the Central Council committees.

Patricia Newton

Youth Day 1997

The Youth Day on 5 April was probably the most successful to date. The atmosphere in Bray Church hall had almost the flavour of an old boys' reunion - kids' style - and people turned up for their third successive year, thankfully without sheep.

The practical session in Bray tower gave a fair indication of exactly what we have in the way of youth talent in the Guild. Some big bells were very well rung by some little, and not so little, people. Tutors had the opportunity to assess their charges and ask them to attempt tasks on different bells to see how they could plug the gaps during the following theory session, which took place in odd corners of Bray hall and church.

Helen McGregor started as she meant to go on, straight into the one-on-one theory sessions, with able support from her helpers. I did wonder how my Matthew would fare - more of a do-er than a pencil and paper man. I have to say that he learned a lot, though when asked what the high spot of his day was, it turned out not to be the theory session. Neither, incidentally, was it the practical ringing or even the handbells, though they did figure highly: it was the meal in McDonald's - and Helen's group was late! She had been over-working them, of course!

I followed the progress of Daniel Sandham and Guy Darvill who were ringing Surprise Major with John Wells. Other members of this group were having a separate seminar on Grandsire and Stedman, both of which were rung during the practical session.

'A'-level map reading took the boys and me through Slough to our destination, Stoke Poges, and 'S'-level orienteering



John Wells' group and helpers

eventually found us the way in to the ringing room. Some good work was achieved here, though the odd-struckness of the front bells meant that there was never any outstanding ringing.



Robert Newton and the tune ringers

Hughenden was next and after a wedding we set to with the grille in the middle of the floor open to let in some air. Despite fatigue beginning to set in, the students acquitted themselves well.

The tea break was most welcome even if it was to the accompanying odour of cremated flesh. All manner of junk-food was consumed in almost unlimited quantities: probably better to think of it as fuel for the next stage.

A step away in the church, the evening continued with choices in half-hour blocks: tower bell ringing, tune ringing on handbells, and change ringing on handbells. All tastes were catered for.

I think everyone had an action-packed and fulfilling day in which much progress was made. When I asked Matthew afterwards if he would prefer a day or a weekend, he said he thought that a preparatory half-day would enable people to make a decision about being away from home for a whole weekend; some people might not feel they could make a commitment without first knowing what they were letting themselves in for. So, how about going out and telling everyone what a great time you had!!



Matthew Whiting receiving help from Kevin Lovell and Angela Darvill

Thank you, Pat and Robert, for making these days and weekends possible and thank you, tutors and assistants, for doing so much to encourage the youth in our Guild.

Bobbie May

ODG grabs Badgers Bottom

Having moved, the 5th annual ODG handbell day took place at a new venue, the rather quaintly named house already called Badgers Bottom. (For the record, Catherine and I voted to change the name but Peter and Laura wanted to keep it so, with the domestic committee evenly split, the status quo had to be maintained.)

Thirty-eight handbell ringers negotiated the complicated parking arrangements to enjoy some excellent ringing, glorious spring sunshine and some very good company. Thirty-five quarters were attempted of which 24 were scored. The format of the day has now been pretty nearly

perfected: the delegates take part in one of the quarters, or a practice designated for a particular method or the general practice, moving around at hourly intervals as determined by a pre-arranged schedule.

Amidst some understandable comments (eg. "If I can still see Robert drinking coffee then I know I don't have to go the bedroom 2 yet for my Yorkshire"), some wag was heard to say "It's 3 o'clock, it must be Professor Plum in the library with the candlestick". However, I know who it was and he will be conducting Orion with Teddy, Panda and the spiders in the Wendy House next year!

I am grateful to John Martin for his help with drawing up the schedule, and to Jenny, June, Anne, Monica, Jinny and Nina for their invaluable assistance with feeding the 5000 (that is ringers, not changes, Bernard). Thanks to everyone who attended, but especially 'thank you' to the helpers and conductors who provided the expertise to allow the less experienced to achieve their ambitions.

All those who attended this year's handbell day will automatically receive an invitation to the 1998 Easter Saturday handbell day (sorry Monica, you will have to try harder to be struck off). Anyone else wishing to join us must be able to ring a plain course of Plain Bob Major and ought to phone me now on 0118 972 3722 and I will add them to the list. Thank you all and see you next Easter if not before!

Helen McGregor

Quarter peals rung on handbells at Badgers Bottom, Tokers Green
29 March 1997

1280 Yorkshire S Major	1320 Plain Bob Maximus	1260 Plain Bob Royal
1-2 M Trimm	1-2 A Parkin	1-2 A Carpenter
3-4 E Martin	3-4 K Firman	3-4 E J Wells(C)
5-6 R Bailey(C)	5-6 B Groves(C)	5-6 A Parkin
7-8 H McGregor	7-8 G Firman	7-8 W Butler
	9-10 N Parkin	9-10 R Elmes
1440 Kent TB Royal	11-12 C Moon	
1-2 K Bentley		1280 Plain Bob Major
3-4 S Feather	1346 Cambridge S	1-2 E J Wells
5-6 R Bailey(C)	Maximus	3-4 J Winter
7-8 N Parkin	1-2 K Firman	5-6 A Byrne
9-10 A Bentley	3-4 P Newton	7-8 R Elmes(C)
	5-6 A Byrne	
1264 Plain Bob Major	7-8 G Firman	1296 Plain Bob Major
1-2 C Mundy	9-10 N J Diserens	1-2 J Carter
3-4 C Moon	11-12 B Groves(C)	3-4 A Parkin
5-6 A Byrne(C)		5-6 A Byrne(C)
7-8 S Cole	1344 Plain Bob Major	7-8 S Cole
	1-2 A Carpenter	
1264 Plain Bob Major	3-4 H McGregor	1280 Plain Bob Major
1-2 A Darvill	5-6 S Cole	1-2 J Kufluk
3-4 P Newton	7-8 R Newton(C)	3-4 J Norton
5-6 S Feather(C)		5-6 M Trimm
7-8 G Darvill		7-8 B Groves(C)

1280 Plain Bob Major

1-2 C Mundy
 3-4 J Carter
 5-6 R Bailey
 7-8 M Trimm(C)

1280 Yorkshire S Major

1-2 G Firman
 3-4 K Firman
 5-6 B Groves(C)
 7-8 J Carter

1280 Rutland S Major

1-2 A Carpenter
 3-4 K Firman
 5-6 S Feather
 7-8 R Bailey(C)

1440 London (No.3) S Royal

1-2 P Newton
 3-4 S Feather
 5-6 B Groves(C)
 7-8 K Firman
 9-10 P Saddleton

1260 Plain Bob Royal

1-2 K Firman
 3-4 P Sewell
 5-6 P Saddleton
 7-8 P Newton
 9-10 E JWells(C)

1440 Cambrige S Minor

1-2 J Kufluk
 3-4 N J Diserens
 5-6 R Bailey(C)

1296 Little Bob Royal

1-2 K Bentley
 3-4 H Diserens
 5-6 P Saddleton
 7-8 M Trimm
 9-10 N J Diserens(C)

1280 Yorkshire S Major

1-2 A Carpenter
 3-4 J Winter
 5-6 B Groves(C)
 7-8 C Moon

1264 Plain Bob Major

1-2 M Trow
 3-4 P Sewell
 5-6 W Butler(C)
 7-8 E J Wells

1280 Spliced S Major

(6 methods: CYNspr)
 1-2 P Saddleton
 3-4 J Winter
 5-6 A Byrne(C)
 7-8 E J Wells

1280 Spliced S Major
(8 methods)

1-2 A Darvill
 3-4 K Darvill
 5-6 A Byrne
 7-8 R Bailey(C)

1280 Kent TB Major

1-2 P Newton(C)
 3-4 M Trimm
 5-6 G Firman
 7-8 G Culley

1260 Minimus (12m)

1-2 G L Culley
 3-4 J Norton(C)

Draw methods using MS Word

If you run Microsoft Word™ 6 or 7 on a PC or Mac you can draw methods and blue lines for use in your tower. Any method. Just type in the place notation. You can control the format, start from any change, draw whole methods or a few changes, draw lines for any bell(s) and add notes

"Changes" is available on 3.5" floppy from N H Balshaw,
 3 The Crescent, East Hagbourne, Didcot, Oxon, OX11 9JY.

Price £10. Profits to local tower funds.

Points From Peals

A peal was started at 2138 hrs on New Year's Eve at Stoke Poges and came into rounds at 0038 hrs on New Year's Day.

Frank Rivett had a nasty fright whilst ringing the 24cwt. tenor to a peal of Belfast at Bray. Somehow the rope got caught round the box he was standing on and he was thrown off. Fortunately he jumped back on the box in a flash and managed to get the bell back under control. He even managed to ring the same number of changes as everybody else!

A peal was rung in January at Binfield. This was the last peal on the bells before rehanging.

A peal was rung at Bicester in thanksgiving for the life of Bob Datson. Another was rung at Spelsbury where the band included Bob's daughter, Claire.

Colin Turner has circled the tower 28 times in 280 peals at Thatcham, and Bill Butler has circled the same tower 44 times. Also, Colin has rung 2000 peals for the Guild.

Did you see the interview with Colin Turner that was published in the Easter edition of 'The Ringing World'? In just a couple of pages of questions and answers you can get a real feel of what Colin is really like and what makes him tick. Excellent article and excellent fellow! Quite a good ringer as well!

Reggy Gillard rang his first peal as conductor (Cambridge Major) at Burnham.

Congratulations to Geoff Dodd who rang his 1000th peal as conductor at Baughurst in February, and to Nicola Crichton who rang her 1000th peal (at Sunningwell). Geoff Dodd and Helen Piper have rung their 750th peal together. Cathy Martin has rung 300 peals. Ruth and Paul Curtis have rung their 700th peal together. Barry Fry has rung 1800 peals.

A handbell peal conducted by John Martin was rung as a pre-wedding compliment to Jenny Carter and Trevor Page. Another handbell peal was rung as a compliment to the editor of the Ringing World on his 60th birthday.

A footnote to a peal at Finchampstead read 'Striking measured at 77%'. The peal secretary is making enquires and will reveal all in the next edition of Odd Bob!

Peter Ellis has rung his 10th Surprise Major alphabet.

Leslie Floyd rang his first peal for at least 30 years, Paul Coad his first for 23 years and Ronald Moore rang his first for 45 years.

Congratulations to Antoinette Jackson who rang her first peal at the first attempt. Also congratulations to Timothy Beaujeux who rang his first peal (at White Waltham).

A peal was rung as a birthday compliment to Nicola Crichton (number of years not disclosed but 'still young'), the event being marked by a loud rendition of 'Happy Birthday' in the Hilpertons style.

Lloyd Cartwright has rung his first peal of Bristol Maximus (at Reading) and then rang another at Great Yarmouth.

Mike Till conducted a peal to celebrate 25 years' membership of the Ancient Society of College Youths (it was also rung to mark his Silver Wedding anniversary).

A peal was rung in memory of Margaret Ennion Pett, mother of the Tim, who died on March 21st 1997 aged 89 years.

The first handbell peal in Helen McGregor's new house, Badgers Bottom, was rung in April.

Bobbie May has rung her 100th peal. This was at Stoke Poges.

A peal at Uffington was the first in the tower for 39 years.

At the time of writing these notes (in May), Colin Turner has had 63 1997 peals published in the RW. Bernard Groves is leading the handbell list with 13 and, at the top of the conductor's list, is Peter Ellis with 28.

Graham Firman

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 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 evening sessions. Help or advice is also offered on recruitment or teaching bell handling. Contact Mrs Patricia M Newton (*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

A travelling bookstall will be found at General Committee meetings and the main Guild meetings; it may also be available at some branch meetings. Books cover a popular range from elementary change ringing to the history of change ringing, tower maintenance and the history of bells.

Exhibition display material

Display material, 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 Mrs Bobbie May (*see Public Relations Officer in Guild officers listing*).

Towers and belfries

The Towers and Belfries Sub-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 Len Palfrey (*see Towers and Belfries Sub-committee in Guild officers' listing*).

The Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund

The bell fund provides 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 1997 - 1998

Master	Mr E John Wells	15 Lytham End, Tilehurst, Reading, Berks RG31 6FG (0118 941 0061)
Deputy Master	Mr Ken R Davenport	47 Brookside, Wokingham, Berks RG41 2ST (0118 978 6554)
General Secretary	Mr Barry W M Cowper	Avondale, 45 Longfield Drive, Amersham, Bucks HP6 5HE (01494 725566)
General Treasurer	Mr Brian J Gatward	Grangewood, Mill Lane, Calcot, Reading, Berks RG31 7RS (0118 941 3097)
Assistant Treasurer	Mr Terry Wagstaff	6 Firs Close, Whitchurch, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 4LH (01296 641755)
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 A Rex Agg	25 Wilton Road, Beaconsfield, Bucks HP9 2DE (01494 675517)
Peal Secretary	Mr Graham G Firman	7 Laburnham Road, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 4DB (01628 36484)
Public Relations Officer	Mrs Bobbie May	4 Halfacre Close, Spencers Wood, Reading, Berks RG7 1DZ (0118 988 4172)
Membership Secretary	Mr Stephen Murrell	The Old Chapel, Salford, Chipping Norton, Oxon (01608 645303)
Guild Stewards	Mrs Sally Austin	16 Austins Way, Hook Norton, Oxon OX15 5LQ (<i>Banbury, Chipping Norton, Witney & Woodstock</i>)
	Mr N Jim Diserens	10 Queens Avenue, Wallingford, Oxon (<i>Sonning, Reading, Newbury</i>) OX10 0NB (01491 824504)
	Mr Simon Cole	83 Bristol Road, Bicester, Oxon OX6 7TH (<i>Bicester, Oxford City, South Oxon</i>) (01869 247525)
	Mr David M Joyce	4 Woad Lane, Great Linford Village, Milton Keynes, Bucks MK14 5HE (<i>North Bucks, Central Bucks, Chiltern</i>) (01908 667025)
	Mr Colin Fowles	127 Meadfield Road, Langley, Slough, Berks SL3 (<i>EBSB, V of the W H, Old North Berks</i>) 8HY (01753 671507)

Six General Committee members

Mr Graham Clifton	Mr A (Tony) Crabtree	Mrs Wenda Fowles
Mr W (Willy) Haynes	Mr Mike K Till	Mr Brian Newman

Central Council Representatives

Mr W (Bill) Butler	8 The Waverleys, Thatcham, Newbury, Berks RG18 3EZ (01635 826799)
Mr John R Martin	90 Fairway Avenue, Tilehurst, Reading, Berks RG30 4QB (0118 941 4530)
Mr John A Harrison	2 Murdoch Road, Wokingham, Berks RG40 2DA (0118 978 5520)
Dr Tim G Pett	20 St Amand Drive, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 5RQ (01235 526033)
Mrs Patricia M Newton	The White House, 11 Plowden Park, Aston Rowant, Watlington, Oxon OX9 5SX (01844 325926)
Mr Ken R Davenport	(<i>see Guild Deputy Master</i>)

Guild Trustees

Mr W (Bill) Butler
Mr Derek Fowles

Mr T Geoff Holden

(see Central Council Representatives)

10 Lynden Close, Holyport, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 2LB
(01628 29538)

Crispins, East End, North Leigh, Witney, Oxon OX8 6PX
(01993 881 624)

Subscriptions**Peal fees****Annual report****Badges****Guild History****Financial information**

Resident members £5.50 per annum
Non-resident life members £5.50

30p per person per peal

£2.50 + 50p packing and postage

£1.50 each

£3.00 per copy

Branch Secretaries

Banbury	Dr Ian Rodrick	Silverdale, Weeping Cross, Bodicote, Oxon OX15 4ED (01295 253817)
Bicester	Mr Richard C Stevens	Dellow, Blackthorn Road, Launton, Bicester, Oxon OX6 0DA (01869 243920)
Central Bucks	Mr Mark Sellin	4 Stocklake, Aylesbury, Bucks HP20 1DN (01296 392175)
Chiltern	Mr Mike C J Davis	1 Rookwood Way, Great Missenden, Bucks H16 0DF (01494 891312)
Chipping Norton	Mrs Claire E Tarrant	6 Marlborough Place, Charlbury, Oxon OX7 3SH (01608 811290)
East Berks & South Bucks	Mrs Jayne Payne	(see Report Editor)
Newbury	Mr Dave Smith	43 Chaucer Crescent, Speen, Newbury, Berks RG14 1TP (01635 30782)
North Bucks	Mrs Helen Stanworth	11 Valley Road, Linden Village, Buckingham, Bucks MK18 7BW (01280 814172)
Old North Berks	Mr Peter P Starling	7 Chambrai Close, Appleford, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 4NT (01235 847469)
Oxford City	Mrs Katie Lane	Catchmole Cottage, 12 High Street, Wheatley, Oxon OX33 1XX (01865 874026)
Reading	Mrs Rosemary Morgan	Rosene, Dark Lane, Bradfield, Berks RG7 6DE (0118 974 4624)
Sonning Deanery	Mrs Pam Elliston	142 Butts Hill Road, Woodley, Reading, Berks RG5 4NS (0118 969 5967)
South Oxon	Mrs Hilarie Rogers	4 High Street, Drayton St Leonard, Wallingford, Oxon OX10 7BA (01865 890163)
Vale of the White Horse	Mrs Jackie O'Hagan	Brubell, 13 Chapel Road, Stanford in the Vale, Faringdon, Oxon SN7 8LE (01367 718994)
Witney & Woodstock	Mrs Lorna Smale	43 Knott Oaks, Combe, Oxon OX8 8PJ (01993 891721)

Education sub-committee

Chairman	Mrs Patricia M Newton	(see Central Council Representatives)
Secretary	Mr Mike K Till	53 Bath Road, Thatcham, Berks RG18 3GF (01635 827957)
Members	Mr Alan J Griffin	Rosebank, Bloxham, Banbury, Oxon (01295 720359)
	Miss Marie R Cross	6 Radley Road, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 3PQ (01235 520868)
	Mr E John Wells	(see Guild Master)

Mrs Bobbie May (see *Public Relations Officer*)
 Mr Simon Cole (see *Guild Stewards*)
 Mr John A Harrison (see *Central Council Representatives*)

Guild educational leaflets

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Rope splicing | 2. Bibliography | 3. Plain Hunt to Bob Doubles |
| 4. Maintenance | 5. Running a one-day course | 6. Sound control |
| 7. Stedman | 8. Grandsire | 9. Bob calling for beginners |
| 10. Handbell ringing | 11. Eight Doubles methods | |
| 12. Surprise Minor: Cambridge to London, Part 1 (Cambridge) | | |
| 13. Surprise Minor: Cambridge to London, Part 2 (Building on Cambridge) | | |
| 13. Surprise Minor: Cambridge to London, Part 3 (London) <i>Parts 2 & 3 form a single leaflet</i> | | |
| 14. Plain, Little and Double Bob Minor and Plain Bob Major | | |

50p per copy post free. Set of 14 titles: £6.30. Discounts for bulk orders. Cheques to *Oxford Diocesan Guild* please. From: Mrs Anne Carpenter, 41 Napier Road, Crowthorne, Berks RG45 7EJ. Fax: 01344 771319.

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 and 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 Len Palfrey	62 Horseshoe Road, Pangbourne, Reading, Berks RG8 7JL (0118 984 2698)
Secretary	Mr Nick Balshaw	3 The Crescent, East Hagbourne, Didcot, Oxon OX11 9JY (01235 815452)
Members	Mr John Blackall	2 Alpin Road, Bedgrove, Aylesbury, Bucks HP21 9BT (01296 27930)
	Mr Philip Brown	(see <i>Guild Librarian</i>)
	Mr Graham J Clifton	Stedman Cottage, Middle Aston, Oxford OX5 3PZ (01869 347273)
	Mr John C Davidge	Rowallan, Back Lane, Chalfont St Giles, Bucks HP8 4PD (01494 873325)
	Mr Peter G Davies	Narrogin, Longworth Road, Charney Bassett, Wantage, Oxon OX12 0ET (01235 868646)
	Mr Ralph A Elmes	Phoenix Cottage, Nuffield, Oxon RG9 5TE (01491 641874)
	Mr W (Willy) Haynes	Brinsmore House, Oddington, Kidlington, Oxon OX5 2QZ (01865 331303)
	Mr Alan J Marchbank	6 Broadway, Giffard Park, Milton Keynes, Bucks MK14 5QF (01908 611434)
	Mr Richard C Stevens	Dellow, Blackthorn Road, Launton, Bicester, Oxon OX6 0DA (01869 243920)
	Mr Bernard J Stone	3 Bell Close, Grove, Wantage, Oxon OX12 7NH (01235 766673)

- * Mr E John Wells (see Guild Master)
 * Mr Barry W M Cowper (see Guild Secretary)
 * Mr Brian J Gatward (see General Treasurer)

Please note that the composition of this sub-committee is currently under review.

* denotes ex-officio member.

Guild information on the Internet

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

Diary of Events for 1997

*	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

JULY

Sat 12	Guild		Festival - Aylesbury	
Sat 12	Guild	SC	Ten-bell competition - Amersham	
Sat 12	EBSB	SP	Hambleden	7.00 - 9.00
Sat 12	Oxford City	BP	Horspath	7.00 - 8.30
Fri 18	North Bucks	BP	Weston Underwood	7.30
Sat 19	Chiltern	BP	Bledlow	7.00 - 9.00
Sat 26	EBSB	BP	Cookham	7.00 - 9.00
Sat 26	North Bucks	SC	Wicken (v Towcester Branch)	6.00
Sat 26	South Oxon	BP	Ewelme	7.00 - 9.00

AUGUST

Fri 1	Bicester	BP	Ludgershall	7.30
Sat 2	North Bucks		Bromham (Picnic meeting)	3.30
Sat 2	Chipping Norton	BP	Churchill	7.30 - 9.00
Sat 2	South Oxon	AP	Great Milton	7.30 - 9.00
Wed 6	Chiltern	AP	Great Missenden	7.45 - 9.00
Sat 9	Central Bucks	BP	North Marston*	
Sat 9	EBSB	SP	Clewer *	7.00 - 9.00
Sat 9	Oxford City	BP	Marston	7.00 - 8.30
Sat 9	Reading	BP	Nettlebed	
Tue 12	Old North Berks	BP	Abingdon, St Nicholas	7.30 - 9.00
Fri 15	North Bucks	BP	Stowe	7.30
Sat 16	Chiltern	BP	Weston Turville	7.00 - 9.00
Sat 23	EBSB	BP	Hitcham	7.00 - 9.00
Sat 23	South Oxon	BP	Brightwell Baldwin	7.00 - 9.00
Tue 26	V of the W H	BP	Uffington	7.30 - 9.00

SEPTEMBER

Mon 1	Bicester	BP	Bicester	7.30
Tue 2	Chiltern	AP	Stoke Mandeville	7.30 - 9.00
Sat 6	Chipping Norton	HY	Enstone	7.00
Sat 6	North Bucks	QM	Great Brickhill	3.30
Sat 6	Reading	SC	Whitchurch	
Sat 6	South Oxon	SP	Great Haseley	7.30 - 9.00
Fri 12	Guild		Start of Easthampstead course	
Sat 13	Central Bucks		Branch outing - Evesham	
Sat 13	EBSB	SP	Denham	7.00 - 9.00
Sat 13	Oxford City	BP	Cowley	7.00 - 8.30
Fri 19	North Bucks	BP	Woughton on the Green	7.30

Sat	20	Chiltern	BP	Little Missenden	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	20	Old North Berks	HY	East Hagbourne	5.00 - 8.00
Sat	27	EBSB	BP	Bray	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	27	South Oxon	BP	Watlington	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	27	V of the W H	HY	Ashbury	

OCTOBER

Fri	3	Guild		Branch secretaries meeting - Radley	
Fri	3	Chiltern	AP	Aston Clinton	7.45 - 9.00
Sat	4	Chipping Norton	BP	Chipping Norton	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	4	Guild	SC	Six-bell competition - Mollington	
Sat	4	EBSB		Joint meeting - Hillingdon, Slough & Langley	
Sat	4	South Oxon	AP	Warborough	7.30 - 9.00
Tue	7	Bicester	BP	Islip	7.30
Sat	11	Central Bucks	SC	Orchard Cup - Wing	
Sat	11	Oxford City		Outing	Afternoon
Sat	11	South Oxon		Outing	
Sat	11	Reading		Branch outing	
Sat	11	V of the W H		Car outing	
Mon	13	Old North Berks	BP	Steventon	7.30 - 9.00
Fri	17	North Bucks	BP	Clifton Reynes	7.30
Sat	25	EBSB	HY	Chalfont St Peter	
Sat	25	South Oxon	HY	Great Milton	7.00 - 9.00

NOVEMBER

Sat	1	Chipping Norton	BP	Chastleton	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	1	South Oxon	SP	Wheatley	7.30 - 9.00
Mon	3	Chiltern	AP	Bledlow	7.45 - 9.00
Wed	5	Bicester	BP	Middleton Stoney	7.30
Sat	8	Central Bucks	BP	Stewkley*	
Sat	8	EBSB	SP	Chenies	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	8	North Bucks		Ringing school*	2.00
Sat	8	Old North Berks		Social and ringing - Radley	
Sat	8	Reading	BP	Swallowfield	
Sat	15	Oxford City	AG	North Hinksey	
Sat	15	Chiltern	BP	Stoke Mandeville	7.00 - 9.00
Fri	21	North Bucks	BP	Tingewick	7.30
Sat	22	Guild		Autumn general committee meeting - Aylesbury	
Sat	22	EBSB	BP	Iver	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	22	South Oxon	BP	Chinnor	7.00 - 9.00
Mon	24	V of the W H	BP	Faringdon	7.30 - 9.00

DECEMBER

Wed	3	Chiltern	AP	Great Missenden	7.45 - 9.00
Thu	4	Bicester	BP	Kirtlington	7.30
Sat	6	Chipping Norton	BP	Burford	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	6	North Bucks	QM	Shenley	3.30
Sat	6	South Oxon	AP	Benson	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	13	Central Bucks	BP	Haddenham*	
Sat	13	EBSB	BP	Old Windsor - also social	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	13	Reading	BP	Reading, St Giles	
Fri	19	North Bucks	BP	Lavendon	7.30
Sat	20	South Oxon	BP	Thame	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	20	Chiltern	BP	Aston Clinton	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	27	EBSB		Post-Christmas social and ringing	