

Issue 51

# ODD BOB

Newsletter of the



November 1997

## Contents

Master's Mutterings.....	3
Obituaries.....	4
Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund.....	6
Towers and Belfries Committee Report.....	6
Best Kept Tower Competition.....	7
Guild Six-Bell Striking Competition.....	8
Ten-Bell Competition.....	9
Under-Eighteens' Striking Competition.....	9
Guild Bookstall.....	9
Guild Service Book.....	10
Listening Seminar.....	11
Easthampstead '97.....	11
Youth Training Day 1998.....	14
Just In Time.....	14
Have You Read It Yet?.....	15
Banbury.....	16
Bicester.....	17
Central Bucks.....	17
Chiltern.....	18
Chipping Norton.....	19
East Berks & South Bucks.....	19
Newbury.....	20
North Bucks.....	22
Old North Berks.....	22
Oxford City.....	23
Reading.....	24
Sonning Deanery.....	25
South Oxon.....	26
Vale of the White Horse.....	26
Witney & Woodstock.....	28
Points From Peals.....	29
Guild Directory and Information.....	30
Guild Officers for 1997-98.....	31
Diary of Events for 1997-98.....	34

### 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 preferred, 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 7 March 1998. All contributions to the editor please not later than **9 February 1998**.

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

## Master's Mutterings

The Millennium Project continues to progress with evidence of increased activity in the branches. The type of activity clearly varies as the needs of the branches are so different. Restoration work, recruiting new bands and individual ringers, and reinforcing the development of existing ringers are all part of the picture. My thanks to all those who are working so hard to make the project a success.

The courses on 'Teaching Bell-Handling' are continuing and will be followed by courses that will examine ways of helping learners progress to change ringing. If towers or branches need help in these or other areas, please contact Pat Newton or myself.

The national launch of the Central Council's 'Ring in 2000' project in September has resulted in a number of opportunities for articles in local papers and enquiries from members of the general public. The usefulness of these articles is well illustrated by the fact that one small paragraph in a midweek Reading paper led to some 12 or more genuine enquiries in a very short time. A number of these people have now started to learn. Unfortunately the publication of the suggestions on publicity from the Seminar in May has been delayed but every effort is being made to get something out as soon as possible.

The Millennium Working Group has been thinking of ways in which the Guild can support local efforts by providing display and other material, and activities, at fetes, shows etc. There will be more to report on this matter early next year.

The tragic death of Diana, Princess of Wales resulted in a lot of sympathetic publicity to ringing. My thanks go to all those Guild members who responded to the events in such a genuine and sensitive manner by ringing half-muffled, abandoning practices in favour of some special ringing and the concern many showed over ringing for weddings at such a sad time. This sort of reaction demonstrates so well the way in which ringers, in general, are concerned to use their art in a responsible and proper manner.

Recent events have included the Festival, the Easthampstead Course and the Six-Bell Competition. My thanks to the Central Bucks branch for all their efforts in arranging a very enjoyable day. It is a great shame that so few members came to support some or all of the Festival events that day, particularly the Barn Dance in the evening. I hope we can have better support for next year's festival at Bradfield. The hard work put in by the organisers deserves good support from the members.

The Easthampstead Course was particularly successful with all the students deriving great benefit from the weekend. My thanks to Graham Firman and his team for organising this course.

The Six-bell Competition was again enjoyable but it was disappointing that there were so few teams after last year's large entry. Hopefully this will prove to be just a 'blip' and next year we will have a good representation of the branches.

Finally, I sometimes hear complaints about the way branch events are organised or the way things are run. What we must remember is that our officers are doing the job as volunteers on top of what are often demanding full-time responsibilities and they deserve our full support. Clearly there will be occasions when something goes wrong, but this should not

result in unfair criticism. Constructive suggestions and offers of help are what are needed at times like these. It is often noticeable that there is a lack of candidates for office so let us be sure to support those who are willing to do their best on our behalf.

John Wells

## Obituaries

### Wilfrid (Wilf) Godwin

Wilf will be remembered and greatly missed by many ringers and members of the parish of St Peter's, Wolvercote, along with past friends and ringers of the Oxford City branch and beyond.

Wilf, a plasterer and general builder by trade, gave lifelong service to the church by undertaking many of the ever-necessary repairs and alterations, and general maintenance, associated with the church, its buildings and grounds. Most notably he not only undertook the building of a large extension to the church room but also did much of the building work associated with the recasting and rehanging of the bells in 1957.

The rehanging of the bells also coincided with Wilf being Churchwarden (a post he held for some 33 years) and he was therefore always very proud of the fact that his name was inscribed on the tenor bell (albeit with incorrect spelling!). Wilf was also tower captain at Wolvercote for some 28 years. With the help of his wife, Margaret, they introduced some very successful and enjoyable annual 'Ringers' Evensong' services.

Wilf was a key member of our church here at Wolvercote. He dedicated a great part of his life to making sure that the church still functioned practically and that it was always kept neat and tidy. He was a grand person to the church and ringers, and he will no doubt be missed by all who knew him.

Wilf's funeral service was attended by many ringing friends who rang the bells both before and after the service, along with a quarter peal being rung on the day of his interment. He was laid to rest beside his wife, Margaret, in the Garden of Remembrance at St Peter's.

---

**Wolvercote, 24 August 1997.** 1260 Doubles (7 methods/5 variations): Janet Farrow 1, Richard Day 2, Roy Jones (C) 3, Roy Goodwin 4, Jonathan Beale 5, William Hughes 6. To commemorate the life of Wilfrid Godwin.

\*\*\*\*\*

*The following appreciations were published in The Ringing World on 3 October 1997*

### Philip Walker

After a short illness which developed into pneumonia, Philip Walker of Oxford died peacefully in his sleep at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford on 25 June. He was aged 84. He sang in the St Giles choir as a boy until his voice broke. The then Tower Captain invited him to try bellringing. He mastered the art and at the age of 18 in 1930 was elected a member of the ODG. In 1954 he was elected Tower Captain of St Giles, a position he held for 28 years. He served the Guild in many respects throughout his life and



was elected a Vice-President in 1980. He was elected a member of the Oxford Society in 1932 and rang regularly on Sundays at both the Cathedral and St Giles.

He held the office of Honorary Secretary of the Oxford Society for 23 years and was President for a total of six years. Although he was not able to climb the steps to the Cathedral ringing during his last few years, his interest did not wane. He had only recently finished research on details for a book he was hoping to see published on bells in Oxford and the Oxford Society.

He took on a great challenge in teaching Bernard Masterman to ring. Bernard has been blind since birth, but Philip, with Dermot Roaf's help, fashioned Bernard into an accomplished ringer who can ring all the standard methods, has called many of St Giles' quarters and a few years ago called his first peal. A tribute to his own thoroughness of preparation and of the time and care taken in his tuition.

Philip worked all his working life at the Oxford University Press. He started as a Composing Apprentice. His apprenticeship was extended due to his contracting TB. He was a Monotype keyboard operator for 36 years up to his retirement. He was a Clerk in the Compositors and readers Chapel for 10 years, Father for 13 years and Imperial Father for four years, from 1971 to 1974. He served as a branch Committee Member with the National Graphical Association.

He was a dedicated Sunday service ringer and rang a number of peals, though he was not a prolific peal-ringer. A half-muffled quarter peal of Grandsire Triples was rung at St Giles immediately prior to his funeral. A number of peals were dedicated as a thanksgiving for his life. Our thoughts go to his family on their loss.

N.D.L.

The death of Philip Walker on 25 June brought to an end a ringing career spanning almost 70 years during which he served both the ODG and the Oxford Society with distinction.

Outside work he had a number of interests but ringing was by far the most important to him. He was invited to take up ringing at St Giles, Oxford where he was a choirboy. He remained a member of that band until his death serving as Tower Captain from 1954 to 1982. He was elected to the ODG in 1930 and served as a Guild officer from 1955 to 1988, firstly as Report Editor and then as Librarian. He was also a Central Council Representative for nine years. In recognition of his service, Philip was elected a Vice President in 1980. He always took a great interest in the Guild's matters and even after retiring from office continued to keep records of the Guild's peals, particularly the first performances, and kept the officers on their toes with his questions and comments.

The ODG owes him much and he will be greatly missed by all who knew him. Perhaps our best recognition of his work will be to live up to his example. May he rest in peace.

John Wells

---

St Giles, Oxford, 1 July. 1260 Grandsire Triples: N D Lane (C) 1, Michelle Ellender 2, Charlotte Everett 3, J Lonsbrough 4, B R White 5, M Hensher 6, R C Stevens 7, R Benstead 8. Half-muffled immediately prior to Philip Walker's funeral at this church.

## **Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund**

### *Fund raising*

New money raised in the period January to September 1997 amounted to £5826.11. This is very encouraging and indicates that this is likely to be another successful year for fund raising.

The main sources of income are £2523.68 from branch donations, £585.00 from towers, £256.00 from PCCs. The previously reported amount of £777.85 from the Annual Ringing Day is now the final figure.

The profit from the annual draw amounted to £829.00. This is a disappointment as the profit for several years has been well in excess of £1000. The Trustees have discussed this matter and understand from the information available to them that some towers were not given tickets to sell. In addition, an administrative error resulted in a reduction in the number of tickets printed. The increase in prize money donated by branches is much appreciated. Given the suggestions which have been made and which will be discussed with branch secretaries, the Trustees are confident of a return to the level of profits from the draw next year and are grateful to Steve and June, both for their work this year and for agreeing to continue as the draw promoters for 1998.

### *Progress with projects*

Since the February meeting of the Managing Trustees, grants have been paid to Langley Marish, Stonesfield, Thame and Turville. Work has been completed at Binfield but in view of the financial support from other sources the grant voted will not be taken up. This is particularly helpful at the present time in view of the number of other applications.

### *New projects*

The September meeting of the Managing Trustees approved provisional grants to projects at Bletchington, Charlton-on-Otmoor, Cuddington, High Wycombe (St Anne), Langford, Warborough and Wolverton. Payment of grants will as usual be subject to the satisfactory completion of work as certified from inspections by members of the Towers and Belfries Committee.

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. The financial forecast is that for 1997 there will be £13 000 of income available for grants. This will represent the largest amount in any year to date and will be fully used in supporting the increased number of projects which are expected over the immediate future.

Brian J Gatward, Honorary Treasurer

## **Towers and Belfries Committee Report**

The publicity surrounding the Millennium is having an effect and bell restoration/ augmentation projects are getting underway in increasing numbers. The bell hangers are very active as are the DIY experts. This has resulted in a number of requests for tower inspections either before going to the professional to have work done or after they have

finished and grants need to be paid.

We have received information that several branches are thinking of having a maintenance course in their area. To date nobody has come to us with a definite request for a course so to kick things off I am going to ask the Reading Branch to host a maintenance day in December or January. However, if you want to get in first my telephone number is at the end of this report.

I may owe some of you an apology because I think I have had a request for a tower inspection that I did not action. My only excuse is pressure of work and an Open University course. The latter is over now so I am back in control and would be grateful for a reminder if I have failed to perform.

Elsewhere in Odd Bob there are details of the Best Kept Tower competition. Some of you may wonder what is the point of entering. Quite simply it is the one way that your steeple keeper can show the rest of us just how good you are in that very important department of the ringing exercise. If it is good then let us tell the world about it. Even if you don't win you will get a lot of good advice and encouragement and may win in two years time!! We look forward to receiving lots and lots of entries this year.

Len Palfrey, Chairman (telephone 0118 984 2698)

### **Best Kept Tower Competition 1998**

The biennial competition to find the best kept tower in the Oxford Diocesan Guild is being held again this year. Judging will begin towards the end of the year and the successful tower will be presented with the trophy (which it will hold for two years) at the 1998 Guild AGM.

The primary aim of the Competition remains the encouragement of good maintenance practices in towers. Judges (from the Towers and Belfries Committee) will examine your tower including the ringing chamber, intermediate rooms, the bell chamber and tower access. Although the emphasis will be on the condition of the bells and fittings, they will also cover cleanliness, tidiness and safety matters, all of which would feature in the running of a well-kept tower.

It is also time to break the monopoly of the EBSB Branch on the trophy. All the previous winners have been from this branch (Bray, Chalfont St Giles (twice) and Chalfont St Peter), so how about a challenge? The age of the installation is no bar, as both of the Chalfonts have old wooden frames and, in the case of St Peter, old fittings as well.

The work done in preparing for the competition also pays dividends to the local band and, if you can get the PCC interested, they may also meet some of any cost involved or provide other assistance. So do have a go, even if you don't win the preparation is fun, and the benefits will be with you from then on. As well as the trophy, there are also certificates for finalists which look good on ringing room walls.

Every tower in the Diocese of Oxford is eligible to enter, provided that it contains three or more bells hung for full-circle ringing and no major work by a commercial firm (including builders) has been undertaken in the tower since 1 January 1996.

Judges marking sheets which show the items which the judges will examine will be sent to all towers entering the competition, closing date for which is 31 December 1997. So, if you get your entry in now and start the big clean-up, you could probably get several of months work in before the judges descend on you.

Further information and entry forms may be obtained from:

Nick Balshaw

Secretary

Towers and Belfries Committee

3 The Crescent

East Hagbourne

DIDCOT

Oxon

OX12 0ET

P.S. If you want to find out what state your tower is in without entering the competition, remember the Committee would be pleased to arrange an inspection and a report at any time.

### **Guild Six-Bell Striking Competition**

The Guild six-bell competition was held this year at Cropredy. A disappointingly low turn-out of eight teams meant the cancellation of the heats and a concentration on the final. The draw was held during tea and the contest started on the arrival of the judges, John Couperthwaite and Mike Pidd of the Guildford Guild.

New ropes had been fitted recently to ensure there were no problems with broken ropes. Despite this, a high standard was set by the first two teams. All teams completed their test pieces and we eagerly awaited the result. After some appropriate comments, the judges announced the results:

Position	Team	Branch	Faults
First	Aston Clinton	Chiltern	60
Second	High Wycombe	EBSB	65
Third	Tilehurst	Reading	66
Fourth	Appleton	Old North Berks	77
Fifth	Wokingham All Saints	Sonning Deanery	92
Sixth	Shrivenham	Vale of the White Horse	111
Seventh	Aylesbury	Central Bucks	126
Eighth	Chinnor	South Oxon	135

Our thanks to the judges for undertaking the task of judging eight teams and to the local band for the use of the bells, providing tea and stewarding the tower.

Ken Davenport



### **Ten-Bell Competition**

Five teams entered for this year's ten-bell competition held on the back ten at Amersham on the afternoon of the Guild Festival. All teams successfully completed the test piece of 216 Little Bob Royal. The judges, Roger and Kath Baldwin from Watford, placed the bands in the following order:

Branch	Faults
EBSB	86
Reading	96
Old North Berks	197
North Bucks	225
Vale of the White Horse	262

Congratulations to the EBSB branch on regaining the trophy in a close contest. Our thanks to the judges and to Alan Ainsworth for making the arrangements.

Ken Davenport

### **Under-Eighteens' Striking Competition**

This year's competition held at Marston on 28 June attracted an entry of six teams, a little disappointing after last year's record of 10 teams. The teams were from Sonning Deanery (two), Bloxham, Wycombe, Bucks and Ducklington.

The competition is informal and several bands borrowed to make up the numbers. The test piece of 120 changes, which all teams successfully completed, ranged from call changes to Bob Doubles. The Sonning 'A' team were placed first, closely followed by Wycombe.

A very enjoyable evening was enjoyed by all. Our thanks to Len Porter for his organisation.

Ken Davenport

### **Guild Bookstall**

The new Guild bookstall is now up and running, and the ringing books currently in stock are listed below. This list is likely to be extended in the new year.

It is intended that the books will be on display and available for purchase at all Guild meetings and training courses. In addition, some of the Guild stewards have a smaller selection of books that they will take to branch meetings and practices, and some branches have their own bookstalls, so please take the opportunity to browse through the books on display. If you cannot get to Guild and Branch meetings yourself, then do ask your branch secretary or tower captain to purchase books for you.

Patricia Newton

Bedside Companion	£14.95	Quarter 500	£3.65
Beginners Handbook	£1.00	Raising & Lowering	£3.45
Bell Club Starter Pack	£5.00	Ringers Exercise book	£0.65
Bob Callers Companion	£14.95	Ringers Handbook	£4.55
Composition 501	£3.85	Ringing Skills	£5.00
Conducting & Coursing Order	£2.85	Schedule for Regular Maintenance	£2.50
Conducting Stedman	£2.00	Standard Methods	£8.00
Diagrams	£4.50	Standard 70	£3.85
Doubles & Minor for Beginners	£2.00	Starting a New Band	£2.75
Follow on Book	£0.65	Touches	£2.50
Listening to Ringing cassette 1	£6.50	Tower Captains Handbook	£2.25
Listening to Ringing Live cass. 2	£8.00	Treble Bob Variations	£1.95
Method Ringers Companion	£14.95	Triples & Major for Beginners	£2.00
Method 300	£3.85	Tutors Handbook	£3.50
One per Learner	£0.65	Will you call a touch, please?	£2.00
One way to Teach Handling	£2.50		

O.D.G. Leaflets (price £0.50 each):

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Ropesplicing (gold)                  | 7. Stedman Doubles & Triples (green)     |
| 2. Bibliography (orange)                | 8. Grandsire Doubles (red)               |
| 3. Plain Hunt & Bob Doubles (grey)      | 9. Bob Calling for Beginners (buff)      |
| 4. Belfry Care & Maintenance (blue)     | 10. Change Ringing on Handbells (purple) |
| 5. How to run a one day course (yellow) | 11. Eight Doubles Methods (brown)        |
| 6. Sound Control (pink)                 | 12b. Surprise Minor part 2 (pale green)  |

### Guild Service Book

Recently I have circulated branch secretaries with specimen examples of what the service book could contain, both ancient and not-so-ancient in terms of prayers and form.

Over the months, Ken Davenport, Peter Akehurst and I have waded through service books, hymn sheets and hymn books, dedication leaflets *et al* and read just about every document the Exercise has ever committed to print. The need now is not more of the same, but for interested parties to set about answering the questions which we have asked on the document in circulation. However, we would like to receive copies of favourite prayers or hymns, perhaps even something original.

At the F&GP meeting in September it was suggested that, rather than produce just one document which could not possibly suit everyone's needs or tastes, we should produce a quantity of material which could be in machine-readable form and leave individuals to make their own selection. If such material was properly indexed there is no limit to the choice which could be made available: indeed, we could continue to add to it *ad infinitum*. Suggestions could also be added for front covers and templates. Hymns, once we had checked for copyright, could also be contributed.

After Christmas we would like to begin to shape the material with a view to producing

sample hard copy. Please may we have any further thoughts and suggestions by then?

Bobbie May

### Listening Seminar

On Saturday, 11 October I attended a Listening Seminar at Bloxham, near Banbury. Eighteen of us enjoyed a most interesting day. We arrived from Slough, Hughenden, Faringdon, and nearby Banbury and Oxford. Ages ranged from 11 years to middle age, with from three months' experience to some years of experience. However, we all listened and learned from a very interesting talk by John Harrison.

We split into three groups and took turns to ring with a simulator, listened to taped bells, listening for mistakes, and correcting mistakes on the computer. I took away notes on 'Listening Skills' and bought a book entitled 'Ringing Skills'. We all chatted freely about our listening problems and I am sure we can now put into practise what we have learned. I for one shall now listen very carefully to those bells at St Mary's, Slough.

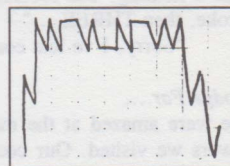
Many thanks to John for such an interesting and listening day; also to Alan for organising the day and to his wife Margaret for a splendid lunch.

Maggie Way

### Easthampstead '97

#### *Mummy's Castles...*

Before I went away my 'fridge door had stickers on it like this: Having, until now, learned Cambridge Major by the blue-line method only, I was encouraged to re-think and re-learn by the place-bell method. We rang Cambridge, Yorkshire, Lincolnshire and Superlative spliced and now I understand why the place-bell learning system will help me. Third's place bell is now a very familiar and welcome landmark.



#### *Snap....*

Bobbie May showed us how to write out the place bells on a pack of cards in order to be able to spend the rest of our lives having a quick 'swot', eg. when standing at the bus stop, by shuffling the pack and trying not to peep at both sides of the turned card....

#### *Elastic....*

Our group felt honoured to ring on the new Langley Marish eight. However, we found it hard to strike well with the brand new ropes.

#### *Falsies - from the sublime...*

One member of our group, Joe Norton, was learning to call spliced and in so doing discovered (courtesy of Tim Pett) that, by an amazing mixture of b. and f. you can get an identical row at handstroke in one lead and at backstroke in another, thus causing falseness. We tried to ring the true touch but he called "Stand!", thinking he had called "Bob!" too late. Alas he had not! In fact, we had stood too soon. Third time lucky.

#### *...to the ridiculous*

The last time I tried to call changes at West Wycombe, I got to Queens and then said "What do I do next?" This time, here on the course each wielding one hand-bell, we get to Queens.

The familiar sensation of total brain-freeze descends like a fog.

"What do I say next?"

"Stand"

"The second best call would have been 'Rounds'!"

Thus it was that 'Rounds' and 'Stand' became our catch-phrase for the remainder of the weekend. Which brings me to my...

*Soap-box....*

I believe learners ought to learn to call changes and to say 'Go' and 'Stop' to plain hunt as soon as they have learned to ring it. So many ringers, like myself, are crippled by this inability to utter 'Go' and 'Stop' even to a plain course, thus rendering useless the utility of a gathering band.

*Of course....*

We had theory lessons in the classroom and also practical sessions in the towers. We were taught about dodging with our course bell and about letting our after-bell go straight through. Well, theory is one thing but putting it into practice is quite another. I for one cannot even see my course bell: therefore I still dodge in the wrong place. But good news! Now I can see the treble, so now I dodge in only about half of the wrong places.

*Dodging the counts....*

Stedman contains double-dodging, but Lincolnshire and Superlative have five dodges. Why do I find it so hard to count to five? The advice I was given was "Take the first hand-stroke. Call it nothing. The second hand-stroke is ONE. Then you count TWO on the third hand-stroke, then THREE...."

"Sorry, I've lost count!" I said to my helper standing behind me.

*Dodge Far....*

We were amazed at the many towers we visited. Our course must have been like arranging 10 outings, or more.

*Dodge Near....*

Our local tower, Easthampstead, was not able to host us for ringing as it is having work done so we were invited, instead, to attend a fund-raiser.

*Serviceable Ringing....*

Our Group 7, Surprise Major, were gutted to discover we were unable to ring a service touch of Plain Bob Minor because of our own incompetence, nerves and shame, having already failed to ring Cambridge Minor. Sorry, Shinfield.

*Blisters, Body, Brain....*

This year I was wise: I tried to hog all the light bells in an effort to avoid blisters. During



*Group 2 students and helpers*



the usual sore-hand comparing sessions, which normally occur during meal-times, we found this year our problem was not blisters but exhaustion of body and mind. We all struggled to keep going to make it worth the effort and expense of being available to attend.

### *Total Immersion....*

Linguists will know the value of spending whole days and nights listening and speaking nothing but the target jargon....

I was not gagged once: nor did I have to suffer football and money.

Eat bells. Sleep bells. Drink Flowers!

### *Help!*

Please may I thank again our helpers. We had so many.

Why do you do it? Is it because you cannot ring alone?

Is it to repay what you yourselves once received? You were so patient and so good,

egging us on, encouraging, whispering, admonishing: each with a special tip that "works for you".



*Handbell ringing*

*l. to r: student Jill Cordell with Helen McGregor and Ken Davenport*

Josie Martin



*Tim Pett's Surprise Major group, plus helpers*

(Josie has gone on to ring a peal of Cambridge Major, but that is another story!)

Rosalind French from Barkham also wrote enthusiastically about the course, planning a return visit next year, thanking all the helpers and referring frequently to 'enormous and delicious' quantities of food at the college. Likewise Margaret Budgen and Anne Walker referred to food, scenery, helpers and fatigue, culminating in brain-death.

So what is new? The course continues to entertain, educate, exhaust and enthrall. It also tends to entice people back again. In the photo-call celebrating the silver jubilee of Easthampstead, how many can you spot who have been there at least 25 times...?

Bobbie May

### **Easthampstead '97 Photograph**

Did you go on the Easthampstead '97 ringing course?

Would you like a copy of the group photo taken on the garden steps at Sunday lunchtime?

If so, please send 75p (coins, PO, cheque or postage stamps all OK) to:

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

### **YOUTH TRAINING DAY**

**Saturday, 4 April 1998**

Based in the East Berkshire/South Buckinghamshire area

**Cost: £8.00**

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

Further details and application forms available from:

Mrs Patricia Newton

The White House, 11 Plowden Park, Aston Rowant, Oxon OX9 5SX

Telephone (01844) 352926

### **Just In Time**

Just-in-time is a mantra for the mass manufacturing industries. The idea is that, rather than keeping large stocks of materials and components (which represent capital tied up), you order them to arrive just before they are needed. Needless to say the Japanese invented the concept. Of course it only works with good planning and communications, and you must have great faith in your suppliers.

What has this got to do with ringing? Ask any organiser of ringing courses, seminars or other events, when people book for them and the answer is probably 'just in time'. Actually that is a cleaned up version of what most organisers are likely to say after teetering on the edge of cancellation, getting very worried and then receiving most of the applications in the last week (or even the day before).

I have noticed this effect with events I have organised over the last few years, both nationally and locally. Why does it happen, and what if anything can we do to make life less nerve-wracking for those who give freely of their time to organise courses for the rest of us? I know the standard answers, about how we are all so busy these days and how modern life offers so many counter attractions, but I am not convinced. I can see that competing events might stop people attending, but are those that do attend really too busy to send off the form or pick up the 'phone until the last minute? Surely the busier you are, the more organised you need to be, and the further ahead you have to plan to fit everything in, not just ringing events.

Perhaps people do not value ringing courses, and put them low on their list of priorities. Such people might wait in the hope that there would be something better to do. But that scarcely fits with the enthusiasm and satisfaction shown by most people attending courses.

Some blame 'modern irresponsible youth' but again the evidence does not fit. Many of those involved are hardly in their youth and they all seem very decent people.

I am led to the conclusion that it is 'ignorance rather than conspiracy'. I am sure that the late-bookers would behave differently if they had ever tried to organise a course. When you have booked halls, tutors, helpers, towers and possibly other equipment, but have too few students for a viable course, you feel very powerless. The prospect of having to cancel looms large and threateningly. It is not just the inconvenience and wasted time. It raises doubts and worries. Should I have advertised earlier, or had more publicity? Did I pick a bad date? Is there no demand for this course?

Of course, in virtually every case, the last minute burst of applications gets you off the hook. You heave a sigh of relief, move into top gear and the course is a success. But is this a sensible way to proceed? Can we do any better? The obvious answer is for all of us, when we see a course advertised and take an interest in it, to act rather than prevaricating (and then possibly forgetting).

For local courses, there is another way, which we have found quite successful in Sonning Deanery. Instead of choosing a date and then hoping people will come, you choose the people and then arrange the date to suit them. Periodically we send a form to each tower listing about a dozen possible courses on most topics you can think of. We invite each tower to state which of their members are interested in which course (with 'phone numbers). The information in the forms is collated into lists for each potential course and given to the nominated tutor who then contacts people on the list to agree a suitable date. This way, when you make the arrangements you know you have the right number attending and can plan accordingly. If there are too many names for one course, then you arrange another one later. If you have too few names, then at least you know before you start to organise anything.

If anyone tries this approach, I would be interested to hear how it goes. We have certainly been able to deliver much more training during the few years since we started to use this approach than we would otherwise. Meanwhile, for the courses that have to be organised in the traditional way, let us all resolve to make the organisers' lives a bit easier by booking well before the deadline.

John Harrison

### **Have You Read It Yet?**

When it was first released in 1981 it was an instant success; hardly surprising as it was part of the general centenary rejoicing of the Guild. At the time, Bill Butler's '100 Years of the Oxford Diocesan Guild' was a best seller; and rightly so though the title, admittedly not the snappiest, is probably a little more deceptive than its insularity suggests.

The history of the ODG is, to a large extent, the history of the ringing Exercise and Bill gives this due space in the first two chapters. The men who made it went on to be some of the foremost players in the world of ringing: he describes the single-mindedness of Robinson, its first Master, and the first man to ring 1000 peals; the genius of Washbrook, who dedicated his life to ringing, taking his talents to Ireland and back to this country in his retirement; Canon Coleridge, who was not only a past-Master of the ODG but one-

time President of the Central Council, and others whose skills in composition, conducting, innovation and penmanship have made their names a by-word for excellence throughout the Exercise. All these characters come alive on the page and the anecdotal style amuses, entertains and informs throughout the 117 pages.

Since its publication, 16 years' worth of new ringers have come into being: for them there is a treat in store. They might have lost touch with the founders of the Guild but their successors are there following on in direct line: newer ringers might be interested to find out about the origins of present established and distinguished ringers.

In his postscript, Bill Butler says "change-ringing has developed to a degree undreamt of by our forefathers". My only frustration with this book is that it stops in 1981! The developments since 1981 have, in many ways, been of a similar order and the promise of the Millennium is causing ringing to break fresh ground at a rapid pace. So Bill, how about several more chapters for the next century?

Bobbie May

*Copies of the book can be obtained from Bobbie May, 4 Halfacre Close, Spencers Wood, Reading RG7 1DZ for £3.00 + p&p.*

### **Banbury**

As usual, quite a lot seems to have been happening at the 'pointed end' of the Guild over the last few months.

I have just been writing the agenda for our half-yearly meeting which will be held at Adderbury on 18 October. It looks as though there will be a good attendance, and when organising these meetings one tends to take for granted all the help which is so readily given by our members, the ladies who cater for us, and the local clergy and organists who give up their time for us. We thank them all.

The bells at Wroxton have now been taken out, prior to being rehung by Brian White and his merry men. We expect the work to be completed early next year, with a dedication in late March. Their near neighbours at Hanwell are still fund-raising, and negotiating with English Heritage.

We have recently hosted two Guild events. The first was the Guild Six-bell striking competition, which was won by Aston Clinton. Our thanks go to Cropredy for acting as hosts and to Bob and Diana Reeves for their organisation. The second was the Listening Seminar at Bloxham. I have spoken to several of the 18 students who attended and they seem to have had a very agreeable and rewarding day. There can be no doubt, however, that the most lasting memory is of Margaret Griffin's catering. Her puddings were quite splendid - this may explain Alan's increasing girth, which has been noticed by the more observant members of the Banbury branch.

Our branch outing this year, again superbly organised by Sue Burchell, was to Bristol, one of the few cities where you can drop off the coach and walk between towers. It was well supported, and it looks as though Sue will be voted into the job again.

Our branch practices have not been as well supported as they might have been over the



last few months - perhaps this has been due to the good weather and other distractions.

We marked the funeral of the Princess of Wales with half-muffled quarter peals at Banbury, Bodicote, Great Tew, Mollington and Steeple Aston.

Ian Rodrick

### **Bicester**

There is quite a lot of activity within the branch at present, so it would seem a good time to report to Odd Bob. There are four Millennium projects which are going ahead:

1. Bicester - augmentation to 10, hopefully in 1998.
2. Bletchington (unringable five) - new frame and fittings, refurbishment/tuning of the bells, plus augmentation to six. The timetable for this project is not yet certain.
3. Charlton-on-Otmoor - it is proposed to tune the ring of five bells and rehang them in new fittings. It is also intended to augment the ring to six, and rehang them in the existing frame. Timetable not yet certain.
4. Souldern - the ring of six bells has been rehung in new fittings in the existing wooden frame by Whites of Appleton. A sound-deadening floor has also been installed. At the time of writing, the bells are awaiting rededication.

The Bicester branch is supporting these projects with grants of £500 per tower. Having allocated £2000 to projects, the branch has embarked on a fund-raising year. On 21 March 1998, an Open Day will be arranged in and around the branch. Another novel idea is that towers are invited to raise their wedding fees by £10 and donate that amount to the branch Bell Restoration Fund.

The branch President, the Rev. John Nixon, is expecting to leave the area by Christmas. Naturally we are sorry to lose his services and company, and everyone will want to wish John well in the new life he expects to start in 1998. A new branch President will be appointed at the AGM on Saturday, 28 February 1998.

Branch members were saddened to hear of the death of Ben de Burgh Sidley, tower captain of Brill for many years. Whilst Ben had not been well of late, nevertheless his death on 2 September at the age of 82 years came unexpectedly. A Service of Thanksgiving for Ben's life was held in Brill Parish Church on 10 September when the church was more than filled. The six bells were rung by six people taught by Ben at Brill. Our condolences are extended to Ben's two daughters and the rest of the family in their sad loss.

The coming year looks like being an exciting time for the Bicester branch and we look forward to the events that are expected to occur in that time.

Richard Stevens

### **Central Bucks**

The branch continues to grow. The branch striking competition was held at Steeple Claydon in June and of the teams that entered Aylesbury won. Following this triumph, the

band from Aylesbury went on to represent the branch at the Guild Striking Competition in October and were pleased to finish eighth. The other striking competition of the year, the Orchard Cup held between the Chiltern and Central Bucks branches, was held at Linslade (where the bells have recently been re-done and are now really quite nice) on 11 October: Aston Clinton won and Aylesbury came a very close second.

The annual Branch Ringing Outing duly took place on 13 September when 42 of us visited the Cotswolds and rang at Great Hampton, Evesham Bell Tower, Badsey, Willersey and Mickleton before descending on an unsuspecting Leamington Spa which has a fine array of Indian curry houses.

Following our invitation to the Guild to the branch for the Festival earlier in the year, we again are pleased to see committee members visit our branch in November for the Guild Committee Meeting. East Claydon have just produced an excellent Bellringers' Recipe Book which is additionally filled with other useful items about bell ringing. It makes an excellent Christmas present - 'phone Jo Osborne for more details.

The branch is also in the process of writing an Internet page for all you surfers who ring bells. This will contain details of all towers in the branch and when they ring, plus other goodies. Look out at the turn of the year or access any hyperlink from the Guild page.

Mark Sellin

### Chiltern

Striking competitions are not the most popular of ringing events. Our branch competition at Marsworth fielded three teams, but one of them was a combined team (therefore non-qualifying in Guild terms). from Cheddington, Marsworth and Mentmore. They simply decided to have a go. Ed. Houghton, the judge, commended them for their very creditable first effort. We hope that more towers will follow their example. The other two teams were Little Missenden (2nd) and Aston Clinton.

Aston Clinton ringers are well-known on the competition circuits. This year they won both the Guild six-bell competition and the Orchard Cup. Congratulations to John White and to all his team. In the latter competition a combined Missenden team came third, and Bledlow and Wendover also took part.

Aston Clinton featured again with a peal of Grandsire Triples rung on 19 July in memory of Mrs Innes White whose death we reported in the last issue. A number of towers also remembered Diana, Princess of Wales, some with quarter peals.

Regrettably we have to announce the cessation of ringing at Slapton. The condition of the bells has not been good for some time and there was little the small community could do about them. The bells were nursed along for as long as possible but they are now declared unringable. What will happen next, nobody can say. Meanwhile we look forward to a busy autumn with a 'Teaching Bell-handling' course at Aston Clinton on 1 November and our annual training day two weeks later.

Mike Davis

## **Chipping Norton**

First, an oversight from the previous edition! Congratulations must go to David and Paula Clarke from Hook Norton on the birth of a grandson and heir on 16 April. A new brew of Hooky was made, called Generation, the young lad (called George) being the sixth generation of the Clarke family. A quarter peal of Grandsire Triples was rung at Hook Norton on 9 May. (I have since heard that George is growing well - perhaps it is the local brew!?)

Hook Norton certainly seems to be in the local news at the moment as three ringers have all scored their first quarter peal. Congratulations go to Sarah Goldthorpe, Diane Grayshon and Louisa White.

At the autumn meeting at Enstone on 6 September, it was decided to try to arrange a branch outing in the spring or early summer of 1998. It is hoped that this will go ahead on 18 April 1998. Three new members were also elected to the Guild: two from Hook Norton and one from Shipton-under-Wychwood.

Two quarter peals were scored in the branch in memory of the Princess of Wales: one (half muffled) on 6 September at Hook Norton, and one at Spelsbury on 8 September rung open in thanksgiving for her life. When the news of her death was announced the bells in the branch were either not rung during the following week or rung half-muffled. Like so many other places, the problems arose the following weekend on the day of her funeral: what to do about weddings? Mutual decisions were reached between the incumbents and the parties concerned in the parishes that had weddings.

There was a very relaxed and enjoyable branch dinner at The Gate Hangs High, Hook Norton on 19 September attended by about 30 branch members and friends. Thanks go to Diane Grayshon for doing the liaising and printing the menus. Ken Wakefield won the bottle of whisky that was being raffled: well done, Ken! The following morning, three branch members (and perhaps two new recruits in a year or two?) joined the Banbury branch coach outing to Bristol. Thank you to Sue Burchell for arranging an excellent day.

Charlbury bells have got some new ropes, with blue and gold sallies, which look very smart and are in keeping with the colour scheme of the new kneelers. At the moment they are naturally rather a handful, to say the least, but hopefully will soon be more manageable.

Best wishes are extended to Ken Wakefield of Spelsbury who recently had a short stay in hospital. It is hoped that he will soon feel fit enough to ring again.

Claire E Tarrant

## **East Berks & South Bucks**

Since I wrote the last report for Odd Bob we have had the branch striking competition, the branch summer social and our half-yearly meeting. In the background of all this our Lorna Newton Knock-out Striking Competition has been quietly going on. But more on that later!

We were disappointed that only two towers entered our Branch Striking Competition in June at Dorney - High Wycombe and Bray. However, not to be down-hearted, our able judges, Roy and Judy Woodruff, adjudicated the competition and placed High Wycombe first

with Bray second. The competition was followed by a tea and then more ringing. Thank you Roy and Judy.

Our Summer Social was held at Cookham and as soon as we entered the tower we were given a Quiz sheet! After some ringing we were entertained in style by the Cookham ringers with an excellent supper followed by games and the answers to the quiz, and antics by Timmy Mallett, one of the Cookham ringers. Thank you Cookham - we, who attended, enjoyed ourselves.

August saw our first Special Practice held at Clewer by the Project Liaison Team. The practice concentrated on Plain Bob and Grandsire Doubles and was considered a success by many who attended especially when you bear in mind this was the first of its kind. It is upon this achievement that we can build to make all future Millennium Practices that much better. The next Millennium Practice is to be held at Chenies in November: all towers will have been advised about this and we hope that some of our members will have attended and gained some valuable experience.

The Joint Meeting with Hillingdon held at Langley on the new eight went very well with a large number of EBSB members turning up - in fact there were more representatives of EBSB than of Hillingdon which was most unusual. Needless to say it didn't help us win the Indoor Cricket Trophy! A fish and chip supper and some scrumptious 'puds' were organised by the Langley ringers. Thank you Langley!

On Saturday, 25 October we held our Half-Yearly Meeting and the Lorna Newton Knock-out Striking Competition Final at Chalfont St Peter. The way the knock-out worked this year meant that we had only three finalists and up until the last week or so one of those was unsure whether they could muster a team. However, when the day dawned our judges, David and Gill Joyce, judged the three teams and faults given were as follows: High Wycombe 75½, Lane End 62½ and Langley 73½. Therefore the Lorna Newton Cup was awarded to Lane End. Tracy Rice, grand-daughter of Percy Newton, who died earlier this year, and Lorna Newton, not only presented the cup to the winners but also provided and presented a runners-up cup to Langley. This was the first time this cup had been awarded. Congratulations to Lane End and Langley - well done.

Because at one stage the officers were afraid that only two teams might be competing, it was decided that an Inter-Branch Fun Competition would be arranged. Both Reading and Chiltern entered a team and David and Gill judged this competition as well. The marking was: Reading 68½ faults, EBSB 87 faults and Chiltern 160½ faults. A Giant Cookie was awarded to Reading branch as winners. Our thanks go to all the towers that entered into the spirit of the knock-out competition which has been on-going since February, the Reading and Chiltern Branches for competing in the Fun Competition on the day, David and Gill Joyce for judging the competitions and last, but by no means least, the Chalfont St Peter ringers for their hospitality.

Jane Payne

### **Newbury**

In common with just about everyone else, the towers of Newbury branch started Sunday, 31 August with half-muffled ringing, tolling and/or whole-pull-and-stand, then continued with the bells muffled throughout the week. All the towers that could marked Saturday, 6



September with half-muffled ringing of one form or another, including a peal and several quarter-peals (and, unlike a certain tower in London, we got ours...).

The day that Lady Diana's death was announced was, in a sad way, rewarding for ringers. In my own parish, three people (including two non-church persons) have since said: "The bells sounded different that morning; I wondered why. Then I turned on the radio". Several towers in the branch have similar stories. I say 'rewarding' because, after all, bells and their attendant ringers are there to announce the news to the parish: clearly, we did so.

Incidentally I wonder how many of us were caught with our bells *up* because of a wedding or visiting ringers the previous day? And then went and put the muffles on with the bells up? I have to admit that we did so in my home tower, and I know of at least one senior Guild officer who did so. It's not a good idea, particularly with a full-height frame. I am reminded of the story of a tower captain in the Chew Valley who tried to grease the tenor clapper with the bells up, from the top of an 'A' frame, and ended up head-down inside the bell. Fortunately it was a heavy bell; fortunately it was deep-set; and fortunately the visiting band heard his cries for help before they pulled off.

We were pleased to see the letter in *The Ringing World* about ringing just after the muffles have been taken off, when the first few backstrokes sound as though they are still muffled. A number of people in this branch commented on that - we thought that we were all hearing things. This has to be something psychological, rather than physical, surely?

October 11th was the Newbury Branch AGM, which this year was held at St Mary the Virgin, Chieveley. We have to thank Nicki Bland for taking the service and preaching a wonderful sermon (the final sentence of which was: "Would you invite people to a party, then not turn up yourself?"), Mrs Vi Webber for playing the organ, and to Pat and Janet Brown who provided the most excellent tea.

At the AGM, there were two changes in the line-up of officers:

- we have had two Ringing Masters in this banch, one of whom also edited and distributed the branch newsletter. The situation has been clarified, so that Adam Rae-Smith is now the Ringing Master, and Richard Marshall is now our full-time Newsletter Editor,
- Mrs Helen Groves, our branch Treasurer, expressed a wish to stand down. Mr Rod Brown was elected unanimously to take her place. Our thanks go to Helen for all the work that she has done over the last two years, and our sympathy to Rod, who was in the right place at the wrong time, or the wrong place at the right time. Rod says that he will never volunteer his tower for a branch AGM ever again.

Finally two people from this branch have recently attended the "Teaching Bell-Handling" course. It is thoroughly to be recommended for both novices and experienced teachers. For novices, the course will give one the confidence that one needs; for experienced teachers, it will help one *not* to pass on one's own ringing faults. If you get that chance to go on this course, *do* so. It is better than watching the Central Council video, and it's cheaper too. You get to see learners, who've not seen a bell before, ringing rounds by the end of the day. You also get to share your French fries with the Guild Master and the Chairman of the Towers and Belfries Committee at lunchtime. Thanks, publicly, to all who are involved in that course. I have been instructed *not* to mention any of the jokes told over lunch.

Dave Smith

## North Bucks

At the end of July we retained the Inter-Guild trophy in our annual competition against the Towcester Branch and won the George Holland Stedman trophy for the first time since this was introduced two years ago.

This was the 10th anniversary of this inter-branch competition. In the 10 years, the Towcester Branch has won the trophy six times and the North Bucks Branch has won it four times. With two wins in a row, we are coming back from the 6-2 down position of three years ago. The competition is never that intense; this is just an excuse to get together and socialise with our neighbours.

We went ahead with our quarterly meeting on 6 September at Great Brickhill after due consideration of the events of the previous week and with the support of the vicar. At the service, the vicar took as his theme Romans, chapter 12, verse 15 - 'Rejoice with those that rejoice; mourn with those that mourn' - particularly as he had just come from conducting a wedding at one of his other churches. He thought this an appropriate text for our activities of the day.

At the meeting we had to fill two vacancies in our branch committee - treasurer and newsletter editor. David and Rosa Bardwell had moved away at short notice. Sheila Ware and Nicki King agreed to take over until the AGM. Our thanks to David and Rosa for their hard work for the branch, and also to Sheila and Nicki for taking over at short notice.

The evening ringing was concluded by an *in memoriam* quarter peal on the half-muffled bells by a representative branch band.

Helen Stanworth

## Old North Berks

Afternoon ringing at Childrey and Sparsholt was followed by an evening social at the British Legion Hall at East Challow on 5 July where the branch enjoyed a superb barbecue cooked by Bernard Stone. The first really hot sunny day for several weeks completed the enjoyment. The following Saturday was Guild Festival Day when the team entered by the branch competed in the ten-bell competition at Amersham and managed to gain third place.

After the quiet of the summer months, the next event was the Half-Yearly Meeting which was held at East Hagbourne on 20 September. At the meeting, which followed Evensong and a splendid tea in the church, the discussion centred on the Guild Millennium Project and the contribution of the branch. It was soon clear that quite a lot of effort was being put in by branch members in giving ringing instruction to learners throughout the branch. Jon Chamberlain has been, and is to continue, tutoring at a series of lessons at several churches in the branch. The Appleford team of beginners has now started Sunday service ringing and continue to be taught by Colin Turner and Nicola Crighton with help from Jon Chamberlain, Barbara and Peter Day, Nick Clarke, Jill and Cliff Garlick and others.

A grant of £35 was made by the branch as a contribution towards new ground pulleys at Appleford church. Anne Johnson and Reg Sidlow from Abingdon (St Helens) were elected as Guild members at the meeting.

The response to the death of Diana, Princess of Wales on Sunday, 31 August varied throughout the branch. Some towers rang half-muffled for the Sunday morning service, some rang open and some decided not to ring at all. During the following week, however, many half-muffled quarter peals were rung.

October was time for the Guild six-bell competition at Cropredy and the branch team from Appleton came in fourth place out of eight teams competing. The next forthcoming event will be an evening branch social at Radley. A relaxed evening of ringing and entertainment will take place.

Peter Starling

### **Oxford City**

On Saturday, 11 October the City branch had its first branch outing for several years. We used the opportunity to ring at St Thomas's, Oxford, as many branch members had never rung on the new ten (or any ten at all). We persuaded some experienced 10-bell ringers to join us for the hour and the result was very satisfying for everyone.

Kidlington ringers were able to join us for the rest of the afternoon, having fulfilled their wedding commitments, and in heavy rain we went to Northleigh, Ducklington and Burford. Twenty of us then had a meal in a pub just outside Burford: it was decided that it had been far too long since we had arranged such an event and the same Saturday in October was pencilled into diaries for 1998.

Earlier in the summer, Marston and Horspath had arranged their own outing to Whitechapel bell foundry and four London towers. Marston continue to ring quarters regularly for a variety of events and have organised an evening of bell ringing tuition for the Church Youth Group which they hope will have led to encouraging some Millennium recruits. Kidlington are also busy teaching learners. They, like Marston, rang half-muffled for Diana, Princess of Wales; for two of their young ringers it was a 'first' - Lynn ringing her first quarter on the treble and Rachel her first inside. There was a full band at Kidlington on the day of the Princess's funeral. The Rev. Graham Smith will be leaving Kidlington for a new parish in Leeds; a quarter will be rung to bid him farewell.

St Aldate's practices continue on the second and fourth Mondays of the month; there are three new 'London' ringers as a result and more ringers are welcome if they want to extend their expertise beyond plain methods. We are now learning to splice London and Cambridge and will work on Norwich next.

The summer months have seen the passing of two respected City branch ringers, Philip Walker and Wilfrid Godwin. Wilf was a loyal member of Wolvercote where he had lived, worshipped and rung for many years with his wife Margaret.

Philip's funeral service was held in St Giles' and a half-muffled quarter was rung beforehand. The City branch and the Guild were well represented at the service with the banner being carried in procession by City branch chairman, David Lane. Philip has left a huge amount of information about Oxford's bells and their history which is being carefully sorted and stored according to his wishes.

Katie Lane

## Reading

A lot seems to have happened in the Reading branch since writing my last article.

*Monthly practices:* The May meeting at Streatley was well attended and a good range of methods was rung. In June there was an excellent turnout at the Checkendon practice and we were pleased to have David Dickens, the local tower captain, with us for the evening. There were rounds and call changes through to a touch of spliced surprise major. In July we were at Padworth - a new tower for many of us - and it was nice to have the Rev. Ellis with us for part of the practice. The church is in a rather remote but delightful setting; such a shame the bells are not rung more regularly. During the evening we rang rounds and call changes through to London and Norwich surprise, and spliced Doubles which kept us on our toes. The August evening was very hot and the practice well attended: I think everyone enjoyed their ringing.

*Lower Basildon* has a redundant church with four ringable bells. The parishioners requested to have occasional services and it was agreed that they could have four services during the summer months. We agreed to ring for these early morning services: there is no electricity supply to the church, and the ringing room is dark even in daylight hours, so Derek Askew rigged up a bulb operated from a car battery which helped considerably when we were ringing. On the last of the four Sundays, the treble rope broke. The ropes are in a poor state and all need to be replaced in the near future.

*Courses:* At the beginning of August, Cyril Crouch ran a very successful and enjoyable four-day course for young people. They ranged from absolute beginners to one learning Kent TB Minor. In addition to the practical ringing on various tower bells, they experienced ringing tunes and methods on hand bells; learning about bells and churches through demonstrations and quizzes; and there was an interesting session on a simulator, computer games and a model bell. On 9 August, John Wells and Len Palfrey ran a one-day course for the teaching of bell handling. John was advising and instructing four competent ringers on the art of teaching basic bell handling. Each learner had a raw recruit to teach under John's watchful eye. All seemed to enjoy their day and gained from their experiences. We hope to be able to retain these recruits and look forward to monitoring their progress.

The ringing masters are trying to organise quarter peals to take place before the higher-number practices on the last Friday of the month. Several have already been successful: we hope this will continue as it gives people who do not regularly ring on 10 or 12 bells a valuable opportunity to develop their ringing skills.

All members of the branch were shocked and distressed by the news of the sudden, tragic death of Diana, Princess of Wales. The 20 branch towers with ringable bells and ringers to ring them observed this sad occasion in different ways: five rang half-muffled quarter peals either the day before or on the day of the funeral (another attempt was aborted because the muffles came off); seven rang half-muffled either for practice or services; two quarter peals were rung open on Sunday, 7 September in celebration of her life and five towers remained silent throughout the week of mourning.

The six-bell striking competition was scheduled for Saturday, 6 September but, as a mark of respect, was postponed to 20 September. Originally eight teams were entered in the competition, but two had to withdraw because of the change of date. The team from



Tilehurst accumulated the least number of faults and so went on to represent our branch in the Guild competition.

The Easthampstead course used eight of the Reading branch towers this year and to my knowledge at least 15 branch members worked as tutors or helpers during the three-day course: many thanks to them all. The annual outing took place on 11 October. This year 32 of us went to the Cotswold area and despite it being a rather wet day I think it was an enjoyable success.

Rosemary Morgan

### Sonning Deanery

Binfield bells were rededicated on 22 July at a service taken by the Rev. Owen Blatchly, former Rector of Binfield. After the service the ringers present were able to try the newly rehung bells. Binfield ringers would like to thank everyone who supported the rehanging. Easthampstead bells remain unringable. Since death watch beetle was found in the frame in March, a decision has yet to be made on how best to repair the frame. Several fund-raising efforts are under way. After the recent rehanging, ringing continues to flourish at Barkham where several new ringers are being trained.

In July the ringers of Waltham St Lawrence said farewell to Anne Yates who has gone to live permanently on the Isle of Wight. Anne had been a ringer at Waltham St Lawrence for nearly 50 years, with many years as tower captain. The new tower captain at Waltham is Derek Titford and the ringing time for Sunday services has changed: until Easter 1998 it will be 9.30-10.00 am. In June, Sonning ringers organised a Ringers & Singers concert at Sonning BlueCoat School. The ringers were the Coventry Handbell Ringers (a team of 10 teenagers) from a high school in Charlotte, North Carolina with their musical director Robert Ivey. Sonning was the last engagement of a 10-concert tour of Britain, including Dunblane Cathedral and St Paul's Cathedral. The musical repertoire extended from Handel and Mozart to Andrew Lloyd Webber and spirituals all played with great skill on a five-octave set of 61 Malmark handbells.

In July, Shottesbrooke ringers rang a quarter peal to say farewell to the Rev. Tony Coulson and his wife Virginia who is a ringer at Shottesbrooke; a farewell peal was also rung. Also in July, Wokingham (All Saints) ringers enjoyed an outing to north-east Somerset where they rang at six towers including Ditchat.

The eight-bell striking competition was won by Wokingham (All Saints). Many thanks to John Wells for judging it. It was decided to try holding the striking competition in the early evening for a trial period to see if clashes with the many weddings could be avoided. Congratulations to the two teams from the Sonning Deanery that took 1st and 3rd places in the under-18 striking competition at Marston in June.

A half-muffled peal was rung at Finchampstead in memory of Diana, Princess of Wales. This was the first attempt for Rosalind French (aged 13) who rang the treble and Loren Clifton (aged 10) who rang the second. Eleven half-muffled quarters were rung throughout the branch.

Pam Elliston

## South Oxon

Branch practices have been well attended over the summer and we continue with Surprise Minor and Basic Triples practices on alternate months. Many towers have new recruits, and 10 of our members were fortunate enough to attend the bell-handling course in June which has increased the confidence of many. Tina Ruff and "Merrie Many" continue to ring quarters most weeks, giving people the chance to consolidate methods and try out new ones. This summer, for the first time, there was a "youngsters' morning" enjoyed by four 11-14 year olds with ringing at two towers - hopefully it will be repeated. Many of them are working for badges under the Sherbourne scheme - Michelle Ambrose, Alex Gray and Tom Richards have their blue, and Emily Rogers has her green.

An all-lady band rang Stedman/Grandsire/Plain Bob at Berrick Salome in June as a 60th birthday compliment to Glenys Gray, and a quarter of Grandsire and Plain Bob was rung at Cuddesdon at the end of May as a farewell compliment to Paul Hutchinson. (A similar attempt at Drayton St Leonard on 1 June was mis-called, but the intention was there!) Individual achievements have included a first of Bob Doubles inside for Patrick Hingley of Great Milton, and a first of Bob Minor inside for Kay Bartholomew; first of Stedman Doubles for Jeanette Barrington and Olive Lawrence at Berrick Salome; and firsts of Beverley and Surfleet Surprise Minor, and Little Bob Royal, for Sue Dyke and Kay Tuckwell. The quarter of Kent TB Major at Benson in July was Brian Gray's first inside, and Olive Lawrence's first on treble.

Emily Rogers rang the treble to her first quarter, of Grandsire Doubles, at Great Haseley on 24 July, her 11th birthday. Andrew Tawn and Christopher Rogers from Drayton St Leonard were joined by Fred Keen and Meg Way, and the quarter was conducted by John Apsley who even slipped in an extra 120 to make sure! Incidentally Fred and John both rang in the first quarters by Emily's parents. Sue Dyke and Kay Tuckwell rang their first quarter of Norwich Surprise Minor at Shabbington in August. Christopher Rogers rang his first of Stedman for his 40th birthday; and Drayton St Leonard ringers, with help from Sue Dyke, rang a quarter of Grandsire to celebrate the wedding of Donna and David Watkin.

Warborough launched its appeal for the refurbishment of the bells in April with a very successful cheese and wine party at which Brian White gave a talk, with slides, on bell hanging to an audience of about 60. They have been running a sponsored sunflower grow over the summer, and nearly two-thirds of the £7500 needed has been raised.

Like everyone else, our branch ended the summer with half-muffled ringing for the Princess of Wales - most towers rang something different to reflect the sombre mood. Quarters were rung at Great Haseley, Aston Rowant, Wheatley, Ewelme and Chalgrove.

Hilarie Rogers

## Vale of the White Horse

No more eggs or honey!

A forward thinking branch, the Vale of White Horse Branch! At the beginning of the year, we decided to arrange a social event for the summer. In January, a barbecue on the evening of the longest day seemed a good idea. How were we to know that it would be windy, cold and drizzly? However, while the weather may have been miserable, the ringers

and their friends were not and we had a good evening out. Tony cooked the food in the pub garden, we had all supplied a 'something' towards the food and Gordon's band entertained us until they were rained off. The highlight of the evening for the (very much) younger members of the gathering was the empty dogs kennel and adjoining cage in the garden. At one stage most of the children had locked themselves in and were being fed through the cage with carrot and celery sticks. Takes all sorts!

Ringling-wise the branch has been busy through the summer with the Greenley Shield striking competition at Hinton Waldrist in June (six bands, won by Shrivenham 'A'), a coach outing to the Tewkesbury area in July; the Guild 10 bell striking contest at Amersham the following weekend and the Guild 6-bell striking contest in October. The branch Autumn meeting at Ashbury in September was also well supported and we were pleased to see three Guild officers joining us. Unfortunately the Autumn outing in October was rather less well supported with only nine ringers. Could the constant downpour of rain from morning to night have put anyone off perhaps? However the nine that braved it had a very enjoyable afternoon's ringing - thank-you Deddington, Sandford St. Martin, Great Tew and Enstone. Congratulations go to Emily Crowder who rang her first peal in July, and to Mark Couves and Gwilym Phillips who rang their first quarter peals in the summer.

As with most ringers in the country, much half-muffled ringing took place at the end of August and beginning of September to mark the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. Many of our towers managed to ring half-muffled on the Sunday morning, again in common with many other towers, it being the first hint that many people had of the news. Six of our eight ringable towers were able to ring quarter peals the following weekend.

On Sunday 19 October, several branch ringers were able to join the villagers of Buscot in welcoming their 'new' bell into the parish church. As has been reported in *The Ringing World*, the medieval bell has been purchased from the redundant church in Woolverton, Somerset and happens to be an excellent match for the three, currently unringable, medieval bells at Buscot which is right in the corner of the Guild's boundaries at the border with Gloucestershire. Local support for the project is excellent and, despite not being a suitable project for Millennium funding, the team has not been too downhearted and is hoping that the medieval bells and the use of the existing frame will make the project ideal for Heritage funding. Shellingford and Longcot are eagerly awaiting inspections from the Millennium architect; we hope it will be good news as the projects are all ready to go ahead ... if sufficient funding can be made available. The news at Great Coxwell is bad .... but good we hope. The bells have been declared unringable by the Diocesan Bell Adviser - but at least it now appears that the problem has been located and, hence, can be solved. Finally at Longworth it appears that the situation may not be as bad as had been feared and the new vicar of the parish is keen that something should be done!

And finally, back to the headline .... the branch was very sorry to bid farewell to Janet and Craig Julian who, after learning to ring at Ashbury four years ago, emigrated to Australia in September. Their enthusiasm and support of branch events will be greatly missed - as will their kind donations of eggs or honey to almost every branch raffle. We wish them happiness in their new home.

Jackie O'Hagan

## Witney and Woodstock

There were eight teams entered for the branch striking competition in June this year. This was held at Langford where the bells, following a recent overhaul, were a pleasure to ring. Four towers entered teams in the method ringing competition (the winners receiving the branch trophy), and four teams entered for the call-changes competition where the winning team successfully defended the Langford Shield - just! A Branch Officers' team was also entered (not to be placed, of course), ringing Plain Bob Minor with interesting results. Simon Cole very kindly agreed to judge the competition, having to recount both sessions, and we were very grateful to him for his help and useful comments.

The standard of ringing was very good. Thank you to all the participants, especially those ringing in the competition for the first time who hopefully enjoyed the experience. The results were as follows:

Method ringing			Call changes		
		Faults			Faults
1st	Bampton	12	1st	Stonesfield	25
2nd	Ducklington	22	2nd	Bampton	25.5
3rd	Stonesfield	22.5	3rd	Woodstock	30
4th	Woodstock	30.5	4th	Ducklington	52.5

The branch practice the following month was held at Bampton and had a wonderful turnout with a good evening's ringing. It is encouraging to see so many enthusiastic learners. The branch has held four advanced practices since June which have proved reasonably popular. Plain Bob Major, Cambridge Surprise Major and Yorkshire Surprise Major were all rung at the first practice at Witney. These were followed by Cambridge Surprise Minor and Norwich Surprise Minor at Northmoor, Plain Bob Minor and Kent TB Minor at Church Hanborough and Plain Bob Triples and Major, and Stedman Triples, at Woodstock.

Unfortunately the branch outing this year had to be cancelled because of the lack of ringers; however, a hastily arranged practice was held at Wooton and was very well attended. A few of our towers organised their own successful outings.

Most of our towers rang half-muffled as a mark of respect for Diana, Princess of Wales. Ducklington successfully rang a quarter peal which included Princess of Wales Surprise Minor.

Anthony Cole has been to both of the branch's unringable towers, each of which has five bells, to inspect the bells and to find out the possibilities of making them ringable again. The two towers concerned are Black Bourton and Broadwell. More details will be in the next Newsletter.

Lorna Smale



## Points From Peals

Peals were rung at Hughenden and East Ilsley in memory of Percy Newton. Percy died on 21st June at the age of 92. He rang 359 peals in total. A peal was rung in memory of Innes F White, lifelong ringer and chorister at Aston Clinton who died on 18 May.

Geoff Dodd has rung 2,800 peals and also his 1,000th peal as conductor. Richard Stevens has rung 200 peals for the Guild and also recently rang his 600th peal. Alan Ainsworth has rung 100 peals of Stedman Cinques and Robert Newton has conducted his first of Stedman Cinques. Colin Turner rang his 2,000th peal for the Guild (at Thatcham) - he has now rung 1,000th different tenors to a peal, all turned-in. Tim Pett has rung 1,500 peals. Robert Newton and Alan Ainsworth have rung 250 peals together.

Claire Castle has rung her first peal (Luton Surprise Royal at Amersham). Also, Tasmin Lane rang her first peal at Northchurch and Nicola Hibbert rang her first peal at East Ilsley.

Rosalind French and Loren Clifton have both rung their first peal (at Finchampstead); it was half-muffled in memory of Diana, Princess of Wales. The first peal on the five bells at Turville was rung - it was the first peal for Helen Mills.

Graham and Katharine Firman made a rare appearance in the handbell peal columns by ringing a peal of Bristol Surprise Maximus to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the first handbell peal of Bristol Maximus. Bernard Groves, David Moore and Robert Newton rang in both peals. The peal 25 years ago also included Jenny Town, Chris Rowson (Anne Carpenter's brother) and Jim Diserens.

A peal at Garsington was rung as a Golden Wedding anniversary compliment to Basil and Rose Townsend, the local tower captain. A peal at High Wycombe was rung to celebrate the Ruby Wedding Anniversary of Rex and Anne Agg. A peal at Hughenden marked the 30th wedding anniversary of Joyce and David Cornwall. A peal was specially arranged and rung at Maids Moreton on the 9th June as a wedding anniversary compliment to the tower captain, David Goodyer and his wife Sheila.

Claire Edwards has been ringing some more 12 bell tenors to peals. One of the most recent ones was the 31cwt. tenor at Great Yarmouth to Bristol Maximus.

Lloyd Cartwright has rung his first peal of Belfast Surprise Major. Congratulations - this is no easy method!

A peal at Sunningwell was specially arranged and rung as an 88th birthday compliment to Marie Cross. David Moore and Robert Newton were both 50 years' old recently. Peals, of course, were rung to congratulate them.

Paul Coad rang his 50th peal - his first for 23 years. It was the first peal on the six bells at Uffington and first there for 39 years.

A peal was rung at Heather, Leicestershire as a compliment to David Taylor, churchwarden and former ringer at this church, on becoming MP for NW Leicestershire.

Bill Butler has circled the tower at Thatcham 45 times in 450 peals. This surely must be

some sort of record. Bill has also been conducting a number of handbell peals at his house recently with his band of OAPs! A peal of Erin Caters at Thatcham was specially arranged as a 21st birthday compliment to Erin May. Congratulations to Mark Ainsworth from Amersham who gained a First Class Honours Degree from Oxford University - a peal at Thatcham marked this achievement.

A peal at Reading was rung as a farewell compliment to Jane Deadman leaving to live in Sussex.

A peal at Amersham was rung as a compliment to Reverend Caroline J Windley, MA, ordained in Worcester Cathedral on St Peter's Day, to serve her title in the parish of St George's Kidderminster, in the District of Wyre Forest. The Revd Anthony Ellis has now rung a peal on every bell in his three parishes of St Mary's and St John's, Stratfield Mortimer, and Padworth.

A peal at High Wycombe was rung as a pre-wedding compliment to Andrew Morley (SUGCR and local ringer) and Debbie Simister. A wedding compliment to Chris Mundy and Kaye Platt was rung at St. Mary's Reading. Tim Pett conducted a peal at Lapworth as a compliment to Nick Clarke and Debbie Greenfield on their recent engagement.

The first peal on the recently installed mini-ring of bells at Anne Carpenter's house was rung on 26 July. The ring is called The Coleridge Campanile and the tenor weighs just 10 pounds! (The Peal Secretary's 6 year old daughter has grabbed the tower!) A compliment to Jack Edward Page, son of Jenny Carter & Trevor Page, born on 29 July was rung on The Coleridge Campanile.

I mentioned in my last 'Points from Peals' the footnote to a peal at Finchampstead that said the 'striking was measured at 77%'. I have now had a chance to visit the tower and I have seen Mike Pickup's computer in action. It has been programmed to measure how good the striking has been for any touch or peal, and can even report on the accuracy of specific bells. Perhaps the Guild should insist on every peal rung there having the striking accuracy reported in *The Ringing World*!

Graham Firman, Peal Secretary

## **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

<b>Master</b>	Mr E John Wells	15 Lytham End, Tilehurst, Reading, Berks RG31 6FG (0118 941 0061)
<b>Deputy Master</b>	Mr Ken R Davenport	47 Brookside, Wokingham, Berks RG41 2ST (0118 978 6554)
<b>General Secretary</b>	Mr Barry W M Cowper	Avondale, 45 Longfield Drive, Amersham, Bucks HP6 5HE (01494 725566)
<b>General Treasurer</b>	Mr Brian J Gatward	Grangewood, Mill Lane, Calcot, Reading, Berks RG11 7RS (0118 941 3097)
<b>Assistant Treasurer</b>	Mr Terry Wagstaff	6 Firs Close, Whitchurch, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 4LH (01296 641755)
<b>Librarian</b>	Mr Philip G Brown	Lucketts, Clay Bank, Hook Norton, Banbury, Oxon OX15 5PA (01608 732707)
<b>Report Editor</b>	Mr John F Payne	53 Walker Road, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 2QU (01628 624490)
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Mr A Rex Agg	25 Wilton Road, Beaconsfield, Bucks HP9 2DE (01494 675517)
<b>Peal Secretary</b>	Mr Graham G Firman	7 Laburnham Road, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 4DB (01628 636484)
<b>Public Relations Officer</b>	Mrs Bobbie May	4 Halfacre Close, Spencers Wood, Reading, Berks RG7 1DZ (0118 988 4172)
<b>Membership Secretary</b>	Mr Stephen Murrell	The Old Chapel, Salford, Chipping Norton, Oxon (01608 645303)

<b>Guild Stewards</b>	Mrs Sally Austin	16 Austins Way, Hook Norton, Oxon OX15 5LQ (Banbury, Chipping Norton, Witney & Woodstock)
	Mr N Jim Diserens	10 Queens Avenue, Wallingford, Oxon (Sonning, Reading, Newbury) OX10 0NB (01491 824504)
	Mr Simon Cole	83 Bristol Road, Bicester, Oxon OX6 7TH (Bicester, Oxford City, South Oxon) (01869 247525)
	Mr David M Joyce	4 Woad Lane, Great Linford Village, Milton Keynes, Bucks MK14 5HE (North Bucks, Central Bucks, Chiltern) (01908 667025)
	Mr Colin Fowles	127 Meadfield Road, Langley, Slough, Berks SL3 (EBSB, V of the WH, Old North Berks) 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, Plowden Park, Aston Rowant, Watlington, Oxon OX9 5SX (01844 352926)
Mr Ken R Davenport	(see Guild Deputy Master)

#### **Guild Trustees**

Mr W (Bill) Butler	(see Central Council Representatives)
Mr Derek Fowles	10 Lynden Close, Holyport, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 2LB (01628 629538)
Mr T Geoff Holden	Crispins, East End, North Leigh, Witney, Oxon OX8 6PX (01993 881 624)

#### **Financial information**

<b>Subscriptions</b>	Resident members	£5.50 per annum
	Non-resident life members	£5.50
<b>Peal fees</b>	30p per person per peal	
<b>Annual report</b>	£2.50 + 50p packing and postage	
<b>Badges</b>	£1.50 each	
<b>Guild History</b>	£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, Aylebury, 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 Jane Payne	53 Walker Road, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 2QU (01628 624490)
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 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 Knotts Oaks, Combe, Oxon OX8 8PJ (01993 891721)

#### Education sub-committee

Chairman	Mrs Patricia M Newton	<i>(see Central Council Representatives)</i>
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	<i>(see Guild Master)</i>
	Mrs Bobbie May	<i>(see Public Relations Officer)</i>
	Mr Simon Cole	<i>(see Guild Stewards)</i>
	Mr John A Harrison	<i>(see Central Council Representatives)</i>

#### 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 &amp; 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 <i>Guild Master</i> )
*	Mr Barry W M Cowper	(see <i>Guild Secretary</i> )
*	Mr Brian J Gatward	(see <i>General Treasurer</i> )

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 1997-98**

*	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

#### **NOVEMBER 1997**

Sat	22	Guild	Autumn general committee meeting - Steeple Claydon		
-----	----	-------	---	--	--

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	Banbury	BP	Banbury	7.30 - 9.00
Wed	3	Chiltern	AP	Great Missenden	7.45 - 9.00
Thu	4	Banbury	BP	Lower Heyford	7.30 - 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
Fri	12	Old North Berks	BP	Marcham	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	13	Central Bucks	BP	Haddenham	6.30 - 8.30
Sat	13	EBSB	BP	Old Windsor - also social	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	13	Reading	BP	Reading, St Giles	
Sat	13	Witney & Woodst.	BP	Witney	7.30 - 9.00
Fri	19	North Bucks	BP	Lavendon (Ipswich S. Minor)	7.30
Sat	20	South Oxon	BP	Thame	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	20	Chiltern	BP	Aston Clinton	7.00 - 9.00
Fri	26	Banbury	BP	Deddington	10.30-noon
Sat	27	EBSB		Post-Christmas social and ringing	

## 1998

### JANUARY

Thur	1	Banbury	BP	Banbury	10.30-noon
Thur	1	Old North Berks		East Hendred - New Years Day	11.00-noon
Wed	7	Banbury	BP	Banbury	7.30 - 9.00
Fri	9	Banbury	BP	Bloxham	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	10	Central Bucks	BP	Bierton	6.30 - 8.30
Sat	10	EBSB	AP	Stoke Poges (Stedman Triples)	
Sat	10	Witney & Woodst.	BP	Yarnton	7.30 - 9.00
Wed	14	Old North Berks	BP	West Hanney	7.30 - 9.00
Fri	16	North Bucks	BP	Buckingham (Stedman Triples)	7.30
Sat	24	EBSB	BP	Wraysbury	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	24	South Oxon	BP	Dorchester	7.00 - 9.00
Mon	26	Witney & Woodst.	AP	Eynsham	7.30 - 9.00

### FEBRUARY

Wed	4	Banbury	BP	Banbury	7.30 - 9.00
Wed	11	Banbury	BP	Mollington	7.30 - 9.00
Wed	11	Old North Berks	BP	Cumnor	7.30 - 9.00
Fri	13	Banbury		Branch Dinner	
Sat	14	Central Bucks	AG	Aylesbury	
Sat	14	EBSB	EP	Fulmer*	
Sat	14	Witney & Woodst.	AG	North Leigh	6.00 - 9.00
Fri	20	North Bucks	BP	Stoke Goldington (Little Bob Minor)	7.30
Fri	20	EBSB		Half-term outing	
Mon	23	Witney & Woodst.	AP	Ducklington	7.00 - 8.30
Sat	28	EBSB	BP	Bray (with Committee Meeting)	
Sat	28	South Oxon	BP	Wheatley	7.00 - 9.00

### MARCH

Wed	4	Banbury	BP	Banbury	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	7	<b>Guild</b>		<b>Spring general committee meeting - Oxford City</b>	
Sat	7	North Bucks	AG	Tyringham/Newport Pagnell	3.00
Tues	10	Banbury	BP	Steeple Aston	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	14	Central Bucks	BP	Winslow*	
Sat	14	Old North Berks	AG	Abingdon	5.00 - 8.00
Sat	14	Witney & Woodst.	BP	Wooton	7.30 - 9.00
Fri	20	North Bucks	BP	Downs Barn (Lincolnshire S. Major)	7.30
Sat	28	EBSB	BP	Burnham*	
Sat	28	South Oxon	BP	Aston Rowant	7.00 - 9.00

### APRIL

Wed	1	Banbury	BP	Banbury	7.30 - 9.00
Thur	2	Witney & Woodst.	AP	Bampton	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	4	<b>Guild</b>		<b>Youth Day* - EBSB branch</b>	

Sat	11	Guild		<b>Handbell Day - Reading</b>	
Sat	18	Banbury	AG	Wroxton	3.00
Sat	18	Central Bucks	BP	Dinton*	
Sat	18	Witney & Woodst.	BP	Standlake	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	25	Guild		<b>Radley Course - Old North Berks branch</b>	
Sat	25	EBSB	AG	Chalfont St Giles*	
Sat	25	South Oxon	AG	to be arranged	2.30
Thur	30	Witney & Woodst.	AP	Church Hanborough	7.30 - 9.00
<b>MAY</b>					
Mon	4	Guild	SC	<b>Ringling day &amp; eight-bell competition - EBSB</b>	
Wed	6	Banbury	BP	Banbury	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	9	Central Bucks	BP	Little Horwood/Great Horwood*	
Sat	9	EBSB	EP	Winkfield	
Mon	11	Banbury	BP	Bodicote	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	16	Guild	AG	<b>Chipping Norton branch</b>	
Sat	23	EBSB	BP	Boyne Hill	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	23	South Oxon	BP	Warborough*	7.00 - 9.00
<b>JUNE</b>					
Sat	13	Central Bucks	SC	Aston Abbots*	
Sat	13	EBSB	SC	Penn (six-bell competition)	
Sat	27	EBSB	BP	West Wycombe*	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	27	South Oxon	SC	Great Haseley	evening
<b>JULY</b>					
Sat	11	Guild		<b>Festival - Bradfield</b>	
Sat	11	Guild	SC	<b>Ten-bell competition - Thatcham</b>	
Sat	11	Central Bucks	BP	Granborough/North Marston*	6.30 - 8.30
Sat	25	EBSB	BP	Iver*	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	25	South Oxon	BP	Towersey	7.00 - 9.00
<b>AUGUST</b>					
Sat	8	Central Bucks	BP	Quainton*	6.30 - 8.30
Sat	8	EBSB	EP	Hughendon*	
Sat	22	EBSB	BP	Windsor*	
Sat	22	South Oxon	BP	Lewknor*	7.00 - 9.00
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>					
Fri	11	Guild		<b>Start of Easthampstead course</b>	
Sat	12	Central Bucks		Branch outing*	
Sat	26	EBSB	BP	High Wycombe	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	26	South Oxon	BP	Berrick Salome*	7.00 - 9.00
<b>OCTOBER</b>					
Fri	2	Guild		<b>Branch secretaries' meeting - Radley</b>	
Sat	3	Guild	SC	<b>Six-bell competition - Chiltern branch</b>	
Sat	10	South Oxon		Branch outing	
Sat	17	Central Bucks	SC	Orchard Cup - Chiltern branch*	
Sat	24	EBSB	HY		
Sat	24	South Oxon	BP	Great Milton	7.00 - 9.00
Fri	30	EBSB		Half-term outing	
<b>NOVEMBER</b>					
Sat	14	EBSB	EP	Old Windsor*	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	21	Guild		<b>General committee meeting - Newbury branch</b>	
Sat	28	EBSB	BP	Wooburn*	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	28	South Oxon	BP	Benson	7.00 - 9.00
<b>DECEMBER</b>					
Sat	12	EBSB	BP	to be arranged (with Social)	
Sat	12	South Oxon	BP	Chalgrove	7.00 - 9.00