

*Downs Barn*

Issue **52**

## **ODD BOB**

Newsletter of the



March 1998

**Bicester Branch Open Day  
Saturday, 21 March 1998**

**Provisional Programme**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Tower (Number of bells)</b>	<b>Map reference</b>
1	0900	Weston-on-the Green (5)	SP531186
2	0930	Kirtlington (8)	SP500195
3	1000	Middleton Stoney (6)	SP531232
4	1030	Chesterton (3)	SP562214
5	1100	Bicester (8)	SP583223
6	1130	Launton (6)	SP604228
7	1200	Stratton Audley (5)	SP608260
8	1230	Caversfield (5)	SP581253
9	1300	Fritwell (4)	SP525294
10	1330	Souldern (6)	SP523317
11	1400	Stoke Lyne (3)	SP567284
12	1430	Twyford (6)	SP665266
13	1500	Marsh Gibbon (5)	SP647233
14	1530	Wootton Underwood (6)	SP688159
15	1600	Ludgershall (5)	SP660173
16	1630	Brill (6)	SP656138
17	1700	Piddington (5)	SP640169
18	1730	Ambrosden (8)	SP603194
19	1800	Charlton-on-Otmoor (5)	SP562158
20	1830	Islip (8)	SP526140
21	1900	Woodeaton (5)	SP535118

Towers to be open for one hour from the start time given.

There will be a charge of £1.00 per tower, or a day ticket will be available for  
£10.00.

Proceeds in aid of the Branch Bell Restoration Fund.

Richard Stevens, Dellow, Blackthorn Road, Launton, Bicester, Oxon OX6 0DA  
Telephone 01869 243920



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### 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 find it convenient to 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 Festival on 11 July 1998.

All contributions to the editor please not later than **15 June 1998**.

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

## **Master's Mutterings**

The Training Courses associated with the Millennium Project are well under way. We have now held five courses on the topic of Teaching Bell Handling with over 30 members attending and, hopefully, gaining much in terms of ideas, experience and confidence. The first stage of teaching new recruits is very important in creating enthusiasm, good bell control and good attitudes. However, the subsequent stages are equally vital and the next set of courses will look at 'what comes next'.

We hear often of people who have learnt to handle a bell but leave before they have mastered much else. We must make sure that our learners are given the opportunity to develop their skills and not to stagnate. Creating an interesting, stimulating and encouraging programme for beginners is difficult, but essential, if we are to keep the new recruits we have got. But Tower Leaders also have the responsibility of giving all members of the band the opportunity to progress. It is just as easy to put off experienced members by not providing a stimulating environment for them. But don't leave it all to Tower Leaders and Branch Officers. All experienced ringers have a role to play in helping others to progress both within their own towers and at Branch activities.

Branch practices can play an important role in creating opportunities for progress and many branches are now organising a range of different practices. All have a place if we are to encourage all our members, but it would be a mistake for branches to concentrate on one type of practice only and it must be remembered that all practices need support if they are to be useful.

At a practice recently I heard some inexperienced ringers say that they felt they should leave early so that the 'better' ringers could ring what they wanted. This was not because they were not made welcome - they were - but because of their feeling of inadequacy. These general practices are for all members and ringing is organised to provide a reasonable range of ringing to cater for the different abilities of those present, so allowing all to benefit. Inexperienced ringers can gain much if they go, ask for what they need and try to learn more by listening, watching and talking to the more experienced ringers. (They can go wrong as well!) But it must be remembered that if there are a large number of ringers present, it is difficult to organise the ringing so that everyone gets what they want immediately; so there is a need to be a little patient.

Beginners, special method and advanced practices need sufficient support from experienced ringers to make them useful. It is easy to leave it to someone else to go to help, but it is worth remembering all those who helped us in the past and follow their example in helping to maintain and develop the art of ringing.

John Wells

## **Odd Bob - Earlier Issues**

On offer:     Odd Bob back issues - Nos 12 - 50.

Interested?:   Telephone Ted Peett on 01483 576013.

## Guild Service Book

During the past year Ken Davenport, Peter Akehurst and Bobbie May have been sifting through material previously used for services of one kind or another. In September I circulated a sample document and, soon afterwards, a report on it's possible application as suggested at the F&GP meeting. I had hoped for replies by Christmas. Some branches and individuals have replied and, encouragingly, I have received some original material.

The way forward seems to be to produce some sample hard copy and gradually assemble all the likely material on the internet. I shall require help with this since I don't have the facilities myself. Any offers?

Progress is likely to be slow over the next few months with Ken working away from home and Peter helping out, as much as his health permits, in the 'engine room' during our interregnum. Please use the gap to send me more original material! Thank you.

Bobbie May

### The Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund (Registered Charity No. 268390)

Report of the Managing Trustees for the year ending 31 December 1997.

#### Grants

Eight grants were paid during the year totalling some £28 015. During the year, grants were provisionally allocated as indicated below:

Bletchington	£4000	High Wycombe	
Blewbury	£4500	(St Anne)	£25
Buscot	£1550	Langford	£250
Charlton-on-Otmoor	£3000	Longcot	£5000
Cuddington	£2900	Swerford	£3550
Dinton	£5250	Warborough	£990
Hanwell	£4900	Wingrave	£1350
		Wolverton	£850

In addition, the following grants were allocated and paid to:

Souldern	£2745
Stonesfield	£2270
Thame	£2300.

The Managing Trustees were advised that the grant of £2450 allocated to Binfield during 1996 was not required since sufficient funds were made available to the project from other sources.

It is our custom that on completion of work, an inspection is carried out on our behalf by members of the Towers and Belfries Committee, and the Managing Trustees wish to record their thanks to the T&B Committee for this service. On receipt of a satisfactory report, arrangements are then made for the payment of the grant. If the eventual cost is materially different from that indicated at the time of application, the grant is reviewed and may be

revised. Unless there are special circumstances it is currently the policy of the Managing Trustees to make grants of 15% of the estimated cost of the qualifying works.

### *Future Grants*

Five inquiries have been received which may result in applications for grants. As with last year, there has again been a rise in the number of inquiries received. This increase is almost entirely due to the approaching celebrations and possibility of churches receiving funding from the Millennium Commission. It remains the belief of the Managing Trustees that this increase in applications will not cause any problems in funding during the next two years.

### *Fund Raising*

New money raised in 1997 amounted to £7760.31. This included £829 from the Draw, £3917.38 from Branch donations, and £777.85 from the Ringing Day. Donations from 19 PCCs amounted to £457 and 13 tower funds contributed £915. Covenanted donations from individuals totalled £202. Donations totalling £600 were received in memory of Bob Datson: this represented a fine tribute and shows the respect and affection for him by so many people. The Managing Trustees wish to express their thanks to the organisers of the Guild Draw, June Saint and Stephen Rossiter, to all those who helped to arrange the Ringing Day and all those who have contributed to the continued success of the fund.

The Managing Trustees were concerned that the income from the Draw was considerably lower than in recent years and are of the opinion that this reduction in income could be due to the effects of the National Lottery. The Managing Trustees wish to remind members that though the National Lottery, via various grant making bodies, supports bell restoration, the Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund does not receive income from that source.

### *Investments*

Investment income during the year and available for distribution as grants was £12 977 (1996 £12 227). The total capital subscribed to the Fund at the end of the year was £154 480. This is invested in accordance with professional advice from the Diocese. The market value of the investments at the end of the year was £278 254.

Bernard Stone

## **Comments on the key points from the 1997 Accounts**

Presentational changes have been made to the 1997 accounts and I felt that some explanation of the key points would assist in understanding the financial position of the Guild.

*Subscriptions and other income* - All branches appear to have made payments for all active members and the increase in the annual subscription is also reflected. There is a significant increase in the amount of non-resident life subscriptions and in peal fees. Income from sale of Guild badges has reduced to a more typical level, following the peak in sales of the new supply of badges last year. Sale of publicity material is shown for the first time this year. This reflects the provision of material by the Public Relations Officer

and the growing awareness of it's value.

*Expenses* - The expenses incurred by 'Other Officers' have been shown separately for the first time. This recognises that the Guild depends heavily upon officers in addition to the Master, Deputy Master, Secretary, Treasurer and the Stewards and it is appropriate that their reasonable expenses are reimbursed. These expenses were previously included within the heading 'Secretary/Treasurer/Stewards'. Although the headings have been separated for 1997, it will be noted that the 1997 expenses are slightly less than for 1996.

*Library* - The Library expenses for 1997 include specialised work which has been undertaken professionally in order to catalogue the library and to preserve a number of the rarer and more delicate items against decay. The cost of this work has been fully funded by donations from the William Delafield Charitable Trust totalling £4222.50 and the Guild is most grateful to the trustees for their valuable support.

*Insurance* - There is a modest increase in the insurance premium for 1997 by comparison with 1996. However, a more significant increase is anticipated for 1998 and beyond as the result of increased levels of insurance cover.

*Guild Reports and Odd Bob* - The reduction in costs of the Guild reports is due to the negotiating skills and hard work of the Report Editor. Similarly the modest increase in the production costs of Odd Bob reflects the hard work of the Newsletter Editor.

*Bank Charges* - It is pleasing to note that for another year the bank charges have been more than offset by the interest earned on the current account, leaving a net credit position.

*Festival Barn Dance* - The figure of £231.80 includes the loss on the 1997 Festival Barn Dance of £156.80 and a deposit of £75 for the band for the 1998 event. The high cost of this event means that good support is crucial if a loss is to be avoided.

*Millennium Project* - The figure of £345.99 includes all costs incurred to date. The cost of this project was allowed for in the last increase in subscription.

*Education Committee* - Training courses are costed to break even. During 1997 an operational profit of £247.78 was achieved. Sales of leaflets used existing stocks, with no further printing needed during the year.

*Guild Book Stall* - This is a new item, agreed by the General Committee during the year, which set a maximum stock holding of £1000. Sales commenced late in the year. The accrued profit (£21.14) arose from the initial sales and profit from future sales will be added to this accrual and redeployed for the benefit of Guild members.

*Summary* - The Guild ended the year in a sound financial position and is well placed to respond to the challenge posed by the Millennium. The General Fund account has been fully maintained by Terry Wagstaff (Assistant General Treasurer) and our thanks are due to him for his hard work.

Brian J Gatward - Honorary Treasurer



# Accounts for the Year Ended 31 December 1997

## General Fund

1996	Receipts		1996	Payments	
	Branch Subscriptions			Expenses	
£ 294.40	Banbury	£ 325.20	£ 126.57	Master / Deputy Master	£ 106.50
£ -	Bicester	£ 398.50	£ 178.70	Secretary / Treasurer / Stewards	£ 55.14
£ 611.20	Central Bucks	£ 654.50		Other Officers	£ 113.72
£ 400.00	Chiltern	£ 422.60	£ 700.55	Stationery and Postage	£ 309.43
£ 256.00	Chipping Norton	£ 266.00	£ 232.14	Printing	<u>£ 309.19</u>
£ 1,094.40	East Berks & South Bucks	£ 1,174.20			£ 893.98
£ 348.80	Newbury	£ 395.50	£ 168.58	Library	£ 4,354.00
£ 672.00	North Bucks	£ 717.20	£ 2,570.59	Insurance	£ 2,611.44
£ 726.40	Old North Berks	£ 765.80	£ 948.50	Purchase of Guild Reports	£ 694.00
£ 288.00	Oxford City	£ 290.50	£ 1,264.00	Printing "Odd Bob"	£ 1,368.00
£ 582.40	Reading	£ 717.50	£ 60.00	Central Council Affiliation Fee	£ 60.00
£ 585.60	Sonning Deanery	£ 630.00	£ 555.07	Purchase of Guild Badges	£ -
£ 377.60	South Oxon	£ 430.50	£ 125.00	Ringling World - Donation	£ 125.00
£ 153.60	Vale of the White Horse	£ 219.30	£ 194.00	Ringling World - Notices Account	£ 197.60
£ 345.60	Witney & Woodstock	£ 469.00	£ 98.00	Hire of halls for meetings	£ 101.75
<u>£ 6,736.00</u>		£ 7,876.30	-£ 186.99	Bank Charges	-£ 246.53
£ 80.00	Non-Resident Life Subscriptions	£ 236.40	£ 374.90	Share of administrative expenses of Bell Fund	£ 459.00
£ 141.59	Sale of Reports	£ 92.19	£ 50.00	Festival Barn Dance	£ 231.80
£ 287.00	Sale of Badges	£ 55.50		Millenium Project	£ 345.99
£ 15.00	Sale of Guild History	£ 6.00			
£ 749.80	Peal Fees	£ 918.00			
£ 43.50	Donations	£ 4,255.00			
	Sale of Publicity Material	£ 30.56			
<u>£ 8,052.89</u>		<u>£ 13,469.95</u>	£ 593.28	Excess of Income over expenditure	<u>£ 2,273.92</u>
			<u>£ 8,052.89</u>		<u>£ 13,469.95</u>



# Balance Sheet as at 31 December 1997

## General Fund

Balance brought forward 1 January 1997	£ 6,400.89	
Excess of income over expenses	<u>£ 2,273.92</u>	£ 8,674.81

## Education Committee

Balance brought forward 1 January 1997	£ 5,102.25	
--	------------	--

Easthampstead Course Fees	£ 4,230.00	
Less expenses	<u>£ 4,102.36</u>	£ 127.64

Youth Weekend Fees	£ 144.00	
Less expenses	<u>£ 113.65</u>	£ 30.35

Radley Course Fees	£ 305.00	
Less expenses	<u>£ 194.62</u>	£ 110.38

Other Courses - Fees	£ 18.76	
Less expenses	<u>£ 39.35</u>	-£ 20.59

Leaflet Sales	£ 84.50	
Less Printing	<u>£ -</u>	£ 84.50

Balance as at 31 December 1997		£ 5,434.53
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## Guild Book Stall

Sales Income		£ 173.70
less purchases	£ 600.14	
less expenses	<u>£ -</u>	£ 600.14

Stock at cost at 31 December 1997	£ 447.58	
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Sale price valuation £535.15

Accrued profit as at 31 December 1997		£ 21.14
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£ 14,130.48

## Represented by

Cash at bank	£ 12,667.15	
Cash in hand	£ 15.75	
Stock of books at cost	£ 447.58	
Loan to restoration fund	<u>£ 1,000.00</u>	

£ 14,130.48

B J Gatward CPFA, MBCS  
Honorary Treasurer  
15 January 1998

**The Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers**  
**Restoration Fund**  
**(Registered Charity No. 284053)**

Report of the Managing Trustees for the year ending 31 December 1997.

*Grants*

No grants were paid during the year. The following grants, which support augmentation projects, were allocated and payment is anticipated during 1998:

Bletchington	£75	Cuddington	£150
Charlton-on-Otmoor	£100	East Claydon	£100

On completion of the work, an inspection is carried out by members of the Towers and Belfries Committee, and the Managing Trustees wish to record their thanks for this service. On receipt of a satisfactory report arrangements are made for the payment of the grant.

*Future Grants*

Eight inquiries have been received which are due for consideration for grant during 1998. These applications all relate to proposals to augment rings of bells and are almost entirely due to the approaching celebrations and possibility of churches receiving funding from the Millennium Commission. It is a matter of regret for the Managing Trustees that the limited funds available to them preclude the provision of larger grants for such projects.

*Fund Raising*

New money raised in 1997 amounted to £122, of which donations totalling £45 were received in memory of Bob Datson and a donation of £50 was received from Great Tew tower. The *Ringin' World* donated £5 in respect of a new subscriber who is a Guild member. This provides a potentially useful source of income to the Restoration Fund and the Managing Trustees hope that this scheme will encourage many Guild members to take out a subscription to this publication.

*Investments*

Investment income during the year increased to £368.59. The increase resulted from higher interest rates offered by the Central Board of Finance of the Church of England, which in turn reflected the general money market trends. The interest from the Trustee Savings Bank for 1996, which was credited to the account during 1997, provided the balance of the increased income. The value of the undated stock showed some increase during the year, but still ended the year with a disposal value of little more than half the face value.

Brian J Gatward

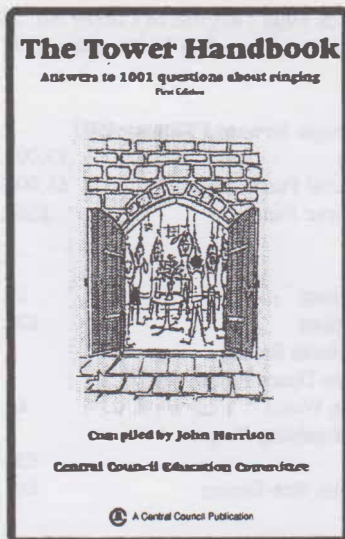
**Reserve Fund**

	Balance brought forward 1 January 1997	
£568.45	Loan - Bell Restoration Fund	
	Balance carried forward 31 December 1997	
	Loan - Bell Restoration Fund	£568.45

Bell Restoration Fund - Registered Charity No. 284053  
Accounts for the year ending 31 December 1997

1996		1997
	Balance brought forward 1 January 1997	
£4,323.59	Investments	£5,007.45
£1,000.00	Loan - General Fund	£1,000.00
<u>£568.45</u>	Loan - Reserve Fund	<u>£568.45</u>
£5,892.04		£6,575.90
£2.00	PCC Donations	£2.00
	Other donations	£20.00
£2.00	Old North Berks Branch	
£70.00	Festival Barn Dance Profit	
£5.00	The Ringing World	£5.00
£305.00	Society of Rambling Ringers	
	Great Tew	£50.00
	In memoriam: Bob Datson	£45.00
	Interest on Investments	
£7.16	3.5% War Loan	£7.16
£22.58	4% Consols	£22.58
£33.24	9.5% Treasury Stock	£33.24
£0.00	TSB Savings Bank A/c (2)	£10.92
<u>£236.88</u>	Central Board of Finance	<u>£294.69</u>
£299.86		£368.59
£6,575.90		£7,066.49
<u>£0.00</u>	Grants	<u>£0.00</u>
<u>£6,575.90</u>	Balance carried forward at 31 December 1997	<u>£7,066.49</u>
£5,007.45	Investments	£5,498.04
£1,000.00	Loan - General Fund	£1,000.00
<u>£568.45</u>	Loan - Reserve Fund	<u>£568.45</u>
<u>£6,575.90</u>		<u>£7,066.49</u>
	represented by:	
£205.58	3.5% War Loan	£205.58
£500.73	4% Consols	£500.73
£299.31	9.5% Treasury Stock	£299.31
£961.01	TSB Savings Account	£1,106.91
<u>£4,609.27</u>	Central Board of Finance deposit	<u>£4,953.96</u>
<u>£6,575.90</u>		<u>£7,066.49</u>

B J Gatward CPFA, MBCS  
Honorary Treasurer  
24.01.98



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### **Psittacosis**

This article was published in the Kent County Association of Change Ringers' Newsletter some time ago. It is the work of Dr Richard Morgan who is a consultant physician specialising in thoracic and respiratory medicine at the Charing Cross and Westminster Hospital (and also a member of the Guild of Medical Ringers).

Psittacosis (recently renamed ornithosis) is caused by a sub-bacterial organism, which is carried by many species of birds, but primarily parrots, budgies and poultry and less



commonly by pigeons. Infection is probably acquired by inhaling dried particles of infected excreta.

The clinical illness varies in its intensity, but is worse in older people and those with chronic heart or lung diseases, particularly smokers. There is an incubation period of one to two weeks, and the symptoms are flu-like in nature: high fever, headache, muscle pains, chills and coughs. This may progress to pneumonia or a generalised septic condition. The illness usually subsides in the second week but in some cases it can be prolonged with relapses.

The condition responds well to treatment with certain antibiotics, but these are not necessarily the first choice agents to treat other bacterial pneumonia. Psittacosis is not generally fatal. Indeed it is possible that many of us have had the condition without realising it. However it can cause pneumonia, which is an extremely dangerous condition, even in young and otherwise fit individuals.

So what is the bottom line? Psittacosis is rare, even among bird fanciers, and not usually too serious. Nevertheless as we saw [in 1993] it does occur and it can be very serious. The risk of infection can be reduced, but not totally eliminated, by wearing a face mask. This is good practice in any case as dust inhalation is irritant and can in itself evoke an allergic reaction.

Even if you have taken these precautions, be aware of the possibility of infection. If you develop symptoms such as those described above, do inform your GP that you have been in contact with bird droppings.

Dr Morgan finishes by suggesting that towers are kept bird-proof and clean, that you should always wear a face mask when working in the bell chamber, that you should be aware that the disease exists, and what the symptoms are, and finally he says "Be safe but not paranoid: psittacosis is a serious condition but a rare one".

So there you have it. I also know of another well-known ringer who was off work for three months with the condition, so it can happen. The message seems to be don't panic, but be sensible.

John Harrison

### **EBSB Fund Raising Matters**

**Dusters** - Following the demise of the company which formerly sold printed dusters we received many requests for a 'ringing duster'. In response to this we have at last managed to find a company to print our own design showing tower bells on a reasonable quality duster. The price is £1.50 if bought from one of our sales stalls at meetings etc., or £1.80 including post and packing.

**Tea towels** - Our 'sallies' design (green) tea towels (£3) are also available by mail order at £3.50 including post and packing.

Both these items can be obtained from Derek Fowles, 10 Lynden Close, Holyport, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 2LB. Cheques payable to OD Bell Fund.

**Greeting cards** - Have you ever bought a 'bargain pack' of greeting cards only to find that some of them were not to your taste, and are therefore lurking unused in a drawer? Our experience is that such cards may be just what someone else is looking for! If you have any such cards, in good condition of course, the EBSB Fund-Raising Committee would be pleased to have them for re-sale.

Wenda Fowles

### **Banbury**

As usual, quite a lot seems to be happening in the Banbury branch. As I type this, plans are well advanced for our Annual Dinner, which will take place at Bloxham School on Friday, 13 February (we are not superstitious in Banbury), and it promises to be a good evening. These dinners have been very well supported in the last few years.

The bells from Wroxton are currently at Whites, and will be rehung in the next month or so. They are due to be rededicated on 29 March, and Wroxton have kindly offered to host our AGM on 18 April. Wardington hope to have their bells rehung this year, and a new band is being trained there. New bands are also being trained at North Aston and Tadmorton - it will be good to see them ringing for the Millennium.

We had an extra outing this year, organised by Graham Clifton who "volunteered" to arrange a day's outing in Oxford. This was one of the best supported events we have had in recent years, with ringing at Christchurch, Magdalen, Merton, Lincoln, St Aldates and The Carfax. It was a most enjoyable day out.

Our branch practices continue to be fairly well supported, and Bob Reeves is running a Bob Doubles day at Bodicote and Mollington in February - this is fully subscribed and may be repeated.

Ian Rodrick

### **Bicester**

By the time this report is published our branch President, the Revd John Nixon, will finally have moved to Kansas, USA. John has been in the Bicester area for nearly 12 years, and we have all known for some time that he would be moving away. John resigned his position from the Bicester Team Ministry in the first week of February, and he was married to Cheryl on 14 February in Bucknell, one of the churches where John served during his time with us.

The branch members met for a Social Function after the December practice, when presentations were made to John, wishing him well for the future. On behalf of all branch members, I send both John and Cheryl greetings and renew our best wishes for a long and happy time together. We also hope they will call and see us again from time to time when they visit this country.

Fund raising continues for restoration/augmentation work at Bicester, Bletchington and Charlton-on-Otmoor, as previously reported. The six bells at Souldern are expected to be re-dedicated during Evening Service on Sunday, 26 April next.

Monthly quarter peals in Surprise Major methods have become part of the repertoire at

Bicester, with great success. These quarters have included one of three-spliced, and it is hoped that more advanced methods will become the order of the day.

On Saturday, 21 March next, the branch is holding an Open Day when 21 towers in the area will be open. Proceeds are in aid of our Bell Restoration Fund, so we hope many of you will come and support us for some, if not all, of the day. Full details are given elsewhere in this copy of Odd Bob [see page 2 - Ed.].

An exciting time in the Bicester branch - long may it continue. So, watch this space for further reports.

Richard C Stevens

### Central Bucks

By the time this is in print it is likely that I shall be the new branch secretary, that is if no-one else comes forward at the branch AGM on 14 February. The branch has had quite a good year and thanks should be given to our ringing master, Phil Dunn, and his deputy, Peter Fay, for control of the branch practices. Thanks also to the outgoing secretary and treasurer, Mark Sellin. The new treasurer will be Peter Betts of Whitchurch. Of course, both of these appointments are subject to confirmation at the branch AGM, but I don't believe anyone will oppose the selection. I will of course confirm all branch officers in the next edition of Odd Bob [see page 26 for contact details - Ed.].

We will soon have a new ring of eight and a new ring of six in the branch when Wingrave and East Claydon get their additional bells. A band of ringers is already being trained but as yet I have no news as to when the restoration will start. As the branch starts a new year I hope we can attract more of our members to the branch practices.

Andy Lancey

### Chiltern

The branch has lost one of its biggest characters. The death of Harvey Hodgskiss was a great blow, both to his own tower and village (Marsworth) and all those who knew him from elsewhere. Harvey learnt to ring at Marsworth many years ago (when he distinguished himself by destroying the ringing chamber clock with a loose tail end!). After many years of silence he master-minded the restoration of Marsworth's bells and reconstituted the ringing band. Stories about Harvey are legendary and epic, but his most abiding quality was the kindness he showed to everyone around him, especially young people. We have lost a great gentleman.

Our annual Pub Games' evening was a great success. £370 was raised for the Bell Fund and a jolly time was had by all. A new game was introduced - one not often found in pubs. It involved a PC and a bit of ringing software. The computer-literate and nimble-fingered scored well. The "traditionalists" preferred darts, *et al*.

Our November training day was so heavily subscribed that we have decided to structure our monthly meetings more carefully. We hope that by doing so every member of the branch will gain benefit from them. Our January meeting at Wendover was very well attended, particularly by those who took advantage of the offer of lots of Plain Hunt.

We have two new tower captains in the branch. Richard Booth has taken over at Marsworth, and Stuart Lawrence has taken over from Stuart Swift at Wendover. Stuart Swift has done an enormous amount for his tower and has had to stand down because of the peripatetic nature of his work.

Mike Davis

### Chipping Norton

The December branch practice at Burford was reasonably well attended, and Cambridge Major was attempted which is an achievement for the branch. Unfortunately this was not repeated at Chipping Norton in January, but on 7 February Spelsbury tower was fairly full and various methods up to London Minor were rung. Afterwards people were invited to Glebe Farm, the home of Mrs J Datson, for suitable refreshments. Thanks go to her for this hospitality.

Congratulations go to Nigel Harrison who scored his first quarter of a Major method on 20 November at Shipton under Wychwood. The method was Cambridge Major, and was rung as a compliment to the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh on the occasion of their Golden Wedding. It was supposed to be a Surprise Major practice, but only eight people were available on that evening.

On 14 January the first of three practical mornings was held at Spelsbury, concentrating on Grandsire Doubles; those taking part seemed to have a profitable morning, and there are two others planned for the Spring - 21 February at Enstone (Plain Bob Doubles) and on 21 March, again at Spelsbury, and the method will again be Grandsire Doubles. It is hoped that there will be more of these mornings in the Autumn, concentrating on other methods. Thanks go to the incumbents for the use of the bells in their towers.

Surprise Minor practices continue in the branch, about once a month, and Surprise Major practices jointly with Banbury and Bicester branches also continue. In fact the first of the year, at Hook Norton, was very well supported; let's hope that this will be continued throughout the year.

The following report comes from Burford: Attendances recently at practices at Burford have varied from 12 to three ringers. In between the band has managed some different 120s of Doubles variations with a local flavour: firstly 'Windrush' (Plain Bob with Reverse Canterbury bobs and Grandsire singles), and secondly 'Burford' (Plain Bob with Wallflower bobs, Wallflower singles and Old singles). These were new to all involved, even though the band included both Brian ('Mr Windrush') Hall, and also a Burford ringer of 50 years' standing.

Claire Tarrant

The tenor at Burford (17.3.1, c.1330) has been restored. Ringing it with a broken gudgeon pin proved difficult, and after Whites of Appleton diagnosed the problem the headstock was soon lowered to the floor of the central crossing and taken away - two weeks later it was returned in good health. Two members of the local band gave some assistance which resulted in a significant reduction in the bill. Although not acknowledged in Dove, Burford has regular practice on Fridays. All visitors are most welcome.

Nigel Harrison



## **East Berks & South Bucks**

I will not bore everyone by repeating what I said in my article in the Guild Report so will report on news since the beginning of the year.

January 10th saw a successful and enjoyable evening's ringing at Stoke Poges - devoted entirely to Stedman. It was highly gratifying to see people who do not normally attend branch practices and/or meetings and it was from some of these people that I was pleased to hear how beneficial they found it. We have obviously found a 'niche in the market'! Your officers will endeavour to organise a second Stedman evening soon. Have you any other requests? Please let us know!

Our first branch practice of the year was held at Wraysbury and, again, there were some different faces! It makes me think that perhaps some of you have made a New Year's resolution to attend more practices! Any way, whatever the reason, it was good to see you.

We have just held our first Millennium Practice of the year at Fulmer - Cambridge Surprise Minor. David Moore was our tutor for the evening and each learner was able to ring either a course or a touch with a tutor; some did both. Eighteen sessions of Cambridge were rung, some courses and some touches, in the two hours. Those that attended were able to 'see' Cambridge more easily and, indeed, some had not rung it before at all! An important thing - progress was made!! Thank you to all those who helped make the evening a success, including the Fulmer ringers who provided refreshments. Following on from this there is a Millennium Seminar, 'Millennium Ringing - Theory into Practice', arranged for March prior to the branch practice. Watch your notice board!

Jane Payne

## **North Bucks**

Our usual pattern of branch practices and quarterly meetings has continued over the last few months. The December meeting was held at Shenley where we were able to sample the improvement in the 'go' following recent maintenance work. The band has also been busy with redecorating the ringing room.

Despite the increase in membership over the last year - good progress towards the Millennium project - the attendance at branch practices has fallen over the year. Attempts to encourage the less experienced members to get out and ring at other towers have yet to bear fruit. We will continue periodically with practices which focus on rounds and call changes; the best ringers are those who have rung the most bells.

Sadly we have to report the death of John Wetherall of Lavendon, and Ed Lack, a former member of the Newport Pagnell band and branch officer.

Helen Stanworth

## **Old North Berks**

The branch held the 1997 autumn social at Radley church room on Saturday, 8 November where 26 branch members and friends enjoyed an evening of entertainment and ringing at

Radley Church followed by excellent food brought by members and guests. Many thanks to Barbara Payne and Daphne Pollard who organised the event and supplied extra food.

New Year's Day was celebrated by ringing on East Hendred bells on a bright sunny winter's morning with many branch members and visitors present.

Several towers have changed tower captains over the past few months, notably at Abingdon where Clive Sparling has succeeded Jon Chamberlain who has been captain at St Helen's for the past 10 years. Eluned Hallas has been appointed tower captain of St Nicholas to succeed Mike Poole. Colin Turner has moved to Milton tower where he is now tower captain and is in the process of starting a new band there with the assistance of Nicola Crichton. Brenda Thomas has succeeded Colin at Sunningwell tower.

It was with sadness that branch members heard of the death of William (Bill) L Gilks on Saturday, 17 January 1998, aged 87 years. Bill had rung for very many years at Harwell and later at Sutton Courtenay in the 1980s until ill health forced his retirement from ringing. He learned the art of rope splicing during his service in the Royal Navy and few could equal him in this skill. Many tower captains have cause to be grateful to Bill for his splicing services. Students on the Easthampstead and Radley ringing courses who have opted for Rope Splicing will remember with gratitude his ODG Educational Leaflet No. 1 "Rope Splicing" which still remains the definitive work on the subject. A service of remembrance conducted by the Rural Dean of Abingdon, the Revd Leighton Thomas, was held at Sutton Courtenay Church on Friday, 23 January and attended by his many friends.

The 1998 Radley Course on bellringing is being run this year by Barbara Payne and Peter Day and it will be on Saturday, 25 April.

Peter Starling

### **Oxford City**

One of the best things about ringing is that it is not greatly affected by the weather - well, if you are an enthusiastic peal ringer then summer peals may result in raw blisters from hot hands, or in winter chilblains from numb feet, but in general come hail or snow, heat or wind, a ringing event can continue successfully. Saturday 17 January was a grey, chilly day which would have been horrible for playing golf and useless for croquet but no problem for learning Stedman Triples! For the first time in too many years the City branch had arranged a training course which, led by John Wells and supported by several helpers, was successful in getting a band of novice Stedman ringers through a touch of Triples all by themselves by the end of the day. The resulting enthusiasm from such a satisfactory day will generate a Cambridge Major course later in the year - so long as we can bribe a tutor and helpers into giving up another Saturday!

The New Year was rung in at Kidlington and Wolvercote; a promise has been extracted from a certain City branch ringer to learn to treble bob during 1998, there is no excuse any longer because St Aldate's practices are purpose-built for that. These practices continue to be popular and we are certainly becoming more competent at Surprise Minor methods; in addition an eight-bell practice is to begin at Headington on the third Tuesday in the month. This innovation is in fact rather sad news because it has been established at the demise of the weekly Headington practice which has been so poorly supported that it can no longer continue. It is hoped that the monthly practice will keep the sound of bells

acceptable in Headington and that eventually there will be enough support for a more regular practice. On the positive side those new Stedman ringers will have an opportunity to practise their new-found skills.

Katie Lane

### Reading

Our branch membership rose quite considerably between the publishing of the 1996 Guild report and that of 1997; judging by the 'new members for election' that I have received so far in readiness for the 1998 AGM, numbers should be up again in the next report. This looks very promising towards the meeting of the Millennium target. I hope we are able to retain the enthusiasm of our new members.

The November monthly practice at Swallowfield was well attended and a good range of methods was achieved. We concluded with a touch of spliced minor with each change of method called by a different member of the band, starting with the treble, so leaving the tenor ringer to bring it into rounds! It was a fun touch.

The December practice was extended to incorporate our first Advent Carol Service. It was well attended - even better than we expected: 12 towers were represented in the service by having a member read a lesson, sing in the choir, ring handbells or take the collection. It was regarded as well worth repeating and the Vicar and organist of St Giles' church have already offered their services for 1998.

Several of our towers held Christmas-tide dinners at hostelrys local to them. They all sound as if they were successful and a good way of ringers seeing a different side to their ringing friends; also a chance to meet non-ringing partners at a most convivial occasion.

The January practice was preceded by a ½-hour meeting of tower representatives used mainly to finalise venues for next year's practices. For the actual practice the ringing room was packed and it was very encouraging to see several new faces, particularly some who are at the beginning of their ringing 'careers' and had not been to a branch practice before.

We are pleased that South Stoke bells are now re-hung and pleasant to ring. The re-dedication service, which took place on 17 January was attended by over 100 people. We were delighted to see Guild members from outside our branch there for the occasion, including Brian White, from White's of Appleton - the bell hangers that did the work on the bells - and Bernard Stone who, with Len Palfrey, guided and helped local people to complete the '*in situ*' work. The ringers of South Stoke are now practising on Tuesday evenings.

The Reading branch is hosting the Guild Festival on 11 July at Bradfield - details out soon. I look forward to seeing as many Odd Bob readers as possible on the day. Advance warning: we will need singers to form a choir for the Festival Service at 11.00 am.

Rosemary Morgan

### Sonning Deanery

A full structural survey of the frame at Easthampstead was performed and a temporary repair was carried out by White's of Appleton so that the bells were ringable by

Christmas 1997. This repair has an expected life of three years, and ultimately a new frame is to be installed. Other essential work is required to replace and repoint the tower stonework. The whole package will cost about £50 000. Fund-raising continues: there is to be a Quiz Night in early February, and an open day in SE Berks, N Hants and NW Surrey on Easter Monday, 13 April.

Three quarters were rung in late November to celebrate the Golden Wedding of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh.

Congratulations to Victoria Oakley, Naomi Cullan, Amelia Douglas, Sarah Dalley and Catherine Snell who rang their first quarters. Branch quarter peal week was held in early November: 20 quarters were successfully completed in 12 of the branch's towers. Branch practices continue of the third Saturday of the month at various towers, and on the first Friday of the month at Twyford.

Pam Elliston

### South Oxon

Branch events have continued during the winter, namely the monthly branch practice complemented by the alternating Surprise Minor and basic eight-bell practices. In December we were the guests of Thame in their re-furbished ringing room and were treated to warm punch and mince pies.

A peal of Plain Bob Triples was rung at Warborough by eight branch members in November - this was a first peal for Andrew Gillard. Other ringers were Meg Way, Sue Dyke, Tina Ruff, Terry Gibson, John Tchighianoff, Robert Newton and Alan Keen. Individual ringing achievements have included first peals of Grandsire Cinques and Cambridge Royal for Mark Walker; and first peals of Stedman Triples and Grandsire Caters for Meg Way.

First quarter peals were rung by Graham Griffiths, Paul Simms and Patricia Walker, all of Great Milton; Glenys Gray of Chalgrove; and Benjamin Coles of Benson. Five ringers each rang fifty quarters during the year - Kay Bartholomew, Sue Dyke, Tina Ruff, Gordon Smith and Meg Way. John Tchighianoff called his first quarter of Grandsire Triples for the Queen's Golden Wedding - this was also Jeanette Barrington's first inside. Jeanette also rang the treble to her first quarter on ten for the same occasion. Brian Gray rang his first quarter of Cambridge Minor in November; and Sue Dyke and Kay Tuckwell rang their first of Rutland Surprise Major at Warborough in October.

Hilarie Rogers

### Vale of the White Horse

Our last branch event for 1997 was the Branch Dinner in Faringdon at the beginning of December. It was a very enjoyable evening which was concluded with a raffle organised by Norman and Doreen Leslie and some entertaining handbell ringing. Ann's Mum even managed to recognise Jingle Bells this year! The prize for the best decorated tree and table went to Emily Crowder.

Fortunately the best news of the year was yet to come: both Shellingford and Longcot towers heard at the end of December that their bids for Millennium money had been



successful. Contracts have now been placed and the physical work has already started at Shellingford. Of course an enormous amount of work has already been done in both villages to complete all of the paperwork necessary and to raise the other 50% of the money needed to make the projects possible.

The Millennium Commission has approved the Millennium bells Committee award of £10 209 towards the £20 418 cost of augmenting Shellingford from four to six bells. Two of Shellingford's bells were removed at the beginning of February and taken to the bell-hangers for work to be carried out. By the time you read this, the two new bells should have been cast at Whitechapel. It is intended that work at Shellingford will be completed before the summer. I have no doubt that they will be very well used before we go to Shellingford for our Autumn Branch meeting!

Longcot have been awarded a grant of £22 418 towards the total cost of £45 000 to rehang and augment the original six to an eight. Work started on the removal of the bells on 14 February and the bells will be at the bell-hangers before you read this. The two new trebles will be cast at Loughborough in the summer and, all being well, the village should be able to celebrate Harvest with eight bells. As this tower has been unringable for 30 years, our Branch Millennium Working Group is busy helping to recruit and train would-be ringers in Longcot using other local towers.

We seem to have got off to a good start in 1998 with a fairly well-supported branch practice at Uffington in January, followed by an under-18s' ringing afternoon on 14 February at Alvescot. Ten youngsters (average age 10 years!) came along and we were able to ensure that they all had a chance to ring in a reliable band giving them each the chance to hear their own bell and to practise their striking as well as some plain hunting. We did have one under-18 attender who would have liked to ring some surprise but unfortunately she was rather outnumbered by rounds and plain hunters. Next comes the Branch AGM at the end of February and then at least one event during each month for the rest of the year.

Jackie O'Hagan

### **Witney and Woodstock**

December and January were especially popular for our branch practices, with Witney and Yarnton either being popular towers, or ringers having nothing better to do during the winter evenings! I think we possibly had a record attendance at Yarnton in January, with 28 ringers present!

The New Year was off to a wonderful start when the Ringing Master organised a Quarter Peal Day where four out of five quarter peals were successful. The towers visited were Launton (Cambridge Minor), Ambrosden (Cambridge Major), Charlton on Othmoor (11 Doubles), Islip (Grandsire Triples attempted) and Ducklington (Plain Bob Minor).

This year has also seen the start of method ringing on handbells, with all beginners! With the aid of a computer programme and lots of hard work, good progress is being made - the target being a quarter peal of Plain Bob Minor by the end of the year.

The first Special Practice of the year was held at Eynsham, with a very good attendance of enthusiastic ringers, all eager to try their hand at St Simons, St Martins, St Osmund and Eynesbury Doubles, either individually or spliced!

The AGM this year was held at North Leigh. The branch elected a new Chairperson, Richard White (Woodstock), two new Branch Representatives, Rachel and Robert Sherlaw-Johnson (Stonesfield), and a new Newsletter Editor, Christopher Roles (Eynsham); the remaining branch officers were willing to continue with their various posts.

Because of unforeseen circumstances, the Branch Practice on 18 April has had to be changed from Standlake to Woodstock.

Lorna Smale

### **The Alternative 1997 Peal Report**

My 'official' report for the peals rung in 1997 is printed in the Guild annual report. But you may be interested in these non-essential facts and figures that have been obtained by the touch of a computer keyboard button.

Graham Firman, Peal Secretary

#### **PEOPLE**

Most tenors rung to a peal:	Colin M Turner (99)
Most trebles rung to a peal:	Nicola J Crichton (41 peals)
Length of ringer's longest name:	23 characters: Revd Caroline J Windley. 5/7/97. Amersham.
Length of ringer's shortest name:	8 characters: Jon Hill. 26/1/97. Downs Barn.
Largest increase in number of peals rung compared with 1996 total:	44 peals. (Brian Bladon: 86 peals in 1996, 130 peals in 1997; Geoffrey Dodd: 28 peals in 1996, 72 peals in 1997)
Largest decrease in number of peals rung compared with 1996 total:	46 peals. (Andrew Farmer: 70 peals in 1996, 24 peals in 1997)
Richest ringers:	22/11/97. Watlington. (Sent in their peal fees twice.)

#### **DATES**

Most popular day of the week:	Saturday. 152 peals.
Least popular day of the week:	Tuesday. 35 peals.
Most popular month:	December. 41 peals.
Least popular month:	March. 29 peals.
Most popular dates:	11/1/97, 8/2/97 and 19/7/97. 6 peals on each day.
Numbers of days in the year with no peals rung:	117

#### **CHANGES**

Total number of changes rung:	2175395
Greatest number of changes:	5760. 1/6/97. Branston, Leics. St. Guthlac. 2h45m. 8 method TB Minor. Tenor (7cwt) rung by Colin Turner.
Fewest number of changes:	5000. 9 peals of Royal.

Most popular number of changes: 5040. 214 peals.

## **SPEED**

### **Towerbells**

Longest time and slowest peal:

3 hours 58mins. 21.24 changes per minute.  
25/10/97. Westbury, Wilts. All Saints. 5-spliced S Major. Tenor (35cwt) rung by John Martin.

Shortest time and fastest peal:

2 hours 2 mins. 41.31 changes per minute. 8/9/97  
Crowthorne, Berks. The Coleridge Campanile.  
Tenor (10lb) rung by Simon Feather.

Shortest time and fastest peal (proper towerbells):

2 hours 10 minutes. 38.77 changes per minute.  
25/5/97. Sutcombe, Devon. Tenor 7cwt, rung by Colin Turner.

Most popular time:

2 hours 45 mins. (19 peals).

### **Handbells**

Longest time:

3 hours 6 mins. 12/11/97. Aston Rowant. Barford S Maximus.

Slowest peal:

27.86 changes per minute. 21/10/97. Aston Rowant. Plain Bob Maximus. 3 hours.

Shortest time and fastest peal (handbells):

2 hours 10 mins. 38.91 changes per minute.  
10/9/97. Aston Rowant. Lincolnshire S Major.

Most popular time:

2 hours 16 mins and 2 hours 32 mins. (4 peals each).

## **WEIGHT**

### **Towerbells**

Lightest tenor:

10 lbs. Crowthorne. The Coleridge Campanile. 3 peals.

Lightest tenor (proper bells):

5cwt. 11 peals. 10 different towers.

Heaviest tenor:

42cwt. 23/8/97. Inveraray, Strathclyde. All Saints.  
4-spliced S Royal. Tenor rung by John Martin.

### **Handbells**

Largest handbells:

Size 18. 16/6/97. Thatcham, Berks. 8 The Waverleys. Plain Bob Royal. Tenors rung by Philip Chalk.

Smallest handbells:

Size 11. 4 peals.

## **FOOTNOTES**

Most unbelievable:

Circled the tower 45 times in 450 peals: 1. (Bill Butler at Thatcham 9/5/97).  
10th Surprise Major alphabet: 8. (Peter Ellis at Bath 8/2/97).  
1000<sup>th</sup> different tenor to a peal (Colin Turner at Warwick 19/7/97).

Most ridiculous: Birthday compliment to Nicola Crichton (number of years not disclosed but 'still young'), the event being marked by a loud rendition of 'Happy Birthday' in the Hilpertons style. (Great Gidding 22/2/97)  
 Not quite all the work, the conductor having failed to copy the composition out correctly! (High Wycombe 18/10/97)

Most unusual: First peal in the house. (Badgers Bottom 7/4/97)

## QUALITY

Best struck peal: Sorry, they all look the same in the Ringing World!

## RINGING WORLD

Issue with most peals: 23/1/98. 22 peals.  
 RW page number of every peal added together: 267907 (very useful!)

## 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 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 RG1 1 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 737207)
<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 ( <i>Banbury, Chipping Norton, Witney &amp; Woodstock</i> )
	Mr N Jim Diserens	10 Queens Avenue, Wallingford, Oxon ( <i>Old North Berks, Newbury, Reading</i> ) OX10 0NB (01491 824504)
	Mr Simon Cole	83 Bristol Road, Bicester, Oxon OX6 7TH ( <i>Bicester, Oxford City, South Oxon</i> ) (01869 247525)
	Mr David M Joyce	4 Woad Lane, Great Linford Village, Milton Keynes, Bucks MK14 5HE ( <i>North Bucks, Central Bucks, Chiltern</i> ) (01908 667025)
	Mr Colin Fowles	127 Meadfield Road, Langley, Slough, Berks SL3 ( <i>EBSB, Sonning, V of the W H</i> ) 8HY (01753 671507)

### **Six General Committee members**

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

### **Central Council Representatives**

Mr W (Bill) Butler	8 The Waverleys, Thatcham, Newbury, Berks RG18 3EZ
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(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 Andy Lancey	43 Moorhills Road, Wing, Leighton Buzzard, Beds LU7 0NG (01296 681879)
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 Chambray 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	(see Central Council Representatives)
Secretary	Mr Mike K Till	53 Bath Road, Thatcham, Berks RG18 3GF (01635 827957)
Members	Mr Alan J Griffin	Rosebank, Bloxham, Banbury, Oxon (01295 720359)
	Miss Marie R Cross	6 Radley Road, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 3PQ (01235 520868)
	Mr E John Wells	(see Guild Master)
	Mrs Bobbie May	(see Public Relations Officer)
	Mr Simon Cole	(see Guild Stewards)
	Mr John A Harrison	(see Central Council Representatives)

#### Guild educational leaflets

- |   |                             |                              |
|---|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Rope splicing  | 2. Bibliography             | 3. Plain Hunt to Bob Doubles |
| 4. Maintenance  | 5. Running a one-day course | 6. Sound control             |
| 7. Stedman  | 8. Grandsire                | 9. Bob calling for beginners |
| 10. Handbell ringing  | 11. Eight Doubles methods   |                              |
| 12. Surprise Minor: Cambridge to London, Part 1 (Cambridge)   |                             |                              |
| 13. Surprise Minor: Cambridge to London, Part 2 (Building on Cambridge)                               |                             |                              |
| 13. Surprise Minor: Cambridge to London, Part 3 (London) <i>Parts 2 &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 Guild Librarian)
	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 <i>(see Guild Master)</i>
*	Mr Barry W M Cowper <i>(see Guild Secretary)</i>
*	Mr Brian J Gatward <i>(see 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 1998

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

#### MARCH

Sat 14	Guild		Spring general committee meeting - Oxford City	
Sat 14	Central Bucks	BP	Winslow	6.30 - 8.30
Sat 14	Old North Berks	AG	Abingdon	5.00 - 8.00
Sat 14	Oxford City	BP	St Giles	7.00 - 8.30
Sat 14	Reading	BP	Goring on Thames	
Sat 14	Witney & Woodst.	BP	Wooton	7.30 - 9.00
Fri 20	North Bucks	BP	Downs Barn (Lincolnshire S. Major)	8.00
Sat 21	Bicester		Open Day	9.00am
Sat 21	Chiltern	BP	Great Kimble	7.00 - 9.00
Sat 21	Old North Berks	AG	Abingdon, St Helen	5.00 - 8.00
Sat 21	Sonning Deanery	BP	Binfield*	7.00 - 9.00
Wed 25	V of the W H	BP	Ashbury	
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
Wed 1	Bicester	BP	Piddington	7.30
Wed 1	Chiltern	BP	Great Missenden	7.45 - 9.30
Thur 2	Witney & Woodst.	AP	Bampton	7.30 - 9.00
Sat 4	Bicester		Branch Outing - Herefordshire	
Sat 4	Chipping Norton	BP	Enstone	7.30 - 9.00
Sat 4	Reading	BP	South Stoke	
Sat 4	South Oxon	AP	Great Milton	7.30 - 9.00
Sat 4	Oxford City	BP	North Hinksey	7.00 - 8.30
<b>Sat 4</b>	<b>Guild</b>		<b>Youth Day - EBSB branch</b>	
<b>Sat 11</b>	<b>Guild</b>		<b>Handbell Day - Reading</b>	
Mon 13	Witney & Woodst.		Morning outing	
Fri 17	North Bucks	BP	Emberton (Rounds/call changes)	7.30



Fri	17	Old North Berks	BP	Appleton (Whites)	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	18	Banbury	AG	Wroxton	3.00
Sat	18	Central Bucks	BP	Dinton	6.30 - 8.30
Sat	18	Chiltern	AG	Little Missenden	tba
Sat	18	Chipping Norton		Branch Outing	
Sat	18	Sonning Deanery	SC	Finchampstead*	5.00
Sat	18	Witney & Woodst.	BP	Woodstock	7.30 - 9.00
<b>Sat</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>Guild</b>		<b>Radley Course - Old North Berks branch</b>	
Sat	25	EBSB	AG	Chalfont St Giles*	
Sat	25	South Oxon	AG	Chinnor	3.45
Wed	29	V of the W H	BP	Buckland	
Thur	30	Witney & Woodst.	AP	Church Hanborough	7.30 - 9.00
<b>MAY</b>					
Sat	2	Chipping Norton	AG	Shipton under Wychwood	3.00 - 8.30
Sat	2	South Oxon	SP	Drayton St Leonard	7.30 - 9.00
<b>Mon</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Guild</b>		<b>Ringing day - EBSB</b>	
<b>Mon</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Guild</b>	SC	<b>Eight-bell competition - Burnham</b>	
Tues	5	Chiltern	BP	Stoke Mandeville	7.30 - 9.00
Tues	5	V of the W H	BP	Coleshill	
Wed	6	Banbury	BP	Banbury	7.30 - 9.00
Thur	7	Bicester	BP	Souldern	7.30
Sat	9	Central Bucks	BP	Little Horwood/Great Horwood	6.30 - 8.30
Sat	9	EBSB	EP	Winkfield	
Sat	9	Oxford City	HY	Cowley	
Sat	9	Reading	BP	Stratfield Mortimer, St Mary	
Sat	9	Witney & Woodst.		Outing (Somerset)	
Mon	11	Banbury	BP	Bodicote	7.30 - 9.00
Thur	14	Old North Berks	BP	Wallingford	7.30 - 9.00
Fri	15	North Bucks	BP	Cosgrove (Kent TB Minor)	7.30
<b>Sat</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>Guild</b>	AG	<b>Chipping Norton branch - Churchill</b>	
Sat	16	Chiltern	BP	Mentmore	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	16	Sonning Deanery	BP	Wokingham, All Saints*	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	23	EBSB	BP	Boyne Hill	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	23	South Oxon	BP	Great Milton	7.00 - 9.00
Thur	28	Witney & Woodst.	BP	Tackley	7.30
<b>JUNE</b>					
Tues	2	V of the W H	SC	Uffington (Greenley Shield)	
Fri	5	Bicester	BP	Wheatley	7.30
Fri	5	Chiltern	BP	Aston Clinton	7.45 - 9.00
Sat	6	Chipping Norton	BP	Churchill	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	6	South Oxon	AP	Benson	7.30 - 9.00
Sun	7	North Bucks	QM	Maids Moreton (with SC)	3.30
Tues	9	Old North Berks	BP	Letcombe Regis	7.30 - 9.00
Fri	12	Bicester	SC	Launton	7.30
Sat	13	Central Bucks	SC	Aston Abbotts	6.30 - 8.30
Sat	13	EBSB	SC	Penn (six-bell competition)	
Sat	13	Oxford City	BP	Wolvercote	6.30
Sat	13	Reading	BP	Shinfield	
Sat	13	Witney & Woodst.	SC	tba	
Sat	20	Chiltern	SC	Cheddington	tba
Sat	20	North Bucks	BP	Loughton (Cambridge S Minor)	7.30
Sat	20	Sonning Deanery	BP	White Waltham*	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	20	V of the W H		Barbecue - Buckland	
Wed	24	Witney & Woodst.	AP	Stonesfield	

Sat	27	EBSB	BP	West Wycombe*	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	27	South Oxon	SC	Great Haseley	7.00 - 9.00
Mon	29	V of the W H	BP	Faringdon	

## JULY

Sat	4	Chipping Norton	BP	Leaffield	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	4	Reading	BP	Checkendon	
Sat	4	South Oxon	SP	Brightwell Baldwin	7.30 - 9.00
Mon	6	Bicester	BP	Bicester	7.30
Mon	6	Chiltern	BP	Bledlow	7.45 - 9.00
Sat	11	<b>Guild</b>		<b>Festival - Bradfield</b>	
Sat	11	<b>Guild</b>	SC	<b>Ten-bell competition - Thatcham</b>	
Sat	11	Central Bucks	BP	Granborough/North Marston	6.30 - 8.30
Sat	18	Chiltern	BP	Bledlow	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	18	Old North Berks	SC	Childrey	4.00 - 6.00
Sat	18	Sonning Deanery	BP	Shottesbrooke*	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	18	V of the W H		Branch outing	
Sat	25	EBSB	BP	Iver*	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	25	North Bucks	SC	Inter-branch competition	tba
Sat	25	South Oxon	BP	Towersey	7.00 - 9.00

## AUGUST

Sat	1	Chipping Norton	BP	Charlbury	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	1	South Oxon	AP	Warborough	7.30 - 9.00
Tues	4	Bicester	BP	Islip	7.30
Wed	5	Chiltern	BP	Great Missenden	7.45 - 9.30
Sat	8	Central Bucks	BP	Quainton	6.30 - 8.30
Sat	8	EBSB	EP	Hughendon*	
Sat	8	Reading	BP	Lower Basildon/Englefield	
Sat	8	Oxford City	BP	Horspath	7.00 - 8.30
Mon	10	Old North Berks	BP	North Moreton	
Sat	15	Chiltern	BP	Weston Turville	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	15	Sonning Deanery	BP	Twyford*	7.00 - 9.00
Fri	21	North Bucks	BP	Lillingstone Lovell (Call changes)	7.30
Sat	22	EBSB	BP	Windsor*	
Sat	22	South Oxon	BP	Lewknor*	7.00 - 9.00
Thur	27	V of the W H	BP	Hinton Waldrist	

## SEPTEMBER

Tues	1	Chiltern	BP	Stoke Mandeville	7.30 - 9.00
Wed	2	Bicester	BP	Middleton Stoney	7.30
Sat	5	Chipping Norton	HY	Salford Branch	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	5	North Bucks	QM	Hanslope	3.30
Sat	5	Reading	SC	Mapledurham	
Sat	5	South Oxon	SP	Chinnor	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	5	Oxford City	BP	Cuddesdon	7.00 - 8.30
Fri	11	<b>Guild</b>		<b>Start of Easthampstead course</b>	
Sat	12	Central Bucks		Branch outing	
Sat	12	Old North Berks	HY	Wantage	
Fri	18	North Bucks	BP	North Crawley (Stedman/Grandsire)	7.30
Sat	19	Chiltern	BP	Marsworth	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	19	Old North Berks	HY	Wantage	5.00 - 8.00
Sat	19	Sonning Deanery	SC	Wargrave*	6.00
Sat	26	EBSB	BP	High Wycombe	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	26	South Oxon	BP	Berrick Salome*	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	26	V of the W H	HY	Shellingford	

## OCTOBER

Thur	1	Bicester	HY	Bicester	7.30
<b>Fri</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Guild</b>		<b>Branch secretaries' meeting - Radley</b>	
Fri	2	Chiltern	BP	Aston Clinton	7.45 - 9.00
<b>Sat</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Guild</b>	<b>SC</b>	<b>Six-bell competition - Wendover</b>	
Sat	3	Chipping Norton	BP	Hook Norton	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	3	South Oxon	AP	Dorchester	7.30 - 9.00
Thur	8	Bicester	BP	Ambrosden	7.30
Sat	10	South Oxon		Branch outing	
Sat	10	Oxford City		Branch outing	
Sat	10	Reading		Branch outing	
Mon	12	Old North Berks	BP	Milton	
Sat	17	Bicester		Half-day Outing - Witney	
Sat	17	Central Bucks	SC	Orchard Cup - Chiltern branch	
Sat	17	Chiltern	HY	Monks Risborough (Orchard Cup)	tba
Sat	17	Sonning Deanery	BP	Arborfield/Barkham*	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	24	EBSB	HY		
Sat	24	South Oxon	BP	Warborough	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	24	V of the W H		Car outing	
Fri	30	EBSB		Half-term outing	

## NOVEMBER

Mon	2	Chiltern	BP	Bledlow	7.45 - 9.00
Fri	6	Bicester	BP	Kirtlington	7.30
Sat	7	Chipping Norton	BP	Chastleton	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	7	South Oxon	SP	Wheatley*	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	14	Central Bucks	BP	Padbury	6.30 - 8.30
Sat	14	Old North Berks		Branch social	
Sat	14	Oxford City	AG	Garsington	
Sat	14	Reading	BP	Reading, St Laurence	
Sat	14	EBSB	EP	Old Windsor*	7.00 - 9.00
<b>Sat</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>Guild</b>		<b>General committee meeting - Newbury branch</b>	
Sat	21	Chiltern	BP	Stoke Mandeville	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	21	Sonning Deanery		Sonning* (Committee meeting)	
Sat	28	EBSB	BP	Wooburn*	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	28	South Oxon	HY	Benson	7.00 - 9.00
Mon	30	V of the W H	BP	Shrivenham	

## DECEMBER

Wed	2	Chiltern	BP	Great Missenden	7.45 - 9.30
Fri	4	V of the W H		Branch dinner	
Sat	5	Chipping Norton	BP	Burford*	7.30 - 9.00
Mon	7	Bicester	BP	Bicester	7.30
Fri	11	Old North Berks	BP	Blewbury	
Sat	12	Central Bucks	BP	Leighton Buzzard	6.30 - 8.30
Sat	12	EBSB	BP	to be arranged (with Social)	
Sat	12	South Oxon	BP	Chalgrove	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	12	Oxford City	BP	St Aldates	7.00 - 8.30
Sat	12	Reading	BP	Reading, St Giles (with Carol Service)	
Sat	19	Chiltern	BP	Aston Clinton	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	19	Sonning Deanery	BP	Wokingham, St Paul*	7.00 - 9.00
Mon	28	EBSB		Post-Christmas social/ringing	



ADVANCE NOTICE

# **ANNUAL GUILD FESTIVAL**

**BRADFIELD**

**SATURDAY, 11 JULY 1998**

## **RINGING**

**TWO ROUTES TO THE CHURCH**  
Towers to be confirmed

## **FESTIVAL EUCHARIST**

11.00 am  
**ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, BRADFIELD**

## **LUNCH**

**BRADFIELD COLLEGE HALL**

**TICKETS £8.00 PER HEAD FOR AN EXCELLENT MENU**  
Menu to be circulated prior to the day

## **RINGING**

**TWO AFTERNOON ROUTES**  
Towers to be confirmed

## **TEN-BELL STRIKING COMPETITION**

3.00 - 6.00 pm  
**THATCHAM**

## **FESTIVAL BARN DANCE**

7.30 pm  
**BLACK BARN, RUSHALL FARM, BRADFIELD**  
Tickets £6.00 each

***WATCH OUT FOR DETAILS***  
***COME AND SUPPORT THE GUILD'S OWN SOCIAL DAY***