

Issue 53

ODD BOB

Newsletter of the



July 1998

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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 you article will also be welcomed.

The next issue of 'Odd Bob' is scheduled to be distributed at the
Guild Committee Meeting on 28 November 1998.
All contributions to the editor please not later than **2 November 1998**

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

Master's Mutterings

There has been much correspondence in *The Ringing World* recently on the topic of the quality of ringing across the country. Many of the points made are particularly valid, but I suspect that many readers will have been put off by the fact that a number of the letters have been written from the 'ivory tower' aspect of having a large band of very competent ringers.

The two most important questions raised are: "Do we pay enough attention to what the general public hear from our towers?" and "What can we do about improving things?".

There are many occasions, I suspect, when every band is guilty of presenting ringing which is not the best they can produce. There are many things which can help and I will take the liberty of listing a few in the form of questions and comments:

As a band, do we have an agreed opinion as to what is acceptable and what to do if the ringing falls below this? Setting up, or calling round a poor touch and starting again, or ringing something simpler is often preferable to inflicting bad ringing on those outside, particularly for service ringing.

Do we help our learners to appreciate good ringing by teaching them to hear their own bells and giving them the chance to listen to good ringing? Hearing one's bell in amongst all the others is a skill which takes most learners a long time to develop. Ringing fewer bells, having as strong a band as possible round the learner(s), using handbell sessions, and talking to the learners about their striking whilst they are ringing as well as afterwards are just a few of the many ways of helping learners to master this skill.

If we are finding difficulty in improving our striking as a band, have we asked for help from someone outside the tower? We are very lucky in this Guild to have a large number of talented ringers who can produce excellent ringing and many of them are only too willing to help others to improve if asked.

Do we try to ring more advanced methods before we can really strike the simpler ones well? I must admit to being concerned about the number of ringers I see trying to ring new methods before they have a mastery of simple ones. There are plenty of worthwhile methods between Plain Bob and Cambridge. It is important to build up to more advanced methods in small steps which allow a continued good standard of striking and an increase in confidence. The general public cannot tell the difference between Plain Hunt and a Surprise method, but they can tell the difference between good and poor ringing.

Do we go to branch and other tower practices to gain more experience? The value of this is obvious.

Do we take part in Branch Striking Competitions? Competitions are not just for the possible winners. They give a band the opportunity to test themselves by trying to do their best and to hear what other people think as well as to hear other (good) ringing.

These are quite general things, but there are many smaller things we can do ourselves:

Do we always start properly? The pull-off can be made better if the treble ringer really makes sure everyone is ready and each ringer makes the effort to pull off in the right place.

Do we vary the methods we ring as much as possible so as to keep interest and enthusiasm alive? Ringing what is familiar is fine up to a point and is clearly appropriate for special occasions, but we are more likely to improve our overall abilities by having a bit of variety. There are many simple variations of basic methods which are well worth looking at.

Good striking is something we can all try to achieve. It takes effort but is well worth it when we can appreciate a good piece of ringing.

John Wells

New Rules for PCC Accounts

In October 1997, the Diocese wrote to me and copied the letter to the Honorary General Secretary to alert us to the new rules for PCC accounts. These rules applied to the 1997 accounts and the Diocese was concerned to remind us that these are statutory changes, bringing the Church into line with the requirements for secular charities. The Diocese was anxious to avoid any difficulties arising between local towers and their respective PCCs in relation to bell funds. I reported this correspondence to the November meeting of the General Committee and undertook to discuss the matter in detail with the Diocesan Secretary and in due course to provide this article to give some guidance.

The new rules do not specifically mention bell ringers and bell funds and this leaves the matter open to interpretation on the basis of the other tests which have been applied.

The first principle is that monies raised for the maintenance of bells (ie. tower or bell funds) should be included in the PCC Accounts and described as a restricted fund. Turning to the custom where Tower Funds make donations to the PCC (ie. to assist with the costs of work on the bells), it is suggested that there is a need to ensure that such donations are always used for tower or bell maintenance, and not diverted to some other more immediate need by the PCC! It is therefore recommended that as and when a tower makes a donation to the PCC, it is accompanied by the following wording:

"This donation is made on the express condition that the funds are placed in a restricted fund for the maintenance of the tower and bells and that the PCC shall not pass any resolution altering the use of these funds without prior written consent of a majority of the tower at that time".

This approach should ensure that ringers can retain a measure of control over the funds they raise for tower and bell maintenance. I must emphasise that the PCC can alter the use of restricted funds if it has the consent of the donors. There is no requirement to change the way in which these funds are managed (ie. a ringer can continue to be treasurer of the tower fund).

Where ringers receive fees for weddings, these are in fact outwith the PCC's funds. However, if they are paid by cheque to the PCC and the PCC Treasurer pays the money over to the tower, then these entries will have to be shown in the PCC's Accounts and there is a strong ruling that there should be no netting off. Once a wedding fee is received by the

ringers, then they are free to disburse this according to ancient custom or usage.

I suggest that provided the matter is handled sensitively by PCCs and their Treasurers, no undue difficulties or conflicts should occur. I hope that this article is helpful. If and when problems arise, I will again contact the Diocesan officials to obtain further clarification.

Brian J Gatward, Honorary Treasurer

Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund

Fund Raising

New money raised in the period 1 January to 12 June 1998 amounted to £2611.91. This is very encouraging and indicates that this is likely to be another successful year for fund raising. The main sources of income are £1430.91 from Branch donations, £235.00 from towers and £136.00 from PCCs; other donations amount to £211.00. A total of £502.00 has so far been received from the Annual Ringing Day. This is lower than for 1997 and is almost certainly due to similar events taking place on the same day.

Progress with projects

Following the satisfactory inspection of completed projects, grants have been paid to South Stoke, Wroxton, High Wycombe (St Anne's) and Kirtlington. It is expected that a number of other projects will be completed and grants paid during the remainder of the year.

New projects

The February meeting of the Managing Trustees approved a provisional grant to Kirtlington. This work has been completed and the grant paid. The Trustees do not expect to receive many other applications for projects that are associated with the Millennium.

Investments

The Managing Trustees consulted with the Diocese over the reinvestment of part of the capital. The transfer was completed in March and released an amount of capital appreciation in excess of £60 000. It is anticipated that this will increase the amount of money available for grants by some £5000 in a full year.

The Trustees thank everyone for their support which is so important for the continued success of the Bell Fund.

Brian J Gatward, Honorary Treasurer

Insurance Matters

The Guild has taken out legal expenses cover for all members. The General Committee noted the advice from the Ecclesiastical Insurance Company and from the Diocese and accepted that this was a necessary extension of our insurance. As a nation we are becoming more ready to seek legal redress for any action or incident and the Guild must not remain vulnerable to any such claims. This is particularly important as we must follow the advice and guidance issued by the Diocese. As a Guild we are working with young people, where the terms of the Children's Act apply, and we must also adhere to the terms of Health and Safety legislation.

The insurance cover is designed to meet legal costs, attendance expenses and (where

applicable) opponents' civil costs, incurred by the Guild in defending civil or criminal proceedings and/or appealing or defending an appeal conviction, sentence or judgement resulting from such proceedings. The limit of indemnity is £100 000 per incident. (Note - this may sound a high figure, but legal fees are not cheap!)

The obligation of the Guild (and therefore on all members) is to take all reasonable steps to prevent any occurrence which may give rise to a claim under this policy. In my view this means that we must all be vigilant to outlaw any bad practices, whether in training young people to ring, in procedures for bell or tower maintenance, or in any other area.

I must also stress that this insurance applies to Guild members. If there are towers where ringing tuition is given by those who do not belong to the Guild, then neither the tutors nor those under instruction will be covered by the Guild legal expenses or personal accident insurance.

I trust this is a very clear message but I am prepared to discuss and clarify specific issues individually if necessary.

Brian J Gatward, Honorary Treasurer

Central Council meeting in Dublin

The weekend

Oxford to Dublin is about the same distance as it is to Land's End or Newcastle upon Tyne, but going abroad for a CC meeting is something most members had never done. The last meeting in Dublin was in 1958, a year before I learnt to handle a bell. The fact that many of us combined the meeting with some form of holiday added to the sense of occasion, and the Irish style of hospitality ensured that the occasion was a memorable one. The dinner on Sunday evening was excellent with live entertainment in the form of Irish music and an award winning troupe of Irish dancers.

Many visitors enjoyed ringing tours (including one to the North on Saturday) and there was ringing at four churches in the city on Sunday morning. I particularly enjoyed the majestic ten of Christchurch Cathedral. Ringing before the service on the twelve at St Patrick's Cathedral was more demanding. They are difficult to hear and several had elastic ropes.

But of course we didn't just go for the ringing and the entertainment. The Council meeting is the pinnacle of the year's work, mostly done behind the scenes by the Council's 15 committees and its officers. So what were the highlights?

Motions

John Scott (the Revd Prebendary) is the latest to be honoured with life membership. Having attended nearly every meeting during the 44 years he has been on the Council, and worked on the Towers and Belfries committee for over 40 of those years, his record of service is outstanding.

We accepted ANZAB's offer to institute a regular international striking competition, to be held at least ever ten years. ANZAB won the first ever international striking competition in London in 1991, and they propose the first of the new series to be in 2001 to celebrate Australia's centenary.

We accepted the criteria for allocating grants from the CC bell restoration fund. Council rebuffed a couple of attempts to change the wording, apart from one place where a literal interpretation was clearly not what was intended. The criteria are quite well thought out, but importantly they are guidelines rather than rules, and in any case the Council can vote to change them if different priorities seem more appropriate in future. At the moment the fund has only disposed of money from a few legacies, but with active promotion it should attract more money in future. Even so, it is unlikely to compete with the collected might of all the association BRFs. Hence the need for priorities, and the intent that it should give greatest priority to schemes that would not otherwise be able to take place.

A well meant attempt to reform the system of voting for officers and committees ran into real trouble. I thought I understood the 'single transferable vote system' - until it was explained! I suspect it could have been more simply explained, but it was not. This combined with the fact that several groups of members seemed intent on defeating the proposal ensured that what we agreed was minimal change from current practice.

The final motion concerned the much publicised problems of English Heritage, their attitude to preservation versus 'doing a good job', and the fact that they have undue ability to exert influence even over work they are not directly supporting. In 1993 the Council for the Care of Churches adopted a code of practice representing the best compromise between preservation and the need for use. It was thrashed out after extensive debate between all parties affected including English Heritage and the CC. It appears that EH are not sticking to it, and SPAB (the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings) are also adding fuel to the fire. However, it appears that some of the problems may be due to ignorance and/or lack of co-ordination ('cock up') rather than pure 'conspiracy'. There were impassioned speeches and reasoned speeches. In the end we passed the motion affirming the need to stick to the code.

The accounts were presented in a far clearer way than hitherto, making it much easier to see what was really happening. The most conspicuous item was a write off of some £9000 of the value of publications stock. It arose because historically large set up costs encouraged large print runs of more books than it was realistic to sell. In the case of works like the CC history, surplus copies have been sitting in stock with an unrealistic value. The write off does not represent a loss, just the recognition that there is little chance of realising much more profit!

Committees

We passed most of the committee reports with minimal comment, so I will only mention the more interesting points. The Admin Committee always bats first and has high profile things like 'Ring in 2000' and the Millennium Bells project. As you will see from regular announcements in *The Ringing World*, projects are now going through in increasing numbers. 136 have already been approved of which 36 are complete. £3M of money is being channelled into these projects (to match another £3M raised locally).

The Ringing Centres Committee is focusing its attention more on small schemes than the grand 'bricks and mortar' proposals that had a high profile some years ago.

The Towers and Belfries Committee are busy with inspections 'pre millennium'. It is preparing new guidance on bearings, which may seem mundane, but there has been a lot of correspondence about unexpected failures of bearings. Things aren't as simple as they seem.

The Bell Restoration Funds Committee has continued its work of helping people to find sources of funding outside the exercise, notably from the Manifold Trust.

The Computer Co-ordination committee's major project of transferring the late Canon Felstead's card records to computer accessible form is well on the way to completion. Of an estimated total of around 200,000 peals, 164,197 have already been entered by a small band of volunteers.

The Education Committee has been busy with training courses and new publications. Both the MTM course (Management Teaching and Maintenance) and the Listening course (which I run) are being given to several different associations each year. This year's major publication is *The Tower Handbook*, and several more are in preparation including: 'Service Touches', 'Another 8 Surprise', 'Organising an Outing', 'Learning Methods', and in a slightly longer timescale a replacement for the *Beginners Handbook*. The committee is exploring the idea of an Institute of Bellringing Instructors. This received positive response when mooted recently in *The Ringing World* and we were all given a copy of a discussion to feed back comment and opinion.

The PR Advisory Group has been very active with the increased profile of ringing in the media. The successful *Ringing World* Road-show is to be repeated in April 1999 in Tewksbury.

The annual meeting of *The Ringing World* Limited is normally a simple procedural affair. There have been major changes recently with Tina Stocklin's appointment as the new editor and Howard Egglestone handing over the chairmanship last year. Michael Church, who bravely accepted the chair in addition to his other duties, has taken a huge load in successfully seeing through these changes. Such a load is not sustainable indefinitely, and Michael recognised that his most valuable contribution was as financial director. To his credit he did not cling to the 'higher status job' but decided to hand over the chairmanship to Andrew Stubbs who has recently retired and therefore has more time to devote to the RW. Andrew has long experience and should be a worthy successor.

Finale

Normally proceedings end with the council meeting. As soon as the formal business is over people start rushing to jump in their cars or catch trains. This year, knowing that many members would be staying over until at least the next day (and many did as we did, going on to have a 'proper holiday'), the hosts had arranged an evening event. We were the guests of the Lord and Lady Mayor of Dublin at a Civic reception. I have attended many civic receptions; this one was memorable for the quality of the address from the Lord Mayor who gave us a wonderful blend of history and humour.

The Dublin weekend was unique in many ways, not least in the timing. The overwhelming vote for the peace deal for Northern Ireland was announced the day we arrived and it formed the back drop to everything we did. The streets were lined with 'Vote Yes' posters. The Lord Mayor and the Bishops and clerics who addressed us all alluded to it, some very movingly. Many of the citizens thought that the surge of ringing in the City that we caused had been arranged to celebrate the event. Our ringing featured in the background of many broadcasts and was heard throughout Ireland, another example of the power of bells to speak to the people.

John Harrison

Chiltern Edge Adult Education Course

Having been arm-twisted by Sheila Bruce who runs the Chiltern Edge Adult Education Centre, and is a fellow ringer at High Wycombe and member of the Guild Millennium working group, I agreed to run a five week course at this centre in Sonning Common on the subject of Bells and Bellringing. The thought of two hours "lecturing" every Wednesday evening for five weeks was daunting, but in the event I thoroughly enjoyed the challenge, and did not need to talk as much as I had feared.

Nine adults (including only one male) signed up for the course, the price of which was set at £5 to encourage participation. This rate was specially negotiated to cover expenses such as insurance, tower donations, etc., and was well below the usual cost of AEC courses. The knowledge and experience of my students about bells and bellringing ranged from virtually none to very little, and they lapped up any information I could offer them.

Theory sessions covered a brief history of bells, how they are made, hung and rung; who, why, where, how and when we ring; and an introduction to change ringing. Videos, tapes, ropes, model bells, and slides were used in abundance for these sessions to save the students listening to me for too long at a time. One week was set aside for visiting Shiplake church where all but one of the students got up the narrow ladder to see the bells, and a very willing group of ringers from the Reading branch provided a demonstration of change ringing. In the practical sessions at the centre all students rang 1-2 to plain hunt minor, and during the final evening they enjoyed tune ringing on handbells.

Unfortunately the Oxfordshire County Council would not provide insurance cover for the students to have a go at ringing tower bells, so a follow up session is planned at Caversham under the Guild cover when I hope they will all start to learn to handle a bell.

From my point of view this course was extremely worthwhile. The students were very enthusiastic and appreciative, and I am very grateful to the other ringers who helped at Shiplake and with the handbell ringing. Hopefully some of the students will join local bands, but even if they do not they have learnt a great deal about our art, and have already started to spread the word amongst friends and relatives. It also made me realise how much like a "secret society" we are, and how difficult it can be for outsiders to join us. To pay for a course that is advertised to the general public is one thing, but to join a local society when you do not know anything about it is quite another matter.

Should any members like run a similar course, I would be pleased to provide copies of my notes and lend out my videos, and Sheila Bruce has information about most of the Adult Education Centres in the Guild.

Patricia Newton

Best Kept Tower Competition

This year we had an excellent competition with nine towers entering, namely Adderbury, Bicester, Bray, Chalfont St Giles, Henley-on-Thames, Great Milton, Shiplake, Steeple Aston and Wallingford from the Banbury, Bicester, EBSB, Old North Berks, Reading and South Oxon branches. It was very pleasing to see several towers entering for the first time.

As the towers were quite well spaced and fell, more or less, into two groups judging took place over two Saturdays, 18 April and 2 May. The judges this year were Alan Marchbank, Bernard Stone and Len Palfrey and we thoroughly enjoyed visiting the towers where we received a warm welcome and keen interest in all that we had to say about the tower and bells.

The method of assessment has three distinct elements: items that can be measured, items that are either present or absent (eg. first aid kit), and items that are measured subjectively (eg. condition of decoration). Of the latter there was some spread in the marks, but that is why we have more than one judge so we can arrive at an average, which we consider to be the fairest way. The secret of winning is meticulous attention to detail ensuring that all the plus marks are gained and none of the minus marks is deducted.

Chalfont St Giles are once again to be congratulated as winners and the full result list is as follows:

Chalfont St Giles	1	Adderbury	6
Bray	2=	Great Milton	7
Shiplake	2=	Wallingford	8=
Steeple Aston	4	Bicester	8=
Henley-on-Thames	5		

The judges were impressed by the very high standard achieved by all of the entries and with a little more attention to details a tower from a branch other than EBSB could win next time.

A special mention must be made of Henley-on-Thames. Henley were visited only 18 months ago by two of the judges who, on that occasion, gave the newly formed band some guidance on what they needed to do to redress the serious maintenance backlog that they had inherited. The transformation is amazing and the band are to be highly commended on their achievements. They still have some way to go but they are one of the potential winners of the future.

The judges send their warmest congratulations to all entrants for giving us a hard time in arriving at a winner. Thank you and please remember to enter in two years' time.

Len Palfrey (on behalf of the Judges)

Why have a Best Kept Tower Competition??

Someone in my own branch asked me the other day what is the purpose of the competition and what does it achieve? The purpose is very simple. We ringers have charge of some very expensive machinery which, if not maintained, will become very difficult to use and may, eventually, become unusable. So we wish to encourage every tower to do those simple jobs, cleaning, tightening, lubricating and painting, that will ensure the longest trouble-free life for the bells and the easiest, most pleasurable, ringing for the ringers. In addition the ringing room, any intermediate room and the bell chamber all have elements that affect the health and safety of anyone using them.

So the whole purpose of the competition is to raise awareness of the areas of maintenance that can be undertaken by the average person with no particular skills other than common

sense, and the health and safety issues that can be attended to for the benefit of all ringers. Does the competition achieve its purpose? I think it does, judging by the efforts made by this year's entrants in response to a bit of friendly rivalry.

Judging criteria

The Towers & Belfries Committee felt that the items on the judges score sheet, a copy of which is given to every tower that enters, could be a useful checklist for anyone responsible for tower maintenance. The checklist is reproduced below:

Ringling Room or Area

- Cleanliness
- Tidiness
- Condition of paintwork/decoration, or condition of un-painted/un-decorated walls
- Condition of floor/floor covering
- Lighting level
- Single light source
- Dangerous rope spider (could strike someone on the head)
- Damaged/dangerous wiring or electrical equipment
- Tripping hazards
- Automatic emergency lighting
- Semi-automatic emergency lighting
- Visible fire extinguisher
- Visible first-aid kit

Bell Chamber

- Cleanliness
- Tidiness
- Condition of paintwork/decoration, or condition of un-painted/un-decorated walls
- Pest control
- Lighting level

Bells and Fittings

- Worn ropes (whole length and tail end)
- Loose/damaged/worn clappers
- Loose bearings
- Loose gudgeons
- Sticking pulleys
- Loose or cracked stays
- Stays touching runner (slider) board
- Badly buckled or damaged wheels
- Pulleys out of line
- Sticky sliders
- Bells loose on headstock
- Loose wheels
- Clappers not swinging parallel to wheel
- Grease extruding from bearings
- Rusty fittings
- Loose or wedged frame
- Roof leaks
- Single bulb light source or handlamp

- Risky access
- Dangerous floor
- Maintenance records
- Adequate tool kit (not owned by an individual)

Other Rooms

- Dirty/neglected
- Dangerous floor
- Single bulb light source or handlamp

Clock

- Clearly labelled hammer pull-offs
- Hammers touching bell at rest
- Unsafe/unusable pull-offs

Stairs/bell chamber access

- Cleanliness
- Condition of paintwork/decoration, or condition of un-painted/un-decorated walls
- Lighting level
- Damaged or badly worn treads

I hope this list proves to be of use to all you steeple keepers; keep up the good work.

Len Palfrey, Chairman, T & B Committee

Youth Training Day - 1998

Is there no limit to the talent of our young members? Another successful Youth Training Day was held on 4 April. Attendance was the highest yet, with 21 students aged between 12 and 16 meeting at Bray. Ringing here enabled the tutors to get some indication of the ability of their students before the following tutorial session. It was good to see that all the youngsters had good handling styles and managed these heavy bells with little difficulty. Their tower captains and teachers have every right to be pleased with their efforts.

One disadvantage of the Training Days compared with the weekends that I used to run is that the youngsters do not get the opportunity to mix socially in the same way. However, lunch time in Bray church hall was quite noisy as old friendships were renewed and new acquaintances made.

The students were divided into four groups for practical ringing during the afternoon. Helen McGregor took the basic group with those learning plain hunt to Bob Doubles. My group was a little more mixed with Plain Bob Doubles and Minor and Grandsire being rung. The Cambridge group was led by Robert Newton, and John Wells had the really high flyers who rang London, Bristol and 8-spliced.

McDonalds in Wycombe was buzzing with excitement as the groups reunited there for tea, and experiences of the day were shared. (Needless to say, most of the adults preferred to sample the pub next door!) Revitalised by beefburgers, chips, ice creams, etc., etc., we crossed the road to High Wycombe church where all the students were given the opportunity to sample twelve-bell ringing. For me, the highlight of the day was to see twelve teenagers

ringing some very respectable call changes, ably conducted from the eleventh by Daniel Sandham, with Mark Seagrief ringing the 29 cwt tenor. Cambridge Maximus was also attempted for three of the students. I don't know what the weight limit is on the ringing chamber floor, but we certainly put it to the test with all the students and most of the helpers being there together before some descended to the church for handbell ringing. Methods and tunes were rung as a little light relief from a hard day's tower bell ringing.



Students and helpers at Penn

I should like to thank the ringers at the towers we used, and all the tutors and helpers for their assistance and enthusiasm for this course. It was a long and tiring day for all of us, but so satisfying to see the progress made by these young ringers.

Next year's course is provisionally booked for 6 March, so if you will be aged between 12 and 18 at that time, please make a note in your diary and look out for the poster in the autumn.

Patricia Newton

Radley One-day Course 1998

On Saturday, 25 April we set off from Shinfield at 8.30 am for the Radley One-day Course. It was pouring with rain, cold and windy - Why were we doing this?, we asked ourselves. However, on arrival at Radley our doubts were soon allayed; we were given a very warm welcome, a much-needed cup of tea and friendly smiles.

I was in Group 3 (Plain Bob Doubles) and Alan, our tutor for the day, gave us a very informative talk before setting off for our first tower, Great Haseley. After a little time getting used to the bells we made a valiant effort to ring Bob Doubles - well, hopefully we will improve with practice.

It was now lunchtime. This had been pre-booked at The Bull, Great Milton, a very well chosen venue with an excellent choice of food. With stamina replenished we proceeded to our second tower at Tetsworth. The ascent to this belfry via a ladder was a new experience for me. The bells were not easy to ring, but we all enjoyed the challenge with Alan's guidance and patience.

Our final tower was Garsington, in a beautiful setting, high on the hill. The views across the surrounding countryside were exceptional. This time the ringing chamber was on the ground floor so no mountaineering experience required!

It was then back to Radley for a much needed tea. The meal was very tasty, particularly the sticky-toffee pudding, and thanks to a very kind lady I now have a recipe for it. After

tea we were again divided into groups for the evening session. We had the choice of 'Listening to Bells', 'Rope Splicing' or 'Simulator'. The Rope Splicing was my chosen subject. Tony Crabtree, our tutor, took us through the rudiments of rope splicing and ensured that we all had a finished splice to take home.

We all enjoyed the day and felt we had made progress with our limited ringing skills. Many thanks to Barbara and Peter for organising the course and also to all the helpers at each tower who kindly volunteered to ring with us, giving us the benefit of their expertise which was much appreciated.

Lyn Taylor

Three of us from Reading felt a little nervous at the thought of showing our limited bell-ringing skills to the experts. Met by our leaders, Barbara and Peter, and welcomed into the fold with a folder and coffee, the apprehension began to lift.

An introductory chat with tutor Nicola and the others in our group, a look at the helpful written information provided and we were on our way to North Hinksey. Here, five or six 'professionals' were waiting to put us through our paces in Plain Hunt. One beginner at a time - so much easier to follow than several all at early stages. The bells were lighter than ours at Shinfield - I found the treble relatively easy to handle and also, and importantly, did not need to count the numbers as I could see and hear which bell to follow!

After a very substantial pub snack, we climbed the spiral staircase, then down a steep ladder-like flight into Sunningwell tower to our experts again. Another lot of bells to get used to and add to our experience. Then back to Radley for the last ring. I found these the hardest to cope with - an experience which was underlined after the excellent supper when I joined the simulator group led by Nick. Whether it was tiredness, age, or the striped sally, I know not, but sorry to say I kept missing it and panic set in sorry Nick!

Apart from my last attempt it was a great day and generally added to self confidence.

Thank you to everyone, organisers, tutors, helpers and cooks. Perhaps we may have improved by next year.

Stella Cooke



Group 4 tutored by Pat Newton and John Wells

Group 4 divided itself, somewhat unequally, between our tutors for the theory session. At least one of us had changed options, since it seemed a good opportunity to try to understand the complexities of bobs and singles in Grandsire. Plain Bob seems so much more logical.

A little late we set off for Cholsey, all arrived safely, that is the students and tutors; the tower list for the helpers had started to 'plain hunt' and so they had assembled at Brightwell!! This slight delay gave the students a chance to get used to the bells whilst the helpers hastily changed towers. Touches followed plain courses of both Grandsire and Plain Bob and the students gradually became more confident and competent so that by the end of the third session most needed minimal support. Throughout the day we were patiently and steadily supported by the helpers as various touches were rung.

The Radley 'ladies' provided an excellent supper; one does not dare to think about the calorific value of their delicious sticky-toffee pudding and cream.

Doubts began to creep in as to one's ability to stay alert for Alan Griffin's 'Listening to Bells'. He explained that the dubious honour of running the session had fallen to him simply because he had access to an Archimedes computer. It is such a pity that such a valuable program will not run on standard PCs. We swapped the computer for a Central Council audio tape and listened to a wide variety of bells and methods. Our ability to answer the questions depended on our ringing experience - no one could hear 16 bells!! We did stay alert and became so involved in 'listening' that we had to be 'kicked out' so that the hall could be locked up.

Many thanks must go to the organisers, tutors and helpers for all their hard work and for giving up their time to make such a rewarding day.

Viv Bloundele

ODG Ringing Day and 8-Bell Competition

Ever since the May Day Bank Holiday was returned to us in the shape of the first Monday in May, the ODG has made it a special day. It is probably my favourite day of the whole year, since it is a prime opportunity to sample towers, sometimes rarely opened ones, often in idyllic settings and also to listen to some of the best ringing the Guild can offer. It is also the first real opportunity to partake of the Spring in its first flush, especially if, like me, you are prone, more or less, to SAD syndrome.



High Wycombe: winners of the 8-bell competition

In its early days there was the opportunity to ring for part of the day and, if you liked, transfer allegiance to the great and the good and hear some really worthy ringing. You could also take tea with them and listen to what the judges had to say if you were really keen! However, since the competition was held, now many years ago, in Reading, where tea numbers were limited, the day has unhappily split into two: competitors and tower grabbers,

and seldom do their paths cross since the non-competing ringers are not let into the secret of where the competition is to be held!

Unfortunately this year several other associations have stumbled on the idea of May Day ringing and the turn-out for the open towers was disappointing. I arrived at Windsor expecting the queue to be wrapped three times around the tower, but not so! We just about rang eight and that was because two people very kindly remained behind to let us ring. At Old Windsor we only ever rang six of the eight and at Clewer it was difficult to get more than two or three people together at a time. However, there was an excellent exhibition on here and tea and coffee were most welcome. I telephoned other people I knew who had been ringing and found the pattern of attendance had been very similar throughout the day.

By devious means I located the venue of the competition (but then it IS my business to know these things) and waited for something to happen. I managed to get in on the tea stakes too - just like old times! - someone had to go home so I jumped in quickly.

The ringing, which didn't run to heats, was of a very high quality. I wouldn't have liked Robin Walker's job! He gave a very fair and considered appraisal of the afternoon's ringing with the following results expressed in percentages:

1.	High Wycombe	93%	2.	Reading	
				St Mary/St Laurence	91%
3.	Reading Branch	86%	4.	EBSB	84%
5.	Aston Clinton	77%	6.	Witney & Woodstock	72%

The 8-bell trophy was presented to the victorious High Wycombe team by Ted Peett and everyone enjoyed an excellent tea.

Our thanks go to Ken Davenport (Deputy Master) for organising the competition and the EBSB ringers for organising and manning the towers. However thin the attendance, we hope that the bell fund will have benefited to some extent.

Bobbie May

Banbury

I suppose most branch secretaries, like me, have a sinking feeling when Odd Bob time comes round again - what has been happening that could possibly be of interest to others?

The Banbury Branch had their AGM in April, as usual, and although numbers were down a bit, it was good to be in Wroxton after many years and to have a go on their rehung bells. The bells go well and it was a good meeting. Thanks to all involved, and to our Chairman, the Revd Jeff Chard, who gives up so much time for us. The only change on officers were Sue Burchell's election as Ringing Master (it shouldn't be mistress, should it?), with Graham Clifton as her deputy. Eight new members were elected, as were three Honorary members, and we gave our usual grant to the Bell Fund.

Our branch Newsletter, which hasn't appeared for a year or two, has appeared in a new format under the expert editorship of Dorothy Clifton. If my wife says once more that "it takes a woman to get things done" I will not be responsible for my actions.

Three towers have had outings in the last few weeks - Mollington, Great Tew and Adderbury. I am told that they were all successful.

Our Branch Six-bell Striking Competition two weeks ago was won by Steeple Aston, who were the home team. This was a most enjoyable social event with a splendid Bar-B-Q organised by our new Social Secretary, Mary Rose Goodwin. I think we have backed a winner by electing her to office, although it's beginning to sound as if there has been a "petticoat" revolution in our branch.

Finally Wardington have launched their restoration appeal, having had pledges for £15 000 towards their target of £25 000. We all wish them the best of luck, and I know that their learners are jointing in practices with Cropredy.

Ian Rodrick

Bicester

In April, a goodly number of branch members and friends enjoyed a day's outing around the Hereford/Worcester borders. Towers visited were Ledbury, Bodenham, Leominster, Bromyard and All Saints, Worcester. At Bromyard, we were privileged to joint the local ringers in the celebrations to mark the restoration of the separate counties of Hereford and Worcester - welcomed, it would seem, from both sides of the border!

On Sunday, 26 April, the six bells of Souldern Parish Church were re-dedicated by the Bishop of Dorchester. This was a splendid occasion, when we were pleased to welcome Barry Cowper and Derek Fowles. Many thanks to them for joining us.

There is much going on in the branch in readiness for the Millennium. The project to augment the eight bells at Bicester to ten continues in earnest - the frame has been built at Whites and the two new bells should be cast at Whitechapel during July. It is hoped that the installation process will take place during the latter half of August and that the ten bells will be ready for a try-out during September. The dedication will take place on Saturday, 5 December at 12 noon and will be performed by the Bishop of Dorchester. Further details will be announced later. In the meantime, intending visitors to Bicester are always welcome, but should note that the ten will not be rung for services until after the dedication ceremony.

In the last week, the order has been placed for the five bells at Charlton-on-Otmoor to be rehung and augmented to six. Work is expected to begin in September. Whites of Appleton are to perform the work, and the new treble will be cast at Whitechapel. Our best wishes go to all concerned for a successful outcome to this project.

It is also understood that fund-raising continues at Bletchington where the unringable five are to be rehung in a new frame plus the addition of a new treble. A donor for the new bell is available. Once again, our best wishes go to all concerned for another successful outcome.

Some minor work at Kirtlington, renewing ball races, has also been completed in the last month.

Finally the branch has just held its Striking Competition at Launton, when the judge was

Philip Curtis who rings at Brackley. The congratulations of all concerned go to the winners - Bicester. Thanks to the other bands: Ludgershall, Launton and the gallant ladies' team for making up the competition contenders.

Richard Stevens

Central Bucks

In February we held our AGM at Aylesbury, with approximately 30 members present. The usual reports were read, proposed, seconded and accepted by the meeting. The following were elected branch officers for the year:

Chairman - Terry Wagstaff, Vice-Chair - Faith Newell, Secretary - Andy Lancey, Treasurer - Peter Betts, Ringing Master - Phil Dunn, Deputy Ringing Master - Peter Fay, Branch representatives - Chris Carter (1) and John Blackall (2), Publicity Officer - Jo Osborne and Training Officer - Ed Houghton.

A long discussion took place over the rules for the branch striking competition. The branch follows Guild rules for branch competitions but has in the past been generous with the rules so that enough teams could take part. The meeting felt that the Guild rules were too rigid for the branch. The Hon. General Secretary said that the Guild rules were under revision and that this would be brought up at the next F&GP meeting. The branch Secretary felt that, for the branch competition, it should be left to the branch to make its own rules. The winning team would obviously have to abide by the Guild rules when they took part in the Guild competition.

Our branch practices continue to be fairly well attended, although there is always room for more. There has been a steady trickle of new members so far this year, a trait which we hope will continue.

Andy Lancey

Chiltern

It is nice that branch practices are becoming more popular again, although having one at Mentmore on the same day as the Guild AGM is not a very good idea. Eight-bell ringing is developing quite well with frequent movement between the four towers with octaves.

The Branch Service and AGM drew few people this year - a pity because Aston Clinton made us very welcome. As well as ringing at Aston Clinton we also arranged for the tower at Halton to be open. This is the first time Halton have been included and we look forward to hearing more of their plans to restore, retune and augment to five.

Sadly another tower has become unusable. Great Kimble is closed to ringing until the tower is sorted out. (Two towers going down within two years of the Millennium is not quite what we were aiming for!) On the other hand, Wendover are closer to the point of installing a new floor.

It is only 18 months (at the time of writing) before 2000. Towers are working hard to make sure they have the folk to ring all the bells on the day.

Mike Davis

Chipping Norton

On 18 April, about 30 ringers and friends met at Todenham for the start of a day's outing arranged by Nigel Harrison (see report below). Thanks go to Nigel for a very enjoyable day. Here's to next year!!

The branch AGM was held at Shipton-under-Wychwood on 2 May; thanks go the Shipton ringers and wives/husbands who provided a marvellous tea. The meeting unfortunately was not very well attended; what is it about business meetings?? The tea and meeting were both in the new Village Hall which has just been completed. In her report, the Secretary wished the Vicar of Shipton, the Revd G Canning, well in his forthcoming retirement, and thanked him for all the support he had given the ringers over the years, especially as Chairman - a post he had held for a few years. The Secretary also said that she intended standing down from the post next year; amongst other things the children were moving on to secondary school and who knows what demands there would be on her time then!!

All officers were re-elected for a further year but it was decided that, as the Secretary was standing down in 1999, a replacement should be found in 1998. Fortunately Linda Hoare from Leafield offered to do the job as she now had time to do it.

The branch hosted the Guild AGM on 16 May at Churchill; thanks go to all the ringers of Churchill and Kingham who provided a fantastic tea. It was good to see ringers from all parts of the Guild in this neck of the woods!!

On 18 May at Salford, the church was full and there were about 50 people in the churchyard, attending the funeral of Stephen Murrell. He had been Membership Secretary for the Guild and Vice-chairman of the branch. He was also due to be ordained later in the year. He had not been well for some time, and had spent the last couple of months in hospital. The branch also lost a ringer from Churchill, Walter Cummings, earlier in the year. Although he did not live in Churchill, but at Brailes, he had connections with the village. They will both be missed by ringers and friends alike. May they rest in peace.

One branch member and her family (the older son who is learning to ring) spent an enjoyable weekend in Leeds at the end of May. Thanks go to Graham Clifton for arranging the towers etc. It was possible to go bird-watching and on one day it was possible to notch up 55 species!!

Branch practices continue to be varied, with all ringers being catered for, although it would be good to see a few different faces!!

Claire Tarrant

What a wonderful day we all had on the branch outing on 18 April! We met at Todenham (6, 12 cwt); this was the only ground-floor ring of the day. By the time everyone had had a ring - rounds, doubles and Plain Bob - it was time to move on. The next tower was Alveston (6, 7 cwt) where again everyone enjoyed the ringing. We again rang rounds, call changes, doubles, and also Cambridge and St Clement's Minor.

We then moved on to the ten at Stratford on Avon (19 cwt). All of us were looking forward to ringing on the 10 but, unfortunately, we did not have a band strong enough to ring changes on the 10. We did, however, manage Stedman Triples on the back eight. Here

we had the only mishap of the day: whilst we were ringing our customary rounds the stay on the fifth broke. This curtailed the ringing at Stratford, with much disappointment. On to lunch at the Fleur de Lys, set by the canal, with an excellent menu: we all needed to be recharged for the afternoon's ringing.

We then moved on to Claverdon (6, 11 cwt) where again the main ringing was rounds and call changes, Grandsire and Bob Doubles; also Cambridge Minor. No stopping for breaks: on to the next ring at Aston Cantlow (6, 14 cwt). Not all the ringers managed to reach the ringing chamber as the entrance, a straight ladder, was not to everyone's liking!

The final tower of the day was Alcester (8, 12 cwt). Here we had the best ringing of the day: Stedman Triples, Grandsire, Plain Bob, rounds and call changes and, to finish, half a course of Cambridge Surprise Major. A great day out: thanks to all who came and, once again, many thanks to Nigel Harrison.

Mike Collett

East Berks and South Bucks

Since the last Odd Bob we have held several branch practices, an AGM and a highly successful Millennium practice at Marlow where the evening was 'wall-to-wall Grandsire'. At the AGM in April we were sorry to lose Clive Buswell who decided to stand down from Ringing Master but were, nevertheless, pleased that Peter Bruce decided to have another session as Ringing Master. Welcome back Peter! Clive, however, was elected as Newsletter Editor in place of Trevor Woodward and the latest edition, his first, has just been distributed around the branch.

All the existing members of the Millennium Project Liaison Team (PLT) decided to stand down at the AGM and we are actively searching for new members. If you are interested, please contact one of your branch officers who will be pleased to give you further details. Prior to the AGM the PLT held a seminar 'Millennium Ringing - Theory into Practice' at Burnham and notes were distributed to all towers after the seminar.

Your branch officers were pleased to learn from the feedback following our Stedman practice in January, and the Millennium practice at Fulmer where we concentrated on Cambridge Minor, that evenings devoted wholly to one method proved very popular. For the Millennium practice in May we chose Grandsire with plain courses, touches and conducting. Again this was well attended - especially by people who do not usually attend branch practices. Please let us know if there is anything specific you require and we will try to accommodate you.

We are hoping to put on a Bell Maintenance Course in September/October time with the help of the Towers and Belfries Committee - we will keep you posted!

The Annual Striking Competition was held at Penn on 13 June with four teams taking part. Richard Stevens kindly agreed to be the judge and he awarded places as follows: (1) High Wycombe, (2) Amersham, (3) Bray and (4) Beaconsfield. Despite the depressing weather people were able to have their tea and listen to other teams. The tower was then open for ringing until 9 p.m.

Jane Payne

Old North Berks

At the branch AGM held at Abingdon on 21 March there were some changes to the Branch Committee. Barbara Payne and Peter Starling stood down as Ringing Master and Branch Secretary respectively. Nick Clarke was elected to the post of Ringing Master and Alan Foster from East Hagbourne was elected Deputy Ringing Master. I was elected as the new Branch Secretary. All our thanks were extended to Barbara and Peter for their hard work over the years. In addition to the above elections the branch elected 21 new members to the Guild, bringing our branch membership up to 250, which indicates that the branch is in a healthy state and well prepared to enter the Millennium and beyond.

The Blewbury bells have now been removed by John Taylor, Bellfounders. The Rector and children from the top class at Blewbury C. of E. Primary School were on hand to let the television news team know exactly how important the bells are to the village. The bells are due back in the tower at the end of July, and ringable once more in early August.

Our branch practices have been very well attended over the past months, in particular in April when we rang at Whites of Appleton where we had the chance to practise on the mini-ringing. For many this was a new experience and was as much a fun evening as a serious occasion, with many discovering what it is like to ring a very light bell with no stay.

Shirley Haines

Oxford City

Kidlington has a new ringing Vicar, the Revd Anthony Ellis, and news of his arrival came just too late to be included in the last edition of Odd Bob. A quarter peal was rung on 12 October to bid farewell to the Revd Graham Smith on his departure to be Rector of Leeds. His induction service was in Leeds Parish Church and a coach load of parishioners, including choir and four bellringers, who joined the local band to ring the twelve, gave him a good welcome to the city.

The Kidlington learners are progressing very well and have been promoted to ring for Sunday services. There will be an induction service for Anthony Ellis on 26 June and the local band are hoping to ring quarters on the following Saturday and Sunday. The bands will include the Vicar himself and ringers from his previous parish, Stratfield Mortimer. The Kidlington flower festival will be on 11 and 12 July.

By the end of May, 17 quarters had been rung at Marston. Several ringers from other towers have been given the chance to achieve some personal firsts: Chris Roles from Eynsham rang the treble to a quarter and Julia Malford from Blaby, Leicestershire, a student at Oxford Brookes, rang her first two-method quarter inside.

There was an excellent 20+ turn-out for the Marston and Horspath outing to Buckinghamshire and Bicester, with some satisfying St Simons, Kent, Stedman and Antelope.

A further quarter was rung to mark the 40th anniversary of the then world record of 12600 changes rung at St Nicholas on 7 April 1958. Four of the ringers from 1958 rang in the quarter, which consisted of the same methods as in the original peal: Alec Gammon, Clive Holloway, Roy Jones and Dave Woodward.

Quarters of Stedman and Cambridge Minor have been rung at St Aldates' for confirmation and adult baptism services; these were first in the methods for Fiona Gribble. Surprise Minor practices continue for anyone who wishes to have the opportunity to extend their skills and our repertoire is growing.

Headington has started regular practices on Tuesday evenings, led by Mark Walker from Wheatley and some of the Wheatley ringers have bolstered the numbers, but we still rely on visitors to help the regular band make good progress.

Katie Lane

Reading

Our monthly practices continue to thrive: in March a variety of triples and major methods were achieved at Goring; for the April meeting we met at South Stoke and at first thought we were locked out, fortunately a local ringer came to let us in about 7.30. This was the first general practice on the re-dedicated bells and a definite improvement was noticed immediately. It was a very well supported practice. The May practice at St Mary's, Stratfield Mortimer was most enjoyable but saw a lower attendance than previous months.

The surprise major practices and practices on the 12 bells of St Laurence, Reading continue to attract good numbers and a variety of methods are rung every month.

The branch ran two courses during April: the first on the 18th at St Giles for those who need extra practice with call changes and plain hunting on six and eight bells; the second on the 25th at St Mary and St Laurence for those wishing to learn more about bell maintenance. Both were well supported and of great benefit to those who were on the courses. More courses, particularly for beginners, are planned for August, October and December. This makes ringing for the millennium and beyond look quite positive in this area. Lets hope they stick with it and stay here!

We congratulate the team from St Mary/St Laurence, Reading who came second in the Guild 8-bell striking competition and the branch team who were placed third; also the team representing Reading in the national 12-bell striking competition on being placed third in their heat. Well done also to Shiplake and Henley towers on their excellent achievement in the Guild 'Best-kept Tower' competition.

Rosemary Morgan

Sonning Deanery

Fund-raising continues at Easthampstead. A ringing open day was held on Easter Monday, which raised over £600, with between 80 and 100 people taking part. A flower festival is planned in June, to celebrate the 700th anniversary of Easthampstead Church. A barn dance is planned for 10 October.

At the branch AGM in February, several new officers were elected. Dave Struckett is now Chairman, the Ringing Master is Mike Dane, Ken Davenport his deputy, and Hugh Baxter is newsletter editor. Derek Smith is the branch representative. At the AGM, Dave Struckett thanked the outgoing chairman, John Rance, for his long and valued contribution to the branch.

Several new ringers are being trained for the Millennium, and we are fortunate that all our towers have ringers available, but numbers at Hurst are low and they would welcome help on Mondays at 7.30 and Sundays at 10.30 (except the first Sunday in odd months).

Branch practices continue on the third Saturday of the month at various towers, and on the first Friday of the month at Twyford. Barkham are starting advanced minimus practices on the third Thursday of the month from 8 until 9 pm.

Two combined 12-bell practices were held at St Laurence's, Reading in conjunction with the Farnham District of the Guildford Guild, and a joint 12-bell quarter of Plain Bob Maximus was rung in May. This was the first quarter on 12 bells for four of the ringers.

The six-bell striking competition was held at Finchampstead and was won by Sonning; this was the first time for many years that the competition was held in the evening, and commenced with a draw for the order of ringing. Thanks to the judges, Doug Beaumont and Colin Cairns. The Finchampstead Strikeometer was operated throughout, and its results agreed well with those of the judges.

Pam Elliston

South Oxon

Branch practices have, in the main, been well attended and a variety of methods rung. These have been supplemented by eight-bell and Surprise Minor practices on alternate months. A noticeable feature in the branch has been the number of young people who have come forward to learn to ring, and Tina Ruff has arranged a ringing morning for them in most school holidays and half-terms.

A very enjoyable trip to the Whitechapel Bell Foundry was organised by Kay Bartholomew, and the day was rounded off with ringing at Southwark and Bermondsey.

At the AGM in April, Keith Thomas relinquished his job of co-ordinating the Holloway Shield competition, and Tina Ruff took it on. All the other officers remained the same. At tower level, Dick Lindars stood down after many years at Tetsworth, and Tina Ruff is to keep the bells ringing there for the moment. Doreen Stoneham handed over to David Parker at Dorchester; Kay Bartholomew handed over to Patrick Hingley at Great Milton; and Andrew Gillard took over at Towersey following the move from the area of Keith Thomas.

Some quarter peals have been rung as follows: Grandsire Doubles at Tetsworth for Dick Lindar's retirement in which Dick rang the treble, and which was Andrew Davis' 100th quarter; Kay Bartholomew's first of St Simon's and St Martin's at Iffley; Patrick Hingley's first of Grandsire at Shabington; and Olive Lawrence's first of Cambridge Minor at Berrick. Two quarters were rung at Drayton St Leonard - on 30 March as a farewell to the ringing vicar, Andrew Tawn, and on 29 April to bid farewell to another ringer, John Mills. The latter quarter was John's first inside, and was also first as conductor for Christopher Rogers.

And finally, congratulations to Great Milton who were one of the finalists in the Guild Best Kept Tower competition. This is well earned, and reflects the hard work put in by all the ringers.

Hilarie Rogers

Witney & Woodstock

The branch has been holding two practices a month, one of which is a special practice to enable ringers to learn a particular method. These practices are open to ringers of all abilities. They have proved enjoyable and useful to the few ringers who have come along to "have a go".

There is now a simulator in operation at Stonesfield which is being used to help ring everything from rounds for learners, to various methods on any number of bells. Handbell practice at Ducklington once a week is proving successful. Plain hunt and Bob Minor can now be rung reasonably well, and there is even time for ringing tunes as well.

This year the Ringing Master was fortunate enough to find willing volunteers to represent the branch in the Guild 8-bell Striking Competition on 4 May. This was the first time in many years that Witney & Woodstock had been represented. The team, Lindsey Cutler, Lorna Smale, Oliver Chaloner, Ashley Chaloner, Malcolm Fairbairn, Brian Curtis, Richard White and Anthony Cole, came a creditable sixth place, and may even have done better if a member of the team, who shall remain nameless, had made it to Burnham on time! A special "thank you" to Sarah Dale for standing in at the last minute, and to all the band for giving up their time to represent the branch, and for ringing so well.

There will be a branch Open Day at Witney on Saturday, 19 September 1998 from 10.00 to 16.00 hours to help recruit ringers for the many towers we have struggling with a lack of ringers.

Anthony Cole arranged a very enjoyable Spring Outing on 13 April to Church Enstone, Sandford St Martin and Steeple Aston. Thank you to those that supported this event and made it an enjoyable ringing morning.

On 9 May we set off early, with a full 35-seater coach, for an excellent outing to Somerset. The first tower of the day was Beckington with its Norman tower containing eight bells, followed by six bells at the impressive 15th Century church of Leigh-on-Mendip. We then had lunch at Wells before ringing the heaviest ten in the world, which soon turned into only eight when the slider broke on the second! However, we managed some good call changes to start with and very enjoyable and well-struck Grandsire Triples to finish, as well as trying to accommodate all the ringers in between. The highlight of the day (for me anyway) was the delightful eight at Chewton Mendip with its 126 ft high tower built in 1540. The last tower of the day, after a long walk from the coach, was Batheaston (8 bells). Thanks to Richard White for organising such a wonderful selection of bells, and to all the ringers for making this such a successful outing!

The branch has been organising various quarter peals for people interested in more practice in a particular method, such as Bob Doubles. Congratulations to Rachel Sherlaw-Johnson and Carol Steel on ringing their first quarter peals on an inside bell to Plain Bob Doubles, and also to Ashley Chaloner on his first quarter peal of Bob Minor as conductor.

Lorna Smale

What is the Towers and Belfries Committee?

The Towers and Belfries Committee exists primarily to promote interest in the care of bells within the diocese. Members of the committee are able to give technical advice and assistance on a range of topics, specifically including good routine maintenance.

We are often asked what we do, so here is a brief summary:

- We provide advice to towers in the diocese on any matter concerning the tower, bells, frame and fittings. This advice is given free of charge, but without liability either as individuals or as representatives of the Guild. We occasionally ask for travelling expenses to be paid. Sometimes, if specialist advice is required, we recommend that the advice of a professional bell hanger or structural engineer is sought. We don't provide a specification for work that needs to be done, but we can often offer advice about choosing between tenders that you receive from different bell hangers. We can sometimes offer practical assistance in self-help projects, significantly reducing the overall cost of the project.
- We provide advice to the Trustees of the Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund and to the Guild Bell Restoration Fund. We carry out inspections to advise on the suitability of applications for a grant. If a grant is offered, we inspect the completed work to ensure that it has been completed satisfactorily before the grant is paid.
- We arrange training courses to provide towers with self-help maintenance information.
- We run the Best Kept Tower Competition in the diocese. This year's competition has just been completed and a report is printed elsewhere in this edition of Odd Bob.
- We act as the focus in the Guild for the exchange of information on redundant bells between the Central Council, the Guild and other Associations.

So if you have a technical question about your bells or would like to have a maintenance course in your area, please contact a member of the committee (*see Guild Directory for details*) who will be happy to help you. Remember that we can only assist you if you ask for our help and that there is, of course, no obligation for you to act on the advice that we offer.

Nick Balshaw
Secretary of the Towers and Belfries Committee

Points From Peals *by the Peal Secretary*

A peal at Burghclere in January had the footnote 'With the band's best wishes for a speedy recovery of the most famous pair of legs in Hampshire'. A letter with peal fees from Geoff Dodd to the Peal Secretary informs us that his leg is on the mend.

A peal was rung at Easthampstead to celebrate the birth of Peter James Harris, a son to Richard and Josie. It was also Alex Byrne's 400th peal. The wedding of Chris Kidd and Fiona Livingston, ringers at Aldermaston, was celebrated by a peal being rung at Bicester.

ODG bands have again been travelling to ring at some superb 12s. Cambridge Maximus was rung on the 42cwt ring at St Mary le Bow, London; Bristol Maximus at Shrewsbury (40cwt) and at Evesham (35cwt) .

Congratulations to Catherine Overton who rang her first peal at her first attempt at Hughenden. A peal was rung at Marston as a compliment to Alex Gammon on completing 50 years as a member of the tower; at Shabbington as a Golden Wedding compliment to David Gardiner, Tower Captain, and his wife, Mary; and at Hinton Waldrist to mark the 60th anniversary of Fred Munday's first peal rung at Deane, Hampshire. A peal at Shiplake was rung in memory of Norman Summerhayes.

Robert Newton has rung 1500 peals, Colin Turner 3000, Graham Firman 900 and Helen Piper 950. Nicola Critchton has rung 500 peals for the Guild. Robert and Patricia Newton have rung 800 peals together.

A peal on the mini Coleridge Campanile (tenor 10lb) included the footnote that the composition was especially chosen as it was the closest that Anne Carpenter could get her brother (Christopher Rowson) to ring a peal on her bells! The peal, Rutland S Major, was composed by Christopher.

Following the successful restoration of the bells by the local band and the Whitechapel Bellfoundry at Linslade, a peal was rung on the bells to celebrate the achievement. Congratulations to the band who rang the peal of Stedman Triples on handbells in April. No easy task!

Graham Firman

Guild Reports

The latest edition, 1997, has sold out already. Despite ordering the same as last year the sales have been astronomical. However, if you or any other ringers wish to have an up-to-the-minute list of Tower Correspondents and Practice Nights in our Guild, that list is available for £1.00 plus an A5 stamped addressed envelope. Each order is run off as required - hence they are always up-to-date, but only if you, via your Branch Secretary, keep me informed of all changes, be it tower correspondents or ringing times.

I have been "bequeathed" a box of old Guild Reports which are surplus to the library requirements. I have no intention of keeping these, so if you would like any, (or all of these), just let me know, and I will send them to you.

Available Reports are 1956, 1958, 1960, 1962, 1964, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1994, 1995, 1996.

John F. Payne, Guild Report Editor

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 Guild Officers - Librarian*).

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 Guild Officers - Public Relations Officer*).

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 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 Guild Officers - General Treasurer*).

Guild Officers for 1998

Master	Mr E John Wells	15 Lytham End, Tilehurst, Reading, Berks RG31 6FG (0118 941 0061)
Deputy Master	Mr Ken R Davenport	47 Brookside, Wokingham, Berks RG41 2ST (0118 978 6554)
General Secretary	Mr Barry W M Cowper	Avondale, 45 Longfield Drive, Amersham, Bucks HP6 5HE (01494 725566)
General Treasurer	Mr Brian J Gatward	Grangewood, Mill Lane, Calcot, Reading, Berks RG31 7RS (0118 941 3097)
Assistant Treasurer	Mr Terry Wagstaff	6 Firs Close, Whitchurch, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 4LH (01296 641755)
Librarian	Mr Philip G Brown	Lucketts, Clay Bank, Hook Norton, Banbury, Oxon OX15 5PA (01608 737207)
Report Editor	Mr John F Payne	53 Walker Road, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 2QU (01628 624490)

Newsletter Editor	Mr A Rex Agg	25 Wilton Road, Beaconsfield, Bucks HP9 2DE (01494 675517)
Peal Secretary	Mr Graham G Firman	7 Laburnham Road, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 4DB (01628 636484)
Public Relations Officer	Mrs Bobbie May	4 Halfacre Close, Spencers Wood, Reading, Berks RG7 1DZ (0118 988 4172)
Membership Secretary	Mr John F Payne	53 Walker Road, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 2QU (01628 624490)
Website Manager	Dr Tim G Pett	20 St Amand Drive, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 5RQ (01235 526033)
Guild information on the Internet		http://www.dra.hmg.gb/odg/odg.html
Guild Stewards	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 (Old North Berks, Newbury, Reading) 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, Sonning, V of the WH) 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

Subscriptions	Resident members	£5.50 per annum
	Non-resident life members	£5.50
Peal fees	30p per person per peal	
Annual report	£2.50 + 50p packing and postage	
Badges	£1.50 each	
Guild History	£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	Mrs Shirley Haines	26 Chapel Way, Childrey, Wantage, Oxon OX12 9UU (01235 751624)
Oxford City	Mrs Katie Lane	Catchmole Cottage, 12 High Street, Wheatley, Oxon OX33 1XX (01865 874026)
Reading	Mrs Rosemary Morgan	Rosene, Dark Lane, Bradfield, Berks RG7 6DE (0118 974 4624)
Sonning Deanery	Mrs Pam Elliston	142 Butts Hill Road, Woodley, Reading, Berks RG5 4NS (0118 969 5967)
South Oxon	Mrs Hilarie Rogers	4 High Street, Drayton St Leonard, Wallingford, Oxon OX10 7BA (01865 890163)
Vale of the White Horse	Mrs Jackie O'Hagan	Brubell, 13 Chapel Road, Stanford in the Vale, Faringdon, Oxon SN7 8LE (01367 718994)
Witney & Woodstock	Mrs Lorna Smale	43 Knott Oaks, Combe, Oxon OX8 8PJ (01993 891721)

Education sub-committee

Chairman	Mrs Patricia M Newton	(see Central Council Representatives)
Secretary	Mr Mike K Till	53 Bath Road, Thatcham, Berks RG18 3GF (01635 827957)
Members	Miss Marie R Cross	6 Radley Road, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 3PQ (01235 520868)
	Mr Mike C J Davis	(see Chiltern Branch Secretary)
	Mr Graham G Firman	(see Guild Officers - Peal Secretary)
	Mr Alan J Griffin	Rosebank, Bloxham, Banbury, Oxon (01295 720359)
	Mr John A Harrison	(see Central Council Representatives)
#	Mr Peter Day	Polgraines, Faringdon Road, Cumnor, Oxford OX2 9QY (01865 862671)
#	Miss Barbara Payne	Polgraines, Faringdon Road, Cumnor, Oxford OX2 9QY (01865 862671)
*	Mr E John Wells	(see Guild Master)
*	Mr Barry W M Cowper	(see Guild Secretary)

denotes co-opted member; * denotes *ex officio* member

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) *Parts 2 & 3 form a single leaflet*
 14. Plain, Little and Double Bob Minor and Plain Bob Major

Price: 50p per copy or £5.00 per set of 14 titles (all plus postage and packaging) from Mrs Anne Carpenter, 41 Napier Road, Crowthorne, Berks RG45 7EJ. Fax: 01344 771319. Cheques payable to *Oxford Diocesan Guild* please.

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 Graham J Clifton	Stedman Cottage, Middle Aston, Oxford OX5 3PZ (01869 347273)
	Mr A (Tony) J Crabtree	4 Stallpits Road, Shrivenham, Swindon, Wilts SN6 8BG (01793 784064)
	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>)

* denotes *ex-officio* member.

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

JULY

Sat 11	Guild		Festival - Bradfield	
Sat 11	Guild	SC	Ten-bell competition - Thatcham	
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 18	Witney & Woodst.	BP	Alvescot	7.30 - 9.00
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
Fri 31	EBSB	SP	Slough	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	7.00 - 9.00
Sat 8	Reading	BP	Lower Basildon/Englefield	
Sat 8	Oxford City	BP	Horspath	7.00 - 8.30
Sat 8	Witney & Woodst.	BP	Standlake	7.30 - 9.00
Mon 10	Old North Berks	BP	North Moreton	7.30 - 9.00
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	Dorney	7.00 - 9.00
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	Wheatley*	7.30 - 9.00
Sat 5	Oxford City	BP	Cuddesdon	7.00 - 8.30
Fri 11	Guild		Start of Easthamstead course	
Sat 12	Central Bucks		Branch outing	
Sat 12	Witney & Woodst.	BP	Freeland	7.30 - 9.00
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	Appleford	5.00 - 8.30
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
Fri 2	Guild		Branch secretaries' meeting - Radley	

Fri	2	Chiltern	BP	Aston Clinton	7.45 - 9.00
Sat	3	Guild	SC	Six-bell competition - Wendover	
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	
Sat	10	Witney & Woodst.	BP	Langford	7.30 - 9.00
Mon	12	Old North Berks	BP	Milton	7.30 - 9.00
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	Winkfield	
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	
Fri	30	EBSB	SP	Cookham	7.00 - 9.00
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	Chinnor	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
Sat	14	Witney & Woodst.	BP	South Leigh	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	21	Chiltern	BP	Stoke Mandeville	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	21	Sonning Deanery		Sonning* (Committee meeting)	
Sat	28	Guild		General committee meeting - Newbury branch	
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	Bray (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	12	Witney & Woodst.	BP	Witney	7.30 - 9.00
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	