

Issue 54

## ODD BOB

Newsletter of the



November 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:

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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 Committee Meeting on 13 March 1999.

All contributions to the editor please not later than **15 February 1999**.

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

## Master's Mutterings

As the millennium approaches, it is natural that we should reflect on our Guild and ask pertinent questions about its current structure and practices. It is because such questions have been asked in the past that the Oxford Diocesan Guild remains at the forefront of the bell ringing exercise. Two such questions have arisen recently.

Firstly it has been suggested that we look again at the position of the Bell Fund and the Bell Restoration Fund. Some of the arguments for and against change will be found in this edition of Odd Bob and the matter will be discussed at future General Committee Meetings and, if necessary, at the Annual General Meeting. I would like to make a few observations of my own.

The reason we have two funds is historical and well-documented, as is the fact that the Bell Fund is a capital fund and the other is a 'raise and spend' fund. I am aware that there is a sizeable minority of members who have genuine objections to a capital fund, but still wish to contribute to the fulfilment of the Guild's objective of caring for the rings of bells in the diocese. This alone seems to me to be an important reason for keeping the Restoration Fund. It is also true that the Restoration Fund has proved invaluable as a vehicle for the administration of other funds such as the Downs Barn appeal. With a Guild the size of the ODG, this flexibility would seem to be worth preserving. Clearly one of the problems is with the names of the funds, particularly the fact that the Bell Fund cannot support augmentations, ie. cannot help to buy bells. In some ways it might be better if the names were changed round, but I suspect that this would create even more confusion than exists at present. I am not convinced that merging the two funds would improve the Guild's ability to support work on our bells. Or as some have expressed it 'if it works, don't mend it!'.

The other question was the old one of "how can we find new branch officers?". The world of work in modern Britain makes extreme demands on individuals, often leaving little time for other pursuits. This alone results in a reluctance to volunteer to take on major extra responsibilities and it sometimes happens that an existing officer suddenly finds that he/she can no longer find the time to do the job in the manner he would wish. We ask a lot of our Branch Officers and need to find ways of helping them and reducing the burden rather than grumbling that they are not doing their job properly. One thing that branches might consider is to ask non-officers to organise (or at least help to organise) particular events. It need not be the Secretary or the Ringing Master who organises the branch outing, a branch training course or a social event.

Likewise, it is worth considering ways of re-distributing responsibilities within the branch. For example, the Secretary's responsibilities can be split in a number of ways; appointing deputies or assistants to the Chairman, Ringing Master or Treasurer can help in training members to take on some responsibility within the branch without it becoming a huge burden. It is often easier to find willing hands for a small job than for a large one and, in any case, the more people who are involved the better for the general enthusiasm within the branch. I am sure branches can come up with imaginative ways of solving this problem and ensuring the smooth running of the branch.

John Wells

## **Albert Edward Read, 1919 - 1998**

### **Quainton**

Quainton ringers were saddened to hear of the death of Albert on the evening of 8 August. He was 78 years old. Our sympathy and thoughts are with his wife Mary and family.

Albert was introduced to ringing in 1935 by his grandfather who rang at Quainton for 60 years. Albert was to become another long-serving ringer. Apart from the war years, he had been ringing regularly until 5 July this year. From about 1954 to 1980 he was the Quainton Tower Captain.

During the Christmas period of 1936 he joined the traditional Boxing Day handbell tour of the parish. This involved playing carols at outlying farms and public houses during the day and by invitation to people's houses in the evening. This custom, dating back into the last century, was one Albert did not want to lapse as so many country traditions have done. This long association with the handbells provided material for a wealth of humorous stories.

He gave many hours of service to the church - bell ringing, PCC duties for 50+ years, working in the churchyard, sidesman, building repairs etc. - besides attending many of the services for which he rang. One of his last duties was probably when he checked the skittles for the church fête, which took place the day after he was taken into hospital.

He was a member of the Guild since 1935. Albert was one of the people who worked on the restoration and augmentation of the Quainton ring in 1983. He was rather anxious about having the bells tuned, but delighted with the result.

Quainton will miss a dependable ringer, always ready to help, who turned up faithfully to enable eight bells to be rung for every main Sunday service throughout the year. The large congregation at his funeral on 13 August showed the regard in which he was held. The bells were rung before and after the service and we were pleased that Barry Cowper and Terry Wagstaff represented the Guild and joined in this ringing.

Colin Dancer and Dick Lee

Albert will be remembered by many as the anchor member of the Quainton band which regularly won the Branch Striking Competition. He was always quick to encourage other ringers with a word of encouragement or a smile. The branch members extend their sympathy to Mrs Read and family.

Terry Wagstaff

### **General Account**

As you know, I am dealing with the Guild's General Account. This in effect means everything except matters concerning the Guild Bell Fund or Restoration Fund can be routed through me. I do attempt to turn correspondence round (eg. acknowledging receipt of money and sending cheques for expenses) within 24 hours.

Unfortunately I have identified two letters (not ODG matters) which have never reached me. Hence if you have not received a reply within 21 days of sending something to me would you please contact me?

Terry Wagstaff, Assistant General Treasurer

## **The Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund**

### *Fund raising*

I reported to the September meeting of the Trustees that the new money raised to date this year amounted to £4633.66.

The main sources of income continue to be: £1430.91 from Branch donations, £435.00 from towers, £201.00 from PCCs and £502.00 from the Annual Ringing Day.

The final profit figure from the Annual Draw was £1196.75. The Trustees are most grateful to the Branches that donated prizes and to Steve and June Rossiter for their assistance in running this once again and are pleased they have agreed to organise it for another year. Thanks are also due to those who supported the draw in any way, and to those who were not winners, there is always next year.....

There have been several donations that I am pleased to report:

- £269 from the Society of Rambling Ringers arising from their 1998 summer tour to South Northamptonshire and North Buckinghamshire;
- £196 profit share from the sales of Sherborne Teaching Aids within the Guild area;
- £54 from the service collection at the Festival Service (this represents 50% of the total that was shared with Bradfield);
- £37 from the Bell Ringing Summer School for Young People run by David Struckett at Twyford;
- £50 from Mr Green of Woodcote in thanks for the wedding ringing for his daughter, together with his thanks to Andrew Hodgson who arranged the band.

It is always good to see donations arising from a variety of sources.

### *Progress with projects*

Since the last report, and following the satisfactory inspection of completed projects, grants have been paid to Warborough, Wingrave, Aston Rowant and Swerford. It is expected that some other projects will be completed and grants paid during the final months of the year.

### *New projects*

The September meeting of the Managing Trustees approved provisional grants to: Aston Rowant, Berrick Salome, Great Tew, Little Compton, Wardington and Wigginton.

The Trustees thank everyone for their support and contributions to the continued success of the Bell Fund,

Brian J Gatward, Honorary Treasurer

## **Investing in the Future**

As ringers we enjoy many benefits inherited from our forbears. The bells we ring are a tangible asset. With year 2000 approaching, there is a drive to restore, renew, replace or provide new bells. But this must also go on all the time. Even after the millennial efforts, many bells will still be unringable or in a poor state. Many churches still will be without



a ring of bells. The Guild's objectives include "....that there may be regular service ringing in all the towers in the Diocese where the bells are ringable ..... the promotion of interest in the care of all the bells within the Diocese ..... the promotion of the art of change ringing". Ringing, and especially good ringing, requires serviceable bells and for decades the Guild has supported bell work financially. Since 1974 we have rather unusually had two separate funds for this purpose. How this came about is now history and the practical question for us is whether having two different funds is the most effective way to meet our objective, both now and in the years to come to provide for the needs of future generations of ringers.

At the Guild AGM in May I suggested both short and long term ways that we could improve our use of these funds. The F&GP committee has asked me to outline what I suggested in this article so that you, the Guild members, are aware of the issues. Naturally any changes should have your informed consent. First a recap on where we are.

The objectives of the two funds overlap but in practice they work rather differently.

The 'Restoration Fund' is the older of the two. Its rules allow it to support all kinds of work on bells, ranging from restoration through to the provision of new bells. The rules impose few financial constraints on how it shall operate. Investment and spending decisions are entrusted to the trustees. The 'Bell Fund' is the newer fund. Its rules are more restrictive and paradoxically do not allow it to help buy new bells, despite its name. The rules place a major constraint on its financial operation; it is a 'capital fund'. That means it can accumulate capital (like any other fund) but it can never spend any of it, only the interest earned.

Both funds currently earn more interest than the new money raised for them. In the case of the Bell Fund this reflects the huge amount of un-spent money that has been poured into it. In the case of the Restoration Fund it reflects the fact that hardly any money is put in, but it earns interest on a loan from the general fund.

The trustees of the two funds decide how to spend the available money, ie. which projects to support and by how much. They do not decide how much money goes into each fund. Most of the money goes to the Bell Fund, unless a donor specifically directs money to the Restoration Fund. The Guild aims all fund raising events at the Bell Fund. This is understandable, since it is simpler and provides a clear target for people. The key question is whether there should be two targets when it is much more practical to support one. What is the problem?

My comments at the AGM were stimulated by a statement in the report of the Managing Trustees of the Restoration Fund. "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." Looking at the details, we see four projects were supported last year, receiving about £100 each, and eight more had asked for support. The trustees must feel frustrated and powerless with so many deserving clients and an annual income of under £500. All these projects coming to the Restoration Fund for help involve the provision of new bells, and therefore cannot be helped by the Bell Fund. If they could, they would probably receive grants around 15% of their costs. Last year the Bell Fund made nine grants averaging over £3000 each and promised 14 more at similar levels.

This is a tragic situation. There is a national drive to provide bells for the new millennium

and the best we can offer are tiny grants. It is doubly tragic when we have a Bell Fund sitting on £280 000 of our hard-earned money, none of which can ever be spent however pressing the needs at the time. Buying bells, whether to enable new bands to form or to allow an existing band to broaden its ringing, is a worthy objective for ringers. If no one had bought bells in the first place, we would not be ringers, and there would be no bells to restore. Our own Guild millennium project is aimed at providing sustainable bands in our towers. We all know how much easier it is to sustain a band in a six or eight bell tower than in one with only five or four bells. Three of the four augmentation projects mentioned above are from five bell towers and the other from a six.

How can we improve things?

One thing we must do if we are to help Millennium activity is to act quickly. That may mean adopting a short-term 'fix' and then putting a more permanent solution in place for the longer term. That is what I suggested in May. In the short term - we need a solution that can be implemented without changing the rules of either fund, since that will take too long. My proposal is simple. Channel all funds we raise into the Restoration Fund. Last year we raised about £8000. If that were all re-directed it would permit more worthwhile grants to be given. Eight projects over a two-year period could receive £2000 each, rather than £100 each.

Diverting the money would not noticeably affect the output of the Bell Fund. Because of its cash mountain it could continue to pay out substantial sums for the foreseeable future (around £12 000 per year at current interest rates). Some money may not be instantly re-directable. For instance, legal constraints may mean that the Bell Fund Draw proceeds must go into the Bell Fund, and not the Restoration Fund, if the tickets have already been printed. In the longer term - we need a 'proper' solution. I believe that means finding a way to combine the funds so we avoid all the problems of having two. Before we can do that, we must ensure that the combined fund could do everything the two separate funds can. Since the Restoration Fund can do everything the Bell Fund can do and more, then the only sensible approach is to change the Bell Fund rules to give the trustees more authority. They should be able to spend money on bells as well as restoration. They should be able to accumulate or spend money in accordance with the prevailing needs, rather than according to pre-ordained rules.

As well as more authority, we may wish to give the trustees guidelines that encapsulate the relative priority we as a Guild place on different types of work. The recently proposed Central Council Bell Fund does this, and we could adopt some of their ideas. For example, I think many of us would wish to give more priority to augmenting a four to a six than augmenting a ten to a twelve. We would probably consider preventing existing bells from becoming unringable to be more important than an augmentation.

I think it was priorities like these that motivated the Bell Fund's current rules, but the problem with hard rules is that you cannot make exceptions in any situation, however deserving the case. If we adopt my suggestion, these priorities would guide the trustees, for example when inadequate funds were available to support all the requests for support, but they would be expected to apply their judgement to individual cases.

What should we do now?

Above all, we should recognise that there is little time if we are to help millennium projects, so we should take action quickly. The longer-term solutions require proper consideration and

it is important that we get them right. There is a long history of dissent over the way the Bell Fund works, but perhaps we can all try to focus on the best solution for the future. Please think about what I have written, together with the accompanying articles from the trustees of the two funds, and then let your Guild Officers know your views.

John Harrison

### **The Bell Fund v. The Restoration Fund**

Every few years since the foundation of the Bell Fund, there have been suggestions put forward that the constitution of the Fund should be varied in a number of different ways, such as: allowing it to spend some of the capital, make contributions towards augmentations, turning it into a 'raise and spend' fund, and merging it with the Restoration Fund.

Over the time that I have been a Trustee, we have spent many hours discussing these proposals, as of course we should do. However, the conclusions reached are always the same - that the status quo should prevail. Following the discussion at the last Guild AGM there was, at the autumn meeting of the Finance and General Purpose Committee, a lengthy discussion on the subject, resulting in it being referred once again to the Trustees of both funds.

One of the proposals which the Trustees of the Restoration Fund have been asked to consider is the closing of that Fund. Because the income of the Fund is limited, the grants which it is able to make are small by comparison with those made by the Bell Fund.

There are a number of very sound reasons for keeping the Restoration Fund in its present form, quite apart from the fact that it is able to give grants towards augmentations. It has, through the Diocese, money deposited with the central Board of Finance which pays a higher rate of interest than most sound savings accounts, which is paid without any tax deduction. The Guild Treasurer has also made arrangements whereby a number of towers and branches are able to deposit money in this account for restoration purposes, thus enjoying the same advantage. The money raised for the Downs Barn project was held in this Fund and should the Guild ever wish to carry out a similar venture, then the means of doing it is already in place.

There is a suggestion, as you will see in John Harrison's article, that for the next two years all fund-raising within the Guild should be concentrated on raising money for the Restoration Fund. Of course there is no reason why those who would like to support the Restoration Fund should not run fund-raising events for, or make personal contribution to, it; in fact we would strongly recommend that all those who, for any reason do not support the Bell Fund but want to contribute to bell maintenance and augmentations, make donations to this Fund. However, we are aware that there are many who devote a lot of time raising money for the Bell Fund who would not be prepared to put in the same effort if the money they raise were to be spent putting bells into towers where there was no previous history of ringing. A lot of the average £8000 raised annually comes from these sources. At no time prior to the formation of this Fund were such large amounts raised, nor do we think it will be in the future if this suggestion is adopted.

Whilst in the early years of the Bell Fund there may have been a case for turning it into a 'raise and spend' fund because the money being raised was in excess of the interest earned



and available for grants, this argument no longer applied. Due to the efforts of fund raisers throughout the Guild and wise management by the Trustees with the aid of their professional advisers, the Bell Fund will this year pay out grants totalling in the region of £17 000. This greatly exceeds new money raised in any one year since its formation, and the capital remains an intact inheritance to our successors for many, many years to come.

Derek Fowles, Trustee of both Bell Fund and Restoration Fund

### How Should We Meet the Costs of Our Bells in the Future?

At the Guild AGM in May, the issue of both short and long term use of the Bell Fund and the Restoration Fund was raised. I have examined the records and extracted some facts which I hope will assist in the consideration of this matter.

The Guild History reports some useful background information about the Restoration Fund: *The 1970 General Committee pondered for a long time about giving grants for augmentation. The revised Rules did not allow for them, although money had been given for that purpose as long ago as 1895. Faced with the alternatives of creating a new fund for augmentation only, or changing the terms of reference of the Restoration Fund, they eventually opted for the simplicity of the latter.*

The Guild History also provides details of the rationale for the creation of the Bell Fund: *One of the objects of the Guild is "the promotion of interest in the care of all the bells within the diocese". One means of doing this is by giving grants towards their repair and renovation. By 1971 the Restoration Fund, started in 1926, had built up to a sum of over £2000. Grants were still small and, though welcome, did not offer a great deal of encouragement unless there was enthusiasm locally. In 1972 Henry Lawrenson discussed with the General Secretary an idea for floating a new fund with a very large capital sum, the interest from which would pay the whole cost for all the repairs in the diocese.*

The scheme was put to the members at the Annual General Meeting at Kingham in July 1974 and received their approval. Fund raising was launched in January 1975 and in the first year nearly £1680 was raised.

My analysis of the performance of the two funds over the years 1975 to 1997 shows for:

- the Restoration Fund that 41 grant payments were made totalling £5130; and that
- for the Bell Fund, the total capital subscribed was £158 480,
  - total money available for grants was £149 038,
  - total number of provisional grants voted was 141,
  - total value of provisional grants was £208 135.

#### *Explanatory notes:*

1. *the excess of provisional grants arises because grants are voted for a three year period in advance and the above figure includes grants that are forecast for payment during 1998 and 1999.*
2. *If a grant has not been paid, it lapses and a new grant application may be submitted. The above figures therefore show some double counting.*
3. *The provisional grant figure includes grants voted but not taken up (ie. £2450 allocated to Binfield in 1996).*

An interesting comparison is for the period 1975 to 1983. This shows that the Restoration Fund paid 31 grants amounting to £3030 and the Bell Fund voted 30 provisional grants totalling £11 000 (from funds available for grants of £11 841).

Since 1983, the Restoration Fund has supported projects which are outside the rules of the Bell Fund. This raises the issue of grants for the purchase of bells - the purpose that is specifically excluded by the rules of the Bell Fund. The Guild History confirms that the purpose of the Bell Fund was for repair and renovation. It was never intended to be used to buy new bells. An analysis of the branch details from the 1997 Guild report shows that some 31 towers are shown as unringable. In 1972, it was considered that the emphasis should be to ensure that the number of unringable towers should not increase and indeed should be reduced if at all possible. This objective complied with the Guild rules and supports other work undertaken on behalf of the Guild through the Towers & Belfries Committee. If a PCC agreed to augment the number of bells, then the normal arrangements are for a scheme of local fund raising. Often this is supported by fund-raising by the local branch. There are many examples where additional bells are donated by individuals, without any reference to any external group. Why then should the Guild wish to buy bells when they are already being purchased by individual donors or as a result of local fund raising? If the answer is "The Millennium", then it is surely too late for Guild support.

During 22 years the Bell Fund has expended approximately £150 000 by supporting projects in nearly half the towers in the diocese and increased the value of the capital by over £100 000 in order to maintain and increase the future level of grants. This is a record of which the Guild can be justly proud and is a tribute to the foresight of those who conceived and agreed this style of approach.

With regard to suggestions of changing the rules or of combining the two funds in some way, this is unlikely to be easy or quick to achieve. It will require the approval of the Charity Commissioners once both sets of Trustees have agreed to any new proposals. The changes will have to be accepted and understood by Guild members, in particular those who regularly undertake fund-raising activities.

It is crucial that, whatever the future, there must be no reduction in the level of funds raised annually. I consider it is essential that the Guild continues to offer funding to support the costs of maintaining the bells in the diocese in good order. It is crucial that meaningful financial contributions are offered to support local fund raising. The annual level of fund-raising is in the region of £8000. For the Downs Barn project, the Guild raised some £33 000 in two years. This was always accepted as a 'one-off' project and there is no evidence to suggest that fund-raising at that level could be sustained year on year.

I have two observations in conclusion: Firstly, the Restoration Fund could make larger grants if more money was available. I have asked on many occasions for additional support for this fund and it has not been forthcoming. It is a matter of fact that the Restoration Fund has never been very successful in raising funds, despite all the efforts of Treasurers and Guild Officers over the years. After all, it was in place for nearly 50 years before the introduction of the Bell Fund. Perhaps there would have been no Bell Fund if the Restoration Fund had been able to make larger grants years ago.

Secondly the record of financial support from the Bell Fund is clearly impressive and it will offer increased grants in future years once the peak of applications associated with the

Millennium has passed.

Before any changes are implemented, the Guild will need to be confident that there is the real prospect of a major and significant improvement. Remember the saying - "If it works, don't fix it".

Brian J Gatward, Honorary General Treasurer

### **How Did It Happen?**

A few weeks' ago I was alerted to the fact that some work was being carried out on the bells at Datchet. For those of you who have never heard of the place, it is near Windsor and until recently the tower contained an unringable five. The bells were basically too big for the tower which was rebuilt in the 1850s. At least three of the bells are deemed to be worthy of preservation so recasting into a lighter ring was not an option; however, schemes had been mooted in the past to remodel the ring into one more in keeping with the tower whilst preserving the necessary bells.

When I heard of an article in a local newspaper headed "Datchet bells will ring for the Millennium", my interest was aroused but, on reading further that a sixth bell was to be added, I had grave suspicions that the "project" might not be one that ringers would like. Adding a treble to an already oversize ring of bells hung on more than one level did not seem very likely, so I immediately started to make enquiries of senior Guild officers and members of the Towers & Belfries Committee and no one was aware of anything happening. I widened the net of my enquiries and eventually discovered that the bells are being rehung for *chiming* only at an estimated cost of £30 000.

I find it unbelievable that this fate should befall the only unringable tower in the largest branch of the biggest Guild in the country. Nobody at Guild or branch level seemed aware of what was going on. One assumes that the correct faculty procedures were followed so why was the Guild not alerted long ago, or is there no line of communication between the Diocese and the Guild? Ultimately the decision rests with the Incumbent, Churchwardens and PCC as to the manner of work done in their church but, had the Guild been involved in the decision-making process, the outcome in this case may have been very different.

This shameful incident reflects poorly on the Guild and problems of communication require immediate remedy. How did this happen and what can be done to prevent future occurrences?

Colin M Turner

### **Best Kept Tower Competition**

Every two years the Towers and Belfries Committee organise a competition to find the "Best Kept Tower". I have heard it said that the competition is about as much use as a striking competition or a first aid contest: a good centre of excellence but no use unless the experience is shared.

When the competition was first organised every tower in the ODG was entered by default and towers had to opt **out** if they did not want to take part. Fortunately for the committee, quite a number did because the time taken to judge the heats and the final place a large burden on the panel of judges.

Since then the competition has been for towers that opted in and as a result numbers dropped to a handful. Which is a pity because the sole purpose of the competition is to encourage towers to improve the standard of maintenance of their bells. Which comes back to the centre of excellence idea and, yes, the experience is shared, at least for those that enter, because every tower that enters gets a copy of the judges' check list so that they know what the judges are looking for and, consequently, what things in their tower need to be attended to.

The T&B Committee would like to spread the experience further and have proposed that each branch holds its own contest in the years between the T&B competitions. Members of the committee would be available to give advice and guidance with the judging of the branch contests and every tower in a branch would be asked to take part. That way every tower will get the check list and be encouraged to, at least, brush the cobwebs off the walls. The towers coming first and second in the branch contests would then represent their branch in the T&B competition.

If this is to happen in time for the next T&B competition in the spring of year 2000, branch contests will have to happen next year. Details of the proposed contest will be sent to Branch Secretaries in the spring next year so please give the idea your support and improve the maintenance of your bells. There must be someone in your tower who can be persuaded to wield a spanner or squirt an oil can.

Len Palfrey, Chairman, T&B Committee

## **Branch Reports**

### **Banbury**

Things continue to "tick over" up at the sharp end of the Guild, with the Millennium more in our thoughts than ever - it's getting near now, with only 14 months to go.

We have just had our half-yearly meeting at Banbury, chaired as usual by the Revd Jeff Chard who continues to give our branch tremendous support. It was a good meeting and, with the Millennium in mind, very gratifying to elect 17 new members. These were predominantly from Deddington, and Tadmorton where an enthusiastic new band is being trained and an appeal to rehang their bells is in full swing. A Branch "help squad" is currently attending their practices.

The Branch Outing to Birmingham in September was well supported again and superbly organised by Sue Burchell. It was a good day out, enjoyed by all, with a good meal on the way home - what more could anyone want? The outing, however, did generate some gossip. A certain G Clifton was seen to break the habit of a lifetime and have ice cream, instead of custard, with his treacle sponge! Is he the man he once was? - watch this space.

Our six-bell striking competition was won by the home team at Steeple Aston, and followed by a magnificent Bar-B-Q organised by Mary Rose Goodwin.

There have been two noteworthy peals in the last few months:

- a peal of Grandsire Caters in Banbury in August to mark Cliff Wightman's 70th birthday and his retirement;



- a peal of Deddington Surprise Major, in Deddington in October, to mark the retirement of Deddington tower captain, Bill Ivings.

There were also two noteworthy quarters:

- a quarter of Grandsire Doubles to mark the Silver Wedding Anniversary of Diane and Ron Gardner on 28 August. This was a first quarter for two of the ringers, Sally Gardner and Kimberley Brock;
- finally in Burrington, Devon, on 30 October, 1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor was rung by Ron and Anne Thorne, with some Banbury Branch friends, to mark their 40th wedding anniversary. On behalf of the branch, I would like to congratulate them.

Ian Rodrick

### **Bicester**

The Bicester branch is, without doubt, going through the most exciting period since its formation in 1913. About 18 months' ago there were four projects at the drawing board stage, and everyone must have been thinking - Oh yes! Now it can be reported that all four projects are happening.

First, the six bells at Souldern were rehung in new fittings by Whites of Appleton and formally dedicated by the Bishop of Dorchester on Sunday, 26 April 1998. With a new false floor having been installed, these bells are now a pleasure to ring.

Secondly, two new bells have been installed to augment the Bicester bells to ten. The new bells were cast at Whitechapel on Friday, 10 July last, and transported to Whites at Appleton one week later. After fitting up, the new bells, frame and fittings were received into Bicester Parish Church on Tuesday, 18 August and taken up into the tower next day. After further work, including building in and the provision of final fittings such as sliders, pulleys and clappers, the bells were tried out at practice on Monday, 21 September. Whilst the internal acoustics require some attention, the result has been most satisfying. We look forward to the dedication of the new bells and the augmented ring of ten which takes place on Saturday, 5 December 1998 at 12 noon.

Thirdly, the five bells at Charlton-on-Otmoor were lowered on Monday, 28 September and left on show in the church. One week later they were transported to the works of Whites of Appleton. After removal of the cast-in staples, the bells were taken to the Whitechapel Foundry in London where they were tuned and augmented with a new treble to form a ring of six. The bells will then be rehung in new fittings in the Webb and Bennett metal frame. In addition, the parish has recently been successful in gaining a 45% grant for this work, amounting to a total of £16 777. The bells should be ringing again sometime in the New Year.

Finally, the five bells at Bletchington, the only unringable tower of four or more bells in the branch, will be dismantled later this year and will receive similar treatment to the Charlton-on-Otmoor bells. They will have their cast-in staples removed at Whites of Appleton, prior to tuning at Whitechapel. Again, a new treble bell will be added and the six bells will then be rehung in a new frame and fittings below the existing wooden

frame.

As if this is not enough, new ringers are being trained for four silent towers - Piddington, Souldern, Stratton Audley and Bletchington. Much promise is already evident and we wish those involved every success. The next report for Odd Bob may be equally exciting as reports are made on the progress of the projects outlined above.

The day-to-day life of the branch practices continues with the usual varying degree of support. A half-day outing on Saturday, 18 October in the Witney area was enjoyed with ringing at Wootton, Tackley, North Leigh and Witney. Our thanks to those churches for the use of their bells.

Richard Stevens

### **Central Bucks**

It is with regret that I report the death of Albert Read of Quainton on 8 August. He was a member of the Guild for over 50 years and a stalwart of the Quainton band. The branch members extend their sympathy to Mrs Read and family. An obituary appears elsewhere in this issue.

September 12 was the date for our branch outing. This year the Huntingdon area was invaded. As usual the organisers were Mark Sellin and Peter Fay, and our thanks to them for yet another enjoyable day. Hopefully next year I will be able to attend.

The October branch practice was delayed for a week due to the annual Orchard Cup Striking Competition, which this year was hosted by the Chiltern Branch at Monks Risborough. Three teams from Chiltern branch battled against six teams from our branch, and still we did not win! The very worthy winners were again Aston Clinton and congratulations to them. We all know the standard we have to beat. Perhaps next year the Orchard Cup will reside in a Central Bucks tower.

Our branch continues to grow steadily both in members and towers. A band is being trained for Soulbury, whose bells have not been rung full circle for very many years. The bells are due to be taken out in November and will be back early in 1999. We all look forward to that.

Our final practice of the year is on the second Saturday in December and will be held just outside the branch at Leighton Buzzard (12). This will give some ringers their first taste of ringing on twelve.

As this is the last Odd Bob of the year, may I take this opportunity to thank all our clergy for the use of their bells and their ringers for making us welcome. On behalf of the Central Bucks Branch I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Andy Lancey

### **Chiltern**

'Writer's Block' is a difficult problem. Months have passed and, suddenly, I wonder what there is to write about. Chiltern ringers are a wonderful bunch and all work hard, but this

is not the medium for stating the obvious.

So, what is the news?

We did indeed hold a striking competition in June - a little ritual involving Bledlow and Cheddington to speed Aston Clinton on their way to the Guild finals. Four months' later nine bands turned up for the Orchard Cup competition at Monks Risborough and Aston Clinton did it again!

Speaking of competitions, Wendover hosted the Guild finals and I bet you are all wondering how Aston Clinton got on. Well, let's just say that High Wycombe won this time. No doubt EBSB will wax lyrical about that.

Enough of foreigners....

If there is a Ringers' Tea Catering Competition, I declare that Chiltern would always be up with the leaders. Thank you, Cheddington, Wendover and Monks Risborough!

A citizen of Marsworth was somewhat alarmed to hear bells ringing on a Saturday evening. He thought it odd because it does not happen very often. He was emboldened to make his protest, no doubt, by the fermented juice of the grape (or equivalent) but only after he was reassured that an invasion by a foreign power was not imminent.

There was a nice little moment at Great Missenden recently. A visiting ringer was moved to enlighten the Guild Honorary Secretary on some basic features of Stedman. The sharing of the common fund of knowledge is such a beautiful thing.

Finally, if you fancy a spot of Saturday morning ringing, drop into Mentmore at 10-ish. You get coffee as well.

Mike Davis

### Chipping Norton

At the Autumn meeting which was held at Salford in September two new members, Mark Tarrant and Adrian Smith, were elected. Congratulations go to them. Mark had previously set himself the challenge of ringing a quarter peal for his 11th birthday. This was achieved at Spelsbury on 10 October, two days before his birthday. Well done Mark! The ringers afterwards celebrated at Glebe Farm, the home of his grandmother; thanks go to her for her hospitality.

It was decided to hold some more practical sessions on Saturdays as these had proved beneficial earlier in the year. The first two of these have now taken place, and it is hoped that the students learnt something! The next one is planned for 21 November, concentrating on Plain Bob Minor. Three more are planned for the New Year. It was also decided to have a branch outing on 10 April; the job was given to Nigel Harrison as he had so ably arranged one this year! Let us hope that it is again well supported by branch members.

Spelsbury have now started practising again, which is very pleasing, on a Monday. Enstone practise on Tuesdays. Visitors are welcome at both towers (7.30 - 9.00 pm).

A very enjoyable branch dinner was held at the Cross Hands, Salford on 16 October; 30 ringers and friends sat down to a very substantial meal.

The augmentation projects in the branch are doing well. Swerford bells are now back in the tower, having been re-tuned and augmented to six. The dedication is on 27 November. Wigginton bells are now out of the tower, and work is progressing there. Both villages held fund-raising events in the summer; each raised about £1100 despite the very wet weather.

Branch practices continue on the first Saturday in the month and visitors are welcome.

Claire E Tarrant

### **East Berks and South Bucks**

In August we were all very sorry to learn that our Branch Secretary, Jane Payne, was unwell and wished to relinquish her post. Pat Moore (Fulmer) agreed to take over the work and she was formally elected at the Half Yearly Meeting (*see Guild Directory for contact details*). We should all like to thank Jane for all her hard work and extend to her our very best wishes for a full and speedy recovery.

We were saddened to hear of the death of Gladys Barker, the oldest member of our branch, who passed away just a week after her 98th birthday. Many friends, ringers, branch and guild officers attended the funeral at Stoke Poges on 25 August and heard Harold Rogers' tribute to this remarkable lady. In her memory, two quarter peals (of Grandsire Triples and Stedman Triples) were rung at Stoke Poges, and a peal of Grandsire Caters was rung at Isleworth (for the London County Association). A full obituary can be found on page 928 of *The Ringing World* (18 September 1998).

Since the last edition of Odd Bob we have continued to hold branch practices roughly twice a month, interspersing the normal monthly practice with themes such as Surprise practices and Millennium practices. A new feature has been the Young Persons' Practices, organised by Peter Bruce. The aim of these is to enable people of school age to ring with others of their peer group in the hope that they will encourage one another to attend the regular Saturday evening branch practices too.

At each of our Millennium practices we aim to concentrate on one method and have now covered the theory and practice of Plain Bob and Grandsire Doubles, Cambridge Minor, Stedman Triples and Grandsire Triples. Each practice enables individuals with different levels of ability to make progress, from attempting plain courses, wanting to ring a first touch, or wishing to start conducting. The sixth in this series was held at Hughenden in August when the chosen method was Plain Bob Triples. Peter Bruce led the theory session before we began to ring and all those present said how worthwhile they had found this concentrated practice when no more than two learners rang in any touch. By the time you read this, we shall have held another Millennium practice at Old Windsor.

In September your branch officers organised a further Millennium workshop, to assess the progress within the branch towards ringing all of our bells on 1 January 2000. During the two hours, sessions were run on the state of the branch, branch achievements to date, training and the way ahead. This was followed by general ringing at High Wycombe.

The final of the Lorna Newton competition was held at Winkfield in October and was



contested by the three teams which had survived the earlier rounds. John Harrison kindly agreed to adjudicate and awarded Cookham first place, followed by Slough and then High Wycombe B. The two cups for the winners and runners-up, given in memory of Lorna and Percy Newton, were presented by members of their family.

Our most recent event before going to press was a Half Term outing at the end of October which was very well supported by about 25 people and, at a time of very stormy and wet weather, we were blessed with a lovely, sunny day. We enjoyed five very good rings of bells in Buckinghamshire and extend our thanks to Gill and Roger Hazell for making all the arrangements for the day, and to the incumbents and tower captains of the churches concerned for making their bells available.

Pat Moore

### **North Bucks**

The format of our branch striking competition in June varied from the norm in that the Maids Moreton ringers set up a barbecue instead of the usual tea. This raised over £100 for their tower repair fund. Hanslope were the winners of the competition but unfortunately were not able to go to the Guild competition.

Our annual competition against the Towcester Branch of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild was held at Olney. This did not meet with the approval of one lady nearby resident. She managed to evade the ringers outside the tower and ascended the tower. When she emerged again she complained about "a very rude man who shouted....". Had she ventured into the ringing room whilst the Towcester band was ringing, the man in charge might have been even more rude! Since then we have heard that nothing more has come of the incident - indeed we gather that her husband had tried to dissuade her from coming across to the church. The honours in the competition were divided this year with Towcester winning the George Holland Stedman Trophy and the North Bucks winning overall.

The branch practices which focus on rounds and call changes have been well attended with a number of our newer members attending a branch event for the first time.

We were saddened to learn at our quarterly meeting in September that Doug O'Neale, one of our Guild Representatives, had died suddenly the previous day. Although Doug had been ringing for only a few years, he brought an enthusiastic approach to all that he did and was valued as a branch committee member. He will be much missed.

Helen Stanworth

### **Old North Berks**

Wedding bells rang out across Old North Berks to celebrate three special weddings within the branch during the summer. The first wedding was that of Andy and Paula Utting at Marcham on 20 June. Next came the wedding of our Ringing Master/Treasurer, Nick Clarke, to Debbie Greenfield on 4 July - a service of blessing was held at Drayton after the Register Office wedding in Abingdon. Finally, Colin Turner married Nicola Crighton at Milton on 5 September. All were memorable days, for which peals and quarter peals were rung.

The 18 July dawned bright and sunny - a lovely day for a striking competition to be held

at Childrey. Letcombe Bassett (3) was also available during the afternoon, but not many people ventured over to give them a ring. Someone asked me if they had stays and, after we had rung them up and stood, I answered 'Yes' with a sigh of relief. The evening was undoubtedly the best part of the day after a very disappointing turn-out of teams for the striking competition. Bernard Stone prepared and cooked an excellent barbecue, which was well attended, at Challow British Legion.

Branch practices have been well attended. In June we visited Letcombe Regis where the long ladder caused one young ringer to leave before the ringing started! Nevertheless, those who were undaunted by the ladder managed to ring a wide range of methods, from rounds to London. The practice in August was held at North Moreton, and was particularly well attended for August with some 18 ringers enjoying the challenge presented by these bells. September was quite a busy month. Our Half-yearly Meeting was held at Appleford on the 19th after a delicious tea prepared by their ringers. A Surprise Major practice was held at Drayton on the 23rd when several methods were well rung by all those who attended. The next day saw the Dedication Service of Blewbury bells by the Bishop of Reading. This was a lovely, if somewhat unusual, service which included several ringers from all over the branch in the congregation. There was also a good turn-out for the practice at Milton in October.

At the beginning of August Abingdon bade farewell to our Chairman, Jon Chamberlain, and his wife Kay who moved next door to the Vale of White Horse branch to live in Faringdon. Our loss is certainly their gain, but we hope to see them both out and about the branch for some time to come.

Wallingford ringers are busy fund-raising for their Church Millennium Appeal, and it is hoped to remove the bells early in the new year, and to have them rehung in time for Easter.

Shirley Haines

### Oxford City

The City branch had their annual outing on 10 October, and instead of writing the report myself, having plenty of other reports to write, I decided to ask for a volunteer; John Lonsbrough took up the challenge....

"On Saturday 10 October the weather forecast was for strong winds and some rain, but in the event we had a dry day with light breezes and some sunshine for the 1998 Oxford City Branch members and friends' outing to the Chipping Norton branch. Unfortunately some of our members from Cowley and Iffley were unable to join us due to the last minute illness of their driver, with whom we sympathized.

Our ringing ranged from rounds to Norwich Surprise Minor at the six-bell towers of Charlbury, Leafield and Chadlington. They were all very different in character and, for ringers away from their home for the first time, provided some interesting new experiences with elastic ropes and odd-struck bells. We suspected that one of the villages has inhabitants of very short stature as some of the sallies were so low we held plain rope at both strokes! However, all the day's bells went well and we had some respectable ringing despite the relatively inexperienced band. We would like to thank all the local clergy, church officers and ringers for allowing us to use their bells.

Our final call was at Chipping Norton where the bells sound beautifully but very softly; Len's calls were audible, even to me, as he practised his softer-than-speaking voice. We turned out some presentable Stedman Triples and Cambridge Major in addition to our usual eight-bell repertoire. Then 22 of us repaired to the Blue Boar for a first-class supper and conviviality where many happy acquaintances were made before we were finally obliged to disperse homewards.

All those present had a great day, apart from the usual difficulty of churches without toilets - what do locals do? - and we are grateful to Katie for organizing it, Len for running the ringing and car owners for the transport. Roll on next October!"

News from Kidlington and Iffley: quarters for the new vicar, Anthony Ellis, and for the new bride and groom Rachel Doherty and Stephen Davis; good wishes from all branch members to all three of them.

Katie Lane

### Reading

Members of the Reading Branch who knew Michael Diserens were very sad to hear of his sudden death in the summer. Our condolences go to his family and friends.

The monthly practices at Shinfield in June, Checkendon in July and Lower Basildon jointly with Englefield in August have continued to attract ringers with a good range of abilities. The August evening was a very hot one but did not deter a foursome arriving on bicycles.

Our ringing masters have arranged and run two courses recently: in August there was a rounds and call changes' morning at Shiplake, and in October there was a Triples plus raising and lowering morning at St Giles, Reading. A variety of experienced ringers are being invited to help on these courses so that no-one is asked to give up too many mornings. Our next course is to be at Pangbourne and Whitchurch on 28 December for those persevering with Bob Doubles and Grandsire. We continue to run Surprise Major practices on the third Thursday of each month and a 10/12-bell practice on the last Friday of each month.

The Branch six-bell striking competition held in September had eight entries this year. Tilehurst X was the winning band. They went on to represent us in the Guild competition where they were placed second, only one fault behind the winners. In the Guild eight-bell competition, the team from St Mary's, Reading was placed second and the branch team was third. In the 10-bell striking competition, the Reading Branch team were the winners. Congratulations to all our ringers who took part in these events.

Around the towers: Ringing at **Burghfield** and **Englefield** is starting to thrive again after a few years in the doldrums. Six adults started ringing in the summer and are making good progress. Their aim is to man the Ufton Nervet and Burghfield bells for the millennium, ringing by local bands. At Englefield, four children and two mums started to ring a few months' ago. They combined with three children who recently started learning at **Theale** to go on a half-term outing. A few experienced ringers made it an enjoyable and most worthwhile afternoon: all of them showed improvement by the end of the third tower ringing. Ringing at **Shiplake** is thriving: they have five junior and four adult recruits. It was encouraging to hear that some of the juniors rang for their own Primary School Service in the church. Cyril Crouch has recently taken over from Mike Bland as tower captain. Many

thanks to Mike for all he has done for Shiplake in the past; we do hope he will continue to be an active member of the band. Ringing at **St Giles, Reading** is still strong: they have not had any new recruits recently but often have visits from Mapledurham trainees and University ringers. Congratulations to David Crocker on ringing his first peal (8 spliced) on 11 October. **Pangbourne** recently acquired two new ready-made ringers - Justine and Simon Peberdy; Simon is quite an experienced ringer whilst Justine is learning Plain Bob and Grandsire Doubles inside. Ringing at **Goring** is also strong at present; they were lucky enough to have two couples of experienced ringers move into their area. Their ringing room is about to be re-decorated and they are soon to purchase new ropes: evidently there has been quite a debate about the colour of the new sallies. **Bradfield** enjoys well-supported practices most weeks with a good range of methods being rung. Unfortunately **Mortimer's** towers are struggling at the moment and have to depend on importing from nearby Aldermaston to ring for services and practices. We hope new recruits will soon be forthcoming in that area.

Last year the Reading Branch held an Advent Carol Service in conjunction with our December monthly practice at St Giles, Reading. It was considered an enjoyable success so we are repeating it this year. Anyone - ringers from any branch, plus their families and friends - will be very welcome. Do try to join us: 6.00 ringing; 7.00 service; 8.00 further ringing plus mulled wine and mince pies at the back of the church.

Rosemary Morgan

### Sonning Deanery

Fund-raising to repair the bell frame at Easthampstead continues slowly; this repair will be done only when separate funds have been raised for renovation of the tower stonework and Burne Jones stained glass windows. The ringers are selling china and Christmas cards; for further details contact Steve Wells on 01344 452202.

In July, a group from Arborfield and Barkham visited the Whitechapel Bell Foundry where they were given a comprehensive tour by Alan Hughes. They saw the area where the loam moulds for the inside and outside shapes of the bells are produced, the furnace where the liquid metal is heated, the vertical boring mill where bells can be tuned, and the areas where frames and bell wheels are constructed. Handbell-making was also demonstrated.

The summer school, arranged by David Struckett, was based at Twyford for four days at the end of July. Nineteen young people attended, ringing at Twyford and neighbouring towers. Other activities included rope splicing, tune ringing on handbells, trying out John Harrison's bell simulator and various computer programs, a visit to Anne Carpenter's house to ring the Coleridge Campanile. On the last day there was ringing for a short service, then a barbecue lunch and a treasure hunt. Many thanks to all the tutors and helpers who made the event a success.

Congratulations to Roy Russel, Jacqueline Haxell, Robert Skingsley, Felicity French and Lisa Maskell on their first quarter peals.

A peal of Cambridge Surprise Major was rung at St Paul's, Wokingham as a compliment to Alison Ridley (a ringer at St Paul's) who married Julian Clayton on 12 September.



The eight-bell striking competition was held at Wargrave and won by Easthampstead. Thanks to David Struckett for judging it.

We were all saddened to hear the news of the death of Ron Butler on 3 August. Ron had been tower captain of Binfield for 33 years, until the beginning of this year when ill health forced him to retire. He has done much to benefit the tower over the years.

Pam Elliston

### South Oxon

Attendance at branch practices has slackened off over the summer, but they have still proved useful for those attending. In a branch with little tradition of eight-bell ringing, the eight-bell practices continue to give the opportunity to those who wish to ring Triples, and occasionally Major. Some of the youngsters in the branch have taken advantage of special ringing mornings, and many of them are steadily progressing through the Sherborne scheme. The Six-bell Striking Competition in June attracted three entries, and was won by Chinnor, with Drayton St Leonard second and Great Milton third. With such a small entry, the three bands are to be congratulated on their efforts. The change of date did nothing to increase the number of teams entering, and we will be looking to revert to March from next year, but probably stick with an evening competition.

The branch outing in October ambitiously aimed to visit five counties, but was thwarted when somebody moved one of the churches. An interesting day was had, including walking through a champagne reception at Stowe School en route for the church (appropriately dressed, of course), and having to walk through a church meeting in order to use the 'facilities' at another tower. Thanks to Terry Gibson for all the planning.

Practices re-started at Tetsworth over the summer, and now take place on Mondays at 7 pm.

Congratulations to Andrew and Teresa Davis on the birth of Lucy Katherine in August; and congratulations (belatedly) to David Gardiner and his wife Mary, of Shabbington, who celebrated their Golden Wedding in March. The Hasledines and friends rang a peal at Shabbington to mark the occasion. Ruth Walker of Wheatley rang her first quarter on 17 May, when she trebled to Plain Bob and Grandsire Doubles; Olive Lawrence rang her first quarter of Cambridge Minor; and Sue Dyke and Kay Tuckwell rang their first of Superlative Surprise Major. Kay Bartholomew conducted her first quarter - Bob Doubles at Monks Risborough in September. Well done, everyone.

Hilarie Rogers

### Witney & Woodstock

The branch seems to have been quiet over the last few months, so there seems little to report. Attendance at Branch Practices has continued to vary, with some venues/months proving more popular than others. We enjoyed some good publicity in the local paper regarding bell ringing and the millennium. Following this the PLT arranged a very enjoyable and successful Open Day at the Witney tower, and Witney had benefited from several new recruits.

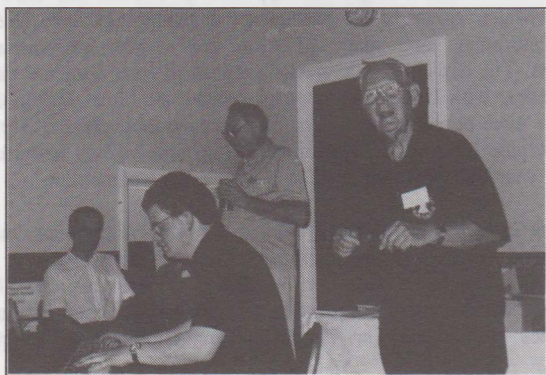
Stonesfield represented the branch at the Guild six-bell striking competition at Wendover,

which proved to be much more enjoyable than the previous occasion a couple of years' ago! The standard of ringing is improving, and with lots more practice we may yet manage a band that can strike as well as the winners did!

Lorna Smale

### Easthampstead '98

*Six group reports, together with an introduction by Bobbie May, were submitted for publication in Odd Bob. Identical copy was published, with the omission of some detail, in The Ringing World on 6 November 1998 (p. 1084). An alternative photograph was used, however, so the original is reproduced here - Ed.*



*Simon Cole and Bob Gerhardt 'strut their stuff' while Bill Butler, who has heard it all before, is in a trance, or stupor?*

### Running a Practice

*(reprinted with permission from the South Oxon Branch newsletter)*

Our man, being the decisive type and not designed to dither, now finds himself taking charge on practice night. A fitting reward for his years of service?? Or something to do with the number of ringers at his tower? One. Him.

Arriving early at the tower, he waits until at least five others arrive, then meekly requests "Band to raise, please" (one day, he thinks, he will demand authoritatively "Right, let's get some bells up!"). He has usually grabbed the treble by this time, and the next five minutes have been adequately described in his earlier adventures. Practice nights then follow the same pattern, week after week, without any apparent direction. But what can he do about it? Surely there is some way he can bring more sparkle and dynamism to his leadership style?

Reflecting on this, he decides that what he really needs is an easily-remembered action plan (Action Man might be more use!) to follow each week. After much thought he comes up with this 13-point plan:

1. Make sure you are the first to arrive.
2. Under no circumstances leave the key at home/in pocket of old coat/under flower pot/in other car etc.
3. Decide on the best composition of the band-to-raise.
4. (Do not attempt to take the treble.)
5. Look around at who is there, and breathe a sigh of relief if there aren't enough to ring London (forgotten it already).
6. Everyone present ought to be asked what they would like to ring.
7. Then make them ring something different - your favourite method/a different bell/something they haven't looked at for weeks.
8. Have a good discussion as to what went wrong, allowing everyone in turn to take the blame.
9. (Remember, the Tower Captain never goes wrong.)
10. Only ring if, on getting lost yourself, you can muddle it so much that everyone else gets lost also.
11. Use the gaps between ringing to encourage general conversation - that way you may escape ringing anything really difficult.
12. Get the bells down in time for the clock to strike 9.
13. Have you got the key to lock up?

His practice nights are now transformed. Remembering the initial letter of each point, he has solved the mystery of successful leadership. Try it!

Anon

### Points From Peals

Guy Darvill has rung his first peal, Cambridge Major inside at Beaconsfield.

A peal at Reading, St Mary was rung for the installation of the Rev. Brian Shenton (Vicar) as a Canon of Christ Church.

A handbell peal was rung to congratulate Eleri Moore on her graduation from Cambridge University, and another was rung to congratulate Ruth Groves on becoming a Doctor of Medicine.

A peal at Marcham was arranged and rung to celebrate the Marriage Blessing of Andy & Paula Utting, both Marcham ringers.

A peal of Minor rung at Sunningwell on 4 June was a nightmare for the Peal Secretary to type out as it contained 100 methods. But that was probably easier than ringing it.

Nick Clarke and Debbie Greenfield rang in a peal at Drayton as an advance celebration of their wedding on 4 July. It was the first peal for Debbie for 15 years.

Caroline Windley was ordained Priest in Worcester Cathedral and a peal was rung to celebrate the occasion at Thatcham.

Cliff Wightman celebrated his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday and retirement by ringing a peal on the tenor at Banbury.

A family peal was rung as a 90<sup>th</sup> birthday compliment to Mrs. C E Muirhead at East Ilsley. In the band was one of her daughters and 4 grandchildren.

By conducting a peal of Lincolnshire Surprise Major, Patricia Newton, Past Master of the Guild and a Vice-President, rang her 1000<sup>th</sup> peal at High Wycombe on 18 July. Peter Windley has rung 500 peals and Anthony R Peake has rung 1200 peals. David Lane and Clive Holloway have both rung 600 peals and Peter Bridle has rung 2000 peals of Surprise.



*The peal band after Patricia Newton's 1000th peal at High Wycombe on Saturday, 18 July 1998: (l to r) George Whiteside, Robert Newton, Patricia Newton, Meryl Kennedy, John White, Peter Bruce, Ken Darvill and Graham Firman*

A peal of Walmington-on-Sea Delight Major was rung at Chalfont St. Giles to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first episode of 'Dads Army'. Chalfont St. Giles was the location for the feature film.

Congratulations to Colin Turner and Nicola Crichton on their wedding. Both Colin and Nicola have rung many peals for the Guild (their combined total last year was 355). And how did they celebrate their wedding? By ringing a peal, of course! Colin has also completed the Surprise Major alphabet 25 times (that's 650 peals!). And another peal was rung for the wedding of Sue Varley and Hugh Collins, and yet another for Joanne Druce and Giles Winter.

Sadly, several peals were rung in memory of Michael Diserens, Kenneth Grey and Gladys Barker.

A handbell peal was rung as an XX wedding anniversary to Tricia and Robert Newton. And a peal at Amersham was rung as part of the celebrations for the 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of Marion and Alan Ainsworth.

Graham Firman, Peal Secretary



## Guild Directory and Information

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

- (a) the encouragement of the attendance of its members both at service ringing and at public worship;
- (b) the recognition of the position of ringers as Church workers;
- (c) the recruitment and training of new ringers, so that there may be regular service ringing in all the towers within the Diocese where the bells are ringable;
- (d) the promotion of interest in the care of all the bells within the Diocese; and
- (e) the promotion of the art of change ringing.

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

<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

<b>General</b>	Mr Brian J Gatward	HP6 5HE (01494 725566)
<b>Treasurer</b>		Grangewood, Mill Lane, Calcot, Reading, Berks RG31 7RS (0118 941 3097)
<b>Assistant Treasurer</b>	Mr Terry Wagstaff	6 Firs Close, Whitechurch, 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 John F Payne	53 Walker Road, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 2QU (01628 624490)
<b>Website Manager</b>	Dr Tim G Pett	20 St Amand Drive, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 5RQ (01235 526033)
<b>Guild information on the Internet</b>		<a href="http://www.dra.hmg.gb/odg/odg.html">http://www.dra.hmg.gb/odg/odg.html</a>
<b>Guild Stewards</b>	Mrs Sally Austin	16 Austins Way, Hook Norton, Oxon OX15 5LQ
	(Banbury, Chipping Norton, Witney & Woodstock)	
	Mr N Jim Diserens	10 Queens Avenue, Wallingford, Oxon
	(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)

<b>Financial information</b>	
<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 Patricia Moore	1 Elmwood Park, Gerrards Cross, Bucks SL9 7EP (01753 890477)
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) <i>Parts 2 &amp; 3 form a single leaflet</i> |                             |                              |
| 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 *Guild Master*)
- \* Mr Barry W M Cowper (see *Guild Secretary*)
- \* Mr Brian J Gatward (see *General Treasurer*)
- \* denotes *ex-officio* member.

### Diary of Events for 1998 - 99

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

#### NOVEMBER 1998

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	
Mon 30	Witney & Woodst.	AP	Ducklington	7.00 - 8.00

#### DECEMBER

Wed 2	Banbury	BP	Banbury	7.30 - 9.00
Wed 2	Chiltern	BP	Great Missenden	7.45 - 9.30
Fri 4	Bicester	BP	Kirtlington (with Social)	7.30
Fri 4	V of the W H		Branch dinner	
Sat 5	Chipping Norton	BP	Burford*	7.30 - 9.00
Sat 5	North Bucks	QM	Bletchley	3.30
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)	6.00
Sat 12	Witney & Woodst.	BP	Witney	7.30 - 9.00
Fri 18	North Bucks	BP	Calverton	7.30*
Sat 19	Chiltern	BP	Aston Clinton	7.00 - 9.00
Sat 19	Sonning Deanery	BP	Wokingham, St Paul*	7.00 - 9.00
Sat 26	Banbury	BP	Deddington	10.30-noon
Mon 28	EBSB		Post-Christmas social/ringing	
Tue 29	Witney & Woodst.	AP	Church Hanborough	7.30 - 9.00

#### 1999

#### JANUARY

Fri 1	Banbury	BP	Banbury	10.30-noon
Fri 1	Old North Berks		New Year's Day ringing - Wallingford	11 - 12.30
Sat 2	Chipping Norton	BP	Chipping Norton*	7.30 - 9.00
Sat 2	South Oxon	AP	Thame	7.30 - 9.00
Tue 5	Bicester	BP	Islip	7.30
Wed 6	Banbury	BP	Banbury	7.30 - 9.00
Sat 9	Central Bucks	BP	Long Crendon	6.30 - 8.30
Sat 9	EBSB	EP	Chalfont St Giles	7.00 - 9.00
Sat 9	Reading	BP	Burghfield	
Sat 9	Witney & Woodst.	BP	Eynsham	7.00 - 8.30
Tue 12	Old North Berks	BP	Brightwell	7.30 - 9.00
Fri 15	North Bucks	BP	Stony Stratford	7.30

Fri	22	Banbury	BP	Tadmarton	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	23	EBSB	BP	Fulmer*	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	23	South Oxon	BP	Ewelme	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	30	EBSB	SP	Denham	7.00 - 9.00

## FEBRUARY

Wed	3	Banbury	BP	Banbury	7.30 - 9.00
Wed	3	Bicester	BP	Middleton Stoney	7.30
Sat	6	Chipping Norton	BP	Enstone*	7.30 - 9.00
Fri	12	Old North Berks	BP	Marcham	7.00 - 8.30
Sat	13	Central Bucks	AG	Aylesbury	3.00*
Sat	13	EBSB	SP	Burnham	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	13	Reading	AG	Henley	
Sat	13	Witney & Woodst.	AG	Woodstock	6.00 - 9.00
Mon	15	Banbury	BP	Bodicote	7.30 - 9.00
Fri	19	North Bucks	BP	Thornborough	7.30*
Sat	27	Bicester	AG	Souldern	tbc
Sat	27	EBSB	BP	Old Windsor*	7.00 - 9.00

## MARCH

Wed	3	Banbury	BP	Banbury	7.30 - 9.00
Thu	4	Bicester	BP	Stratton Audley	7.30
Sat	6	<b>Guild</b>		<b>Youth Training Day - EBSB</b>	
Sat	6	Chipping Norton	BP	Kingham*	7.00 - 8.30
Sat	6	North Bucks	AG	Downs Barn	3.30*
Sat	6	South Oxon	AP	Great Milton*	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	13	<b>Guild</b>		<b>Spring General Committee Meeting - Pangbourne</b>	
Sat	13	Central Bucks	BP	Wingrave*	6.30 - 8.30
Sat	13	EBSB	SP	Marlow	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	13	Witney & Woodst.	BP	Aston	7.30 - 9.00
Tue	16	Banbury	BP	Steeple Aston	7.30 - 9.00
Fri	19	North Bucks	BP	Milton Keynes Village	7.30*
Sat	20	Old North Berks	AG	Harwell (with SC)	tbc
Sat	27	Bicester		One-day outing	tbc
Sat	27	EBSB	BP	Stoke Poges	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	27	South Oxon	SC	Berrick Salome*	evening
Wed	31	Old North Berks		Spring Social	

## APRIL

Sat	3	<b>Guild</b>		<b>Handbell Day - Reading</b>	
Wed	7	Banbury	BP	Banbury	7.30 - 9.00
Fri	9	Bicester	BP	Kirtlington	7.30
Sat	10	Central Bucks	BP	Hardwick	6.30 - 8.30
Sat	10	Chipping Norton		Branch outing	
Sat	10	EBSB	SP	High Wycombe	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	10	Witney & Woodst.	BP	Clanfield	7.30 - 9.00
Tue	13	Old North Berks	BP	Wantage	8.00 - 9.15
Sat	17	<b>C. Council</b>		<b>'Ringing World' Road Show - Tewkesbury</b>	
Sat	17	<b>Guild</b>		<b>Radley Course</b>	
Fri	23	Bicester	SC	Wootton Underwood	7.30
Sat	24	Banbury	AG	Mollington	tbc
Sat	24	EBSB	AG	Beaconsfield	tbc
Sat	24	South Oxon	AG	Thame	2.30

## MAY

Sat	1	Chipping Norton	AG	Leafield*	3.00 - 8.30
Sat	1	South Oxon	AP	Benson	7.30 - 9.00
Mon	3	<b>Guild</b>	SC	<b>Eight-bell Striking Comp. - Witney &amp; Woodstock</b>	

Wed 5	Banbury	BP	Banbury	7.30 - 9.00
Sat 8	Central Bucks	BP	Hillesden*	6.30 - 8.30
Mon 10	Bicester	BP	Bicester	7.30
Wed 12	Old North Berks	BP	Aston Tirrold*	7.30 - 9.00
<b>Sat 15</b>	<b>Guild</b>	<b>AG</b>	<b>Annual General Meeting - Milton Keynes</b>	
Thur 20	Banbury	BP	Adderbury	7.30 - 9.00
Sat 22	South Oxon	BP	Great Haseley	7.00 - 9.00
<b>JUNE</b>				
Tue 1	Bicester	BP	Souldern	7.30
<b>Sat 5</b>	<b>Guild</b>		<b>Ten-bell Course (S. Royal) - Bicester/Banbury</b>	
Sat 5	Chipping Norton	BP	Charlbury*	7.30 - 9.00
Sat 12	Central Bucks	SC	Whitchurch (six-bell competition)	6.00*
Mon 14	Old North Berks	BP	Sutton Courtenay	7.30 - 9.00
Sat 26	South Oxon	BP	Dorchester	7.00 - 9.00
<b>JULY</b>				
Sat 3	Chipping Norton	BP	Shipton under Wychwood*	7.30 - 9.00
Sat 3	South Oxon	AP	Warborough	7.30 - 9.00
Wed 7	Bicester	BP	Piddington	7.30
<b>Sat 10</b>	<b>Guild</b>		<b>Guild Festival - Great Missenden</b>	
<b>Sat 10</b>	<b>Guild</b>	<b>SC</b>	<b>Ten-bell Striking Competition - Long Crendon</b>	
Mon 12	Old North Berks	BP	Steventon	7.30 - 9.00
Sat 24	South Oxon	BP	Aston Rowant*	7.00 - 9.00
<b>AUGUST</b>				
Thu 5	Bicester	BP	Caversfield	7.30
Sat 7	Chipping Norton	BP	Salford*	7.30 - 9.00
Mon 9	Old North Berks	BP	Little Wittenham/Long Wittenham	7.30 - 9.00
Sat 28	South Oxon	BP	Great Milton	7.00 - 9.00
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>				
Fri 3	Bicester	BP	Ludgershall	7.30
Sat 4	Chipping Norton	BP	Burford*	7.30 - 9.00
<b>Fri 10</b>	<b>Guild</b>		<b>Easthampstead Course starts</b>	
Sat 18	Old North Berks	HY	Appleton	tbc
Sat 25	South Oxon	BP	Chalgrove	7.00 - 9.00
<b>OCTOBER</b>				
Sat 2	Chipping Norton	HY	Swerford*	7.00 - 9.00
Mon 4	Bicester	BP	Brill	7.30
Sat 9	South Oxon		Branch outing	
Mon 11	Old North Berks	BP	Drayton	7.30 - 9.00
Sat 23	South Oxon	HY	Tetsworth	7.00 - 9.00
<b>NOVEMBER</b>				
Tue 2	Bicester	BP	Islip	7.30
Sat 6	Chipping Norton	BP	Hook Norton*	7.30 - 9.00
Wed 10	Old North Berks	BP	Cholsey	7.30 - 9.00
Sat 27	South Oxon	BP	Long Crendon	7.00 - 9.00
<b>DECEMBER</b>				
Fri 3	Bicester	BP	Kirtlington (with Social)	7.30
Sat 4	Chipping Norton	BP	Spelsbury*	7.30 - 9.00
Sat 11	South Oxon	BP	Brightwell Baldwin	7.00 - 9.00
Tue 13	Old North Berks	BP	East Hagbourne	7.30 - 9.00

# **YOUTH TRAINING DAY**

**Saturday 6 March 1999**

**Based in the East Berkshire/South  
Buckinghamshire area**

**Cost: £9.00**

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

**Further details and application forms  
available from:**

**Mrs Patricia Newton  
The White House, 11 Plowden Park,  
Aston Rowant, Oxon OX9 5SX**

**Telephone (01844) 352926**

## **Centre for Oxfordshire Studies**

The Centre for Oxfordshire Studies, located at the Central Library, Westgate, Oxford, holds a set of Odd Bob Newsletters which is not quite complete.

Missing issues are Nos 31, 32 and 33.

Mary Neave would be pleased to obtain copies of these issues and anyone able to help should contact her at the Centre on 01865 815749.