

Issue 55

ODD BOB

Newsletter of the



March 1999

Contents

Master's Mutterings	3
General Account	4
The Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund	7
The ODG Restoration Fund	8
Towers and Belfries Committee: A Guide to How We Can Help You	11
Banbury.....	12
Bicester.....	12
Central Bucks.....	13
Chiltern.....	13
Chipping Norton.....	14
East Berks & South Bucks.....	15
North Bucks.....	15
Old North Berks.....	16
Oxford City.....	16
Reading.....	18
Sonning Deanery.....	19
South Oxon.....	19
Vale of the White Horse	20
Witney & Woodstock.....	20
The Bells of St Mary, Datchet	21
Bell Fund "Shop"	22
Guild Website	23
Points from Peals	23
Guild Directory and Information.....	25
Guild Officers for 1998 - 99	25
Diary of Events for 1999	29
Easthampstead '99	32

Information for contributors:

The editor welcomes contributions for publication in 'Odd Bob'.

Send your contribution to the editor at the following address:
Mr A Rex Agg, 25 Wilton Road, Beaconsfield, Bucks HP9 2DE.

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

The next issue of 'Odd Bob' is scheduled to be distributed at the
Guild Festival on 10 July 1999.

All contributions to the editor please not later than **14 June 1999**.

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

Master's Mutterings

In the November edition of Odd Bob, Colin Turner wrote an article expressing concern over the recent report of work being done on the bells at Datchet which has resulted in them being hung for chiming only. I would like to take this opportunity to respond to some of the points he raises.

First, the fact that no one in the branch or the rest of the Guild seemed to know what was happening until the work was reported in a local paper. The fact that we were not consulted may be disappointing, but there is no suggestion that anything untoward has happened. The bells have been unringable for some considerable time and inspections have been carried out by members of the Towers and Belfries Committee in the past. The small size and construction of the tower suggest that full circle ringing may well not be feasible for any size bells. The authorities at Datchet may well have decided that, if this was the case, it was better for the bells to be heard for their real purpose even if not rung in a way which the Guild might prefer. They will clearly have had to obtain a faculty for this work and the Diocesan Bell Advisor will have been consulted. The Incumbent and PCC in any parish have no pre-ordained requirement to consult the Guild in any way, nor does the DAC have to consult the Guild over matters before it. Clearly the question of grants from our funds was not being raised so we could not have become involved unless approached by Datchet.

I was rather disturbed by the implication in Colin's article that the Guild has been negligent over the matter. He points particularly at the question of communication. Communication is about transmitting and receiving information. I believe the Guild has made the relevant information freely available by sending information leaflets to all clergy every four or five years, having a page in the Diocesan Year Book and creating a Website. All of these include information about who to contact for advice and help on matters related to maintenance and restoration, and applying for grants. What we have no control over, however, is whether the information is 'received' - ie. read and acted upon. I am also aware that branches do their best to keep in contact with the parishes in their areas.

As a Guild, we have an enviable record on bell restoration and the increased activity in this as the millennium approaches has been very encouraging. I have been privileged to be invited to a large number of dedication services over the past two years and I am convinced that the large number of successful and worthwhile projects is a more reliable indicator of our commitment than one incident where, even if we had been consulted, it is unlikely that we could have made much difference to the outcome.

Matters of restoration are initially local concerns and usually local ringers and the local branch are very much involved. It is, after all, more likely that the local ringing community will be much more sensitive to and aware of local issues and politics and will therefore be able to respond in the most appropriate way. There are certainly occasions when a 'softly, softly' approach is better. There is a good example of this elsewhere in the guild where another ring of bells, also unringable for some time, are being restored, hopefully in time for the millennium. In this case, precipitate action by the local branch during the tenancy of a previous incumbent could well have resulted in the bells being sold to support missionary work and thus being lost altogether.

John Wells

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 1998

GENERAL FUND

1997	Receipts		1997	Payments	
	Branch Subscriptions			Expenses	
£ 325.20	Banbury	£ 409.50	£ 106.50	Master / Deputy Master	£ 106.00
£ 398.50	Bicester	£ 227.50	£ 55.14	Secretary / Treasurer / Stewards	£ 38.69
£ 654.50	Central Bucks	£ 605.50	£ 113.72	Other Officers	£ 317.58
£ 422.60	Chiltern	£ 479.50	£ 309.43	Stationery and Postage	£ 303.22
£ 266.00	Chipping Norton	£ 283.50	£ 309.19	Printing	£ 863.40
£ 1,174.20	East Berks & South Bucks	£ 1,235.50	£ 893.98		£ 1,628.89
£ 395.50	Newbury	£ 385.00	£ 4,354.00	Library	£ 10.00
£ 717.20	North Bucks	£ 714.00	£ 2,611.44	Insurance	£ 2,727.39
£ 765.80	Old North Berks	£ 819.00	£ 694.00	Purchase of Guild Reports	£ 900.00
£ 290.50	Oxford City	£ 262.50	£ 1,368.00	Printing "Odd Bob"	£ 1,350.00
£ 717.50	Reading	£ 780.50	£ 60.00	Central Council Affiliation Fee	£ 60.00
£ 630.00	Sonning Deanery	£ 633.50	£ -	Purchase of Guild Badges	£ -
£ 430.50	South Oxon	£ 420.00	£ 125.00	Ringing World - Donation	£ 125.00
£ 219.30	Vale of the White Horse	£ 189.00	£ 197.60	Ringing World - Notices Account	£ 167.20
£ 469.00	Witney & Woodstock	£ 423.50	£ 101.75	Hire of halls for meetings	£ 104.00
£ 7,876.30		£ 7,868.00	-£ 246.53	Bank Charges	-£ 353.82
£ 236.40	Non-Resident Life Subscriptions	£ 77.00	£ 459.00	Share of administrative expenses of Bell Fund*	£ 583.00
£ 92.19	Sale of Reports	£ 106.25	£ 231.80	Festival Barn Dance	-£ 125.00
£ 55.50	Sale of Badges	£ 73.50	£ 345.99	Millenium Project	£ 1,190.00
£ 6.00	Sale of Guild History	£ 6.00			
£ 918.00	Peal Fees	£ 1,059.10		* £53.45 from 1997	
£ 4,255.00	Donations	£ 36.70			
£ 30.56	Sale of Publicity Material	£ -			
£ 13,469.95		£ 9,226.55	£ 2,273.92	Excess of Income over expenditure	£ 859.89
			£ 13,469.95		£ 9,226.55

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1998

General Fund

Balance brought forward 1 January 1998	£ 8,674.81	
Excess of income over expenses	£ 859.89	
		£ 9,534.70

Education Committee

Balance brought forward 1 January 1998	£ 5,434.53	
Easthampstead Course Fees	£ 3,856.00	
Less expenses	£ 3,720.76	
		£ 135.24
Youth Weekend Fees	£ 168.00	
Less expenses	£ 125.09	
		£ 42.91
Radley Course Fees	£ 430.00	
Less expenses	£ 397.31	
		£ 32.69
Other Courses - Fees	£ 0.47	
Less expenses	£ 102.18	
		-£ 101.71
Leaflet Sales	£ 79.90	
Less Printing	£ -	
		£ 79.90
Balance as at 31 December 1998		£ 5,623.56

Guild Book Stall

Accrued profit at 1 January 1998	£ 21.14	
Stock at cost at 31 December 1997	£ 447.58	
Stock at cost at 31 December 1998	£ 602.43	
		£ 154.85
Sale price valuation £736.30		
Sales	£ 837.50	
less purchases	£ 871.70	
less expenses	£ 5.60	
		-£ 39.80
Accrued profit as at 31 December 1998		£ 136.19

£ 15,294.45

Represented by

Cash at bank	£ 13,678.02	
Cheques to pay in	£ 14.00	
Cash in hand	£ -	
Stock of books at cost	£ 602.43	
Loan to restoration fund	£ 1,000.00	
		<u><u>£ 15,294.45</u></u>

B J Gatward CPFA, MBCS
Honorary Treasurer
5 February 1999

· Comments on the key points from the 1998 Accounts

I understand that members found the introduction of the comments to the 1997 accounts useful and accordingly I have now made this a permanent feature of the annual presentation of financial information.

Subscriptions and other income - All branches appear to have made payments for all active members and the total normal income is comparable with 1997. (Note the 'donations' item in 1997 included financial support from the William Delafield Charitable Trust specifically for the costs of cataloguing the library and for work to preserve the rarer and delicate items against decay.)

Expenses - The increase in expenses incurred by 'Other Officers' and 'Printing' costs reflects increased activity levels during the year.

Library - The low level of expenses this year is a dramatic contrast with the very high levels in 1997.

Insurance - There is a further modest increase in the 1998 insurance premium when compared with the 1997 figure. A more significant increase is expected in 1999 to meet the full year effect of increased levels of cover.

Guild Reports and Odd Bob - The increased cost of printing the Guild Reports reflects the increased size of the report. Both the Report Editor and the Newsletter Editor are to be congratulated on their hard work to contain cost increases.

Bank Charges - Once again the bank charges have been more than offset by the interest earned on the current account, leaving a net credit position.

Festival Barn Dance - This credit is the refund of the deposits for this event.

Millennium Project - The cost of this project was allowed for in the increase of subscriptions.

Education Committee - Training events are costed to break even. During 1998 an operational profit of £189.03 was achieved. Sales of leaflets used existing stocks, with no further printing needed during the year.

Guild Book Stall - This is the second year that this item has been shown in the accounts. The maximum stock level of £1000, agreed by the General Committee, has not been exceeded. Total annual sales were £837.50. The accrued profit rose to £136.19 and will be redeployed for the benefit of Guild members.

Summary -The Guild ended the year in a sound financial position, with an operational surplus of £859.89 and total assets in excess of £15 000. The Guild remains well placed to respond to the challenges posed by the Millennium and during 1999 is likely to agree expenditure on specific projects to mark the event. The General Fund account has been fully maintained by Terry Wagstaff (Assistant General Treasurer) and our thanks are due to him for his work.

Brian J Gatward - Honorary Treasurer

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

Report of the Managing Trustees for the year ending 31 December 1998.

Grants

Nine grants were paid during the year totalling some £16 095:

Blewbury	£4500	Warborough	£990
High Wycombe (St Anne)	£25	Wingrave	£1450
South Stoke	£920	Wroxton	£4350
Swerford	£3550		

including the following grants that were allocated and paid to:

Aston Rowant	£140	Kirklington	£170
--------------	------	-------------	------

During the year grants were provisionally allocated as indicated below:

Berrick Salome	£3000
Great Tew	£150
Little Compton	£4000
Wardington	£2400
Wigginton	£5600

It is our custom that, on completion of work, an inspection is carried out on our behalf by members of the Towers and Belfries Committee. The Managing Trustees wish to record their thanks for this service, particularly as 1998 was a very busy year. On receipt of a satisfactory report arrangements are then made for the payment of the grant. If the eventual cost is materially different from that indicated at the time of application, the grant is reviewed and may be revised. Unless there are special circumstances it is currently the policy of the Managing Trustees to make grants of 15% of the estimated cost of the qualifying works.

Future Grants

Six inquiries have been received which may result in applications for grants. As with last year there has been a slight rise in the number of inquiries received. There are a number of schemes which, although they are associated with the Millennium celebrations, are not in receipt of funding from the Millennium Commission. It remains the belief of the Managing Trustees that they will be able to manage the Fund to meet this short-term increase in applications.

Fund Raising

New money raised in 1998 amounted to £8045.61. This included £1196.75 from the Draw, £3694.14 from Branch donations and £502 from the Ringing Day. Donations from 19 PCCs amounted to £614 and 14 tower funds contributed £1170.72. Covenanted donations from

individuals totalled £247. The Managing Trustees wish to express their thanks to the organisers of the Draw, June Saint and Stephen Rossiter, to all those who helped to arrange the Ringing Day and all those who have contributed to the continued success of the Fund.

Investments

In order to cope with the increased demands on our resources during the Millennium period, the Managing Trustees have reviewed the options to increase the funds available for distribution as grants. During the life of the Bell Fund, the Managing Trustees have a proud record of achievement in keeping ahead of inflation and, at the same time, maintaining a steadily increasing income coupled with substantial capital growth. With the reduction of annual inflation to the lowest levels for some years, the effects on the investment value are likely to be minimal. In accordance with advice from the Diocesan Authorities, part of the investment portfolio was sold and the proceeds reinvested in alternative holdings to obtain higher income. This policy realised a profit on the sale of almost £63 000 and is expected to increase the annual income by some £5000 in a full year.

Investment income during the year and available for distribution as grants was £16 398 (1997 £12 977). The total capital subscribed to the Fund at the end of the year was £166 525. This is invested in accordance with professional advice from the Diocese. At the end of the year the market value of the investment was £333 372.

Other Business

In response to a discussion at the Guild AGM, the Managing Trustees were asked to consider and report on the possibility of merging the two charitable funds (The Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund and The Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers Bell Restoration Fund). A full meeting of the Managing Trustees discussed the matter and was of the opinion that the two funds served the Guild well by providing different functions. It was the unanimous recommendation of the Managing Trustees that the two funds should not be merged.

Bernard Stone

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

Report of the Managing Trustees for the year ending 31 December 1998.

Grants

Three grants (Bicester - £200, Swerford - £125, Wingrave - £175) were allocated and paid during the year following the satisfactory completion of augmentation projects. The following grants were allocated and payment is anticipated during 1999:

Hanwell	£100
Shillingford	£150

On completion of the work, members of the Towers and Belfries Committee carry out an inspection, and the Managing Trustees wish to record their thanks for this service.

Future Grants

Three inquiries were received during 1998 where consideration of a grant was deferred until 1999. These projects depend upon the receipt of major funding from other sources before they can proceed. The Managing Trustees are aware of the potential for further similar applications being received during 1999. As reported last year, the upsurge in proposals to augment rings of bells is almost entirely due to the approaching celebrations and the possibility of churches receiving funding from the Millennium Commission.

Fund Raising

Less than £50 of new money was raised in 1998. This is the lowest amount for several years.

Investments

Investment income during the year increased to £432.62. The increase resulted from the higher interest rates offered by the Central Board of Finance of the Church of England for the majority of the year. However the outlook for 1999 is for reduced income from this source, following the trend towards lower interest rates in the general money market. The forecast payment of a number of grants in 1999 will reduce the funds held on deposit. The value of the undated stock remains largely unaltered and ended the year with a disposal value of little more than half the face value.

Brian J Gatward

Guild Information

The Managing Trustees are the three Guild Trustees (William Butler, Derek Fowles and Geoffrey Holden) and the General Treasurer (Brian J Gatward).

Grant application forms are available from the General Treasurer and should be returned to him when completed.

Accounts for the year ending 31 December 1998 Reserve Fund

1997		1998
£568.45	Balance brought forward 1 January 1998	
	Loan - Bell Restoration Fund	
	Balance carried forward 31 December 1998	£568.45
<hr/> £568.45		<hr/> £568.45

B J Gatward CPFA, MBCS
Honorary Treasurer

Bell Restoration Fund - Registered Charity No. 284053
Accounts for the year ending 31 December 1998

1997		1998
	Balance brought forward 1 January 1998	
£5,007.45	Investments	£5,498.04
£1,000.00	Loan - General Fund	£1,000.00
<u>£568.45</u>	Loan - Reserve Fund	<u>£568.45</u>
£6,575.90		£7,066.49
£2.00	PCC Donations	£2.00
£20.00	Other donations	£47.33
£5.00	The Ringing World	
£50.00	Great Tew	
£45.00	In memoriam: Bob Datson	
	Interest on Investments	
£7.16	3.5% War Loan	£7.16
£22.58	4% Consols	£22.58
£33.24	9.5% Treasury Stock	£33.24
£10.92	TSB Savings Bank A/c (2)	£6.00
<u>£294.69</u>	Central Board of Finance	<u>£363.64</u>
£368.59		£432.62
£7,066.49		£7,548.44
	Grants: Bicester	£200.00
	Swerford	£125.00
	Wingrave	<u>£175.00</u>
		£500.00
<u>£7,066.49</u>	Balance carried forward at 31 December 1998	<u>£7,048.44</u>
£5,498.04	Investments	
£1,000.00	Loan - General Fund	£1,000.00
<u>£568.45</u>	Loan - Reserve Fund	<u>£568.45</u>
<u>£7,066.49</u>		<u>£1,568.45</u>
	represented by:	
£205.58	3.5% War Loan	£205.58
£500.73	4% Consols	£500.73
£299.31	9.5% Treasury Stock	£299.31
£1,106.91	TSB Savings Account	£1,611.06
<u>£4,953.96</u>	Central Board of Finance deposit	<u>£4,431.76</u>
<u>£7,066.49</u>		<u>£7,048.44</u>

B J Gatward CPFA, MBCS
Honorary Treasurer
05.02.99

Towers and Belfries Committee

A Guide to How We Can Help You

The Committee Exists to:

- provide inspections
- examine work done prior to payment of a Bell Fund or Restoration Fund Grant
- offer advice on:
 - routine maintenance
 - minor restoration
 - rehanging
- advise on safety matters, CDM, etc.

The work of the committee is voluntary but committee members appreciate a contribution towards their travelling expenses.

It is important to remember that the role of the committee is purely advisory. It has no formal role in any scheme apart from the requirement to inspect completed work and advise the Bell and/or Restoration Fund Trustees prior to payment of an ODG grant.

Making Contact

The committee work on the principle that they must receive a formal invitation before they can carry out an inspection or give advice. In the first instance you should make your request to either the Chairman or Secretary (*see Guild Directory for details*). If possible, requests for a formal inspection and report should be in writing. On receipt of a request, you will be advised which member of the committee will be appointed to help you.

For immediate advice on routine maintenance matters, contact the Chairman or Secretary or your nearest committee member (*see Guild Directory for details*).

Grants

The ODG has two funds that make grants towards bell projects. The Bell Fund exists to make grants for most sorts of bell restoration scheme, but specifically excludes grants towards any element of a restoration scheme that involves augmentation. The Restoration Fund exists to make small grants to all sorts of schemes including augmentation.

If you wish to apply for a grant, you should contact the Treasurer of the two ODG Funds (*see Guild Directory for details*) and he will provide you with application forms and advice on making your application. He can also provide details of other charities that make grants towards bell projects. The Treasurer may advise you to contact the Towers and Belfries Committee for an inspection, useful to the Funds' Trustees in making decisions on grants, and for advice on your scheme.

Len Palfrey (Chairman T&B Committee)

Banbury

It seems no time since the last Odd Bob - is this a sign of old age? I know there are some in the Banbury Branch who would say "Yes".

Having recently done our entry for the Guild Report, I was interested to see that our membership had increased by about 20% during the last year. No doubt this is the result of the increased millennium-related activity, and the new bands being trained at Wardington, North Aston and Tadmarton. We would do well to encourage them as much as possible.

Our branch practices continue to be well supported, and it is good to see increasing numbers turn out for the monthly 10-bell practice at Banbury. It is difficult, however, to get new ringers to join in.

We are still joining with our neighbours from Bicester and Chipping Norton for Surprise Major monthly practices, which is very helpful, and there seems to be a resurgence of Surprise ringing in our branch.

Last year Graham Clifton organised a walking outing to Oxford over the New Year holiday. This was extremely popular and the formula was repeated this year to include towers that we missed last time - St Giles, St Thomas, St Mary Magdalen, New College, St Cross and St Ebbe. It was a super day out and I know the branch is rife with speculation and rumour about his next year's effort. (If there are no rumours, I'll start a few!)

We are currently looking forward to our Annual Dinner which will be at Bloxham School again, thanks to Margaret Griffin's splendid organisation. Alan pretends that he does it but it doesn't fool us. I'm told that there will be 65 attending, which is a record, and must be a healthy sign. I am convinced that this ringing business has to be fun - otherwise there would be little point in doing it.

Things are fairly healthy at the pointed end of the Guild.

Ian Rodrick

Bicester

1998 was, without doubt, an exceptional year for the Bicester Branch. At the start of the year there were four projects on the go, as it were. Now, two have been completed and two are under way.

The rehung six at Souldern were dedicated in April, and the augmented ring of ten at Bicester was dedicated in December. The rings of five at Charlton-on-Otmoor and Blethingdon have both been removed from their respective towers and are shortly to be rehung and both augmented to six. To bring the year to a most successful conclusion, the first ten-bell peal in the branch was rung on the Bicester bells on New Year's Eve, and the details are shown in the peal columns of the Annual Report.

Membership has also increased during the year - we have 11 more members. A warm welcome is extended to Ann and Albert Crutchfield, Jan Smith (Bicester), Jim and Doreen Boshier, Joanne Hyde, Wendy Sutcliffe, Tony Watson (Kirtlington), Brian and Helen Legood (Middleton Stoney), and Tony Pearce (Piddington). There are more ringers

in training at Souldern, Stratton Audley, Piddington and Kirtlington - we hope to enlist them as members in the coming year.

During the year we lost the services of three branch ringers to pastures new. Our former President, the Revd John Nixon, moved to Kansas; John Lonsbrough to Oxford; and David Buckley to Wells. We thank them for their support to our branch during their time with us and wish them well for the future.

Monthly practices continue with a varying degree of support. The branch had two outings during the year which were enjoyed by those taking part.

Members of the branch extend their congratulations to Pearl Wheeler (Brill) and Clifford East (Ludgershall), both of whom have now completed 50 years ringing in the area. We wish them many more years of service and happiness in all they do.

On a sadder note, we learnt of the death of Irene White just before Christmas. Rene, as she was always known, was churchwarden and ringer at the four-bell tower of Fritwell where she will be sorely missed. The bells were rung half-muffled for her funeral and the sympathy of all is extended to her family at this sad time.

We now look forward to the coming year, and especially ringing at the newly restored rings at Charlton-on Otmoor and Bletchington. On behalf of the Guild and Branch, I extend our very best wishes to those involved.

Richard C Stevens

Central Bucks

The first branch practice of the year has produced six new members which is an encouraging sign. The branch is continuing to flourish and practices have been well attended. The last practice of 1998 was held just outside the branch at Leighton Buzzard on the glorious twelve. Although only rounds and call changes were rung on the twelve, it did give some ringers their first taste of twelve-bell ringing. The ringing was of a good standard in general with methods including Stedman Caters and Grandsire Caters.

The first peal on the augmented bells at Wingrave was rung on 2 January; 5056 Cambridge Surprise Major conducted by Richard Stevens in 2 hours 45 minutes.

We look forward to the augmentation to six at East Claydon, and the rehangings of the six at Soulbury which have not been rung full circle for many, many years.

Our branch Ringing Master has planned some extra practices this year, starting in January with a Cambridge Surprise Minor afternoon.

Andy Lancey

Chiltern

The ringing year ended with the traditional 100 Club Draw, held at Aston Clinton. Since then we have had two well-attended 8-bell practices (Stoke Mandeville and Aston Clinton) and one branch practice (Wendover).

We have also instituted our new training system which is better designed to meet the specific needs of towers and individual ringers. Two 'in-tower' courses have taken place, at Mentmore and Wendover, and the first of our four training mornings is due to take place at Marsworth on 13 February. The indications so far are very encouraging.

Very sadly, there is little hope of any return to ringing at Slapton in the foreseeable future. The ropes have been removed and the small band has decided to disband. Two of their ringers are now 'unattached' while a third has joined another band. There is good progress at Wendover. The new floor will soon be in place and the band hopes to 'move downstairs' by the end of April.

Finally it is always nice to get a straight answer to a simple question - even if the former was not actually required. An instructor in a certain 8-bell tower said to a young learner, "Can you set it at backstroke?". The learner pulled off, fluffed about for a bit and reset at Hand. She looked the instructor straight in the eye, smiled and said, "No!".

Mike Davis

Chipping Norton

Firstly, a human error from the report in November's edition. I completely forgot to mention the peal rung at Burford on October to wish Mike Collett well in his retirement and move to the Isle of Wight. Mike had been a very loyal member of Burford tower, and had rung there man and boy for over 50 years. Best wishes go to him and his wife, Marge, for a long and happy retirement. The peal of Plain Bob Major came round in 3 hours 4 minutes; Julie MacVicker from Shipton-under-Wychwood rang the treble (her first peal) and Nigel Harrison rang his first on a working bell. CONGRATULATIONS go to them both. It was also rung to welcome the Revd Richard Coombes, inducted as Vicar on 22 September.

CONGRATULATIONS also go to Diane Grayshon who has also rung her first peal on the newly augmented and rehung six at Swerford. The method was Plain Bob Minor, Diane ringing the treble. The peal came round in 2 hours 36 minutes. Mick Austin has also called his first quarter: well done Mick!

The practical sessions held on a Saturday afternoon seem to be beneficial, and those attending seem to have made some progress. Branch practices have been reasonably well supported but it would be nice to see some fresh faces! We were able to have a go a London Minor at Enstone on 6 February, but unfortunately at least one of the inside ringers was more than a little rusty!! Surprise Major practices continue about once a month, this is in conjunction with Banbury and Bicester branches. London Major has been attempted, but failed to come round!

The branch outing is going to plan and we all look forward to a good day out on 10 April. Thanks go to Nigel Harrison for arranging the day; all the towers are fairly local to the branch, so we are in for a full day.

As this is my last Odd Bob report - I am standing down as Secretary in May - I will take this opportunity of wishing my successor, Linda Hoare, well and hope that she gets the support that I have had from other branches, and from our own branch members as well.

Claire E Tarrant

East Berks and South Bucks

Since the last issue of Odd Bob we have continued to hold an active programme of both social and ringing events. A very successful Christmas Social was held at Bray where ringers from Beaconsfield carried off most of the quiz prizes and the raffle raised a large sum for the Guild Bell Fund.

It has become traditional to hold a Post-Christmas event to occupy some of that "flat" time before the New Year. This year it took the form of a half-day outing to three towers between Maidenhead and Reading and was well supported by a total of about 25 people. Most of us then shared a pub supper and moved on to join the practice night at High Wycombe.

We are continuing our themed Millennium practices and January saw a good turnout at Chalfont St Giles where call changes and plain hunt were the order of the day. The learners were divided into two teaching groups, led by our Ringing Master, Peter Bruce, and his Deputy, David Moore, who alternated theory with practical sessions. It was good to see so many people there and we were glad of so much support from more experienced ringers who encouraged, stood behind and made up bands for an evening of intensive practice. The next Millennium Practice will be at Hitcham on 8 May: look out for a poster with more details nearer the time.

This year we have reverted to the pattern of holding regular Surprise practices in the months with five Saturdays. So far, the response has been very encouraging and we were pleased to welcome a large number of people at Denham where we rang the standard eight, plus 8-spliced and Belfast.

We extend our congratulations to Josie and Ted Martin of Lane End on the birth of their daughter, Samantha Joy, on 22 December.

Pat Moore

North Bucks

The winter months are fairly quiet for us with the usual pattern of practices and meetings. The December meeting was held at Bletchley where a smaller than usual gathering were present. A major topic of discussion at this meeting was ringing arrangements on 1 January 2000 as it is unlikely that we will actually be able to ring all the bells in the branch simultaneously.

The practice at Calverton in December was another of our focus on rounds and call changes. This was not as well attended as the previous one - perhaps it was too near Christmas? These practices will continue once a quarter in the month that we also hold a meeting.

An intensive training session was held at Clifton Reynes in October for one of the Olney band to make progress with Plain Bob Doubles. This was a very successful afternoon for him, although it did rather numb the minds of the helpers ringing non-stop plain courses of bob doubles! This was held as a result of a specific request with a specific aim in mind. We hope to hold similar sessions if they are requested.

Helen Stanworth

Old North Berks

The last few months have been very quiet in the Old North Berks Branch. Our Autumn Social was a Skittles Evening held at the Horse and Jockey in Abingdon in November. This was a fun evening and was well attended by over 30 members. Well done to Paula Utting for showing everyone how skittles should be played, and to Colin Turner for winning a Sixes and Sevens name game competition set by our Newsletter Editor, Peter Butler - I expect Colin has rung a peal at every tower mentioned!

Our Branch Practice in December was held at Blewbury on the newly rehung eight, and there were several members present. Unfortunately the wet and cold weather kept playing games with the rope on the second, but this only added to the entertainment of the evening by different people trying to prove it was possible to ring it without the rope slipping off the wheel!

New Year was welcomed in by ringing at Wallingford. After a slow start - too many people with hang-overs from the late night before - ringing finally got underway with quite a good turnout and some good ringing. Wallingford have been very busy fund raising for their Church Millennium Appeal. So far they have raised over £4000, and it is hoped that work will start in February. Another tower that is hoping to get it's bells ringing again is Chilton, where the bells have been silent for over 25 years. With the help of a sizeable donation from a local businessman, things are looking very promising for the future.

Many towers are busy recruiting and training new members all over the branch, as I am sure they are doing all over the Guild. One tower in particular that is having a very good response at present is Letcombe Regis. So far 10 local people have come forward wanting to learn the art. This can be very difficult when there is only one ringer in the whole village but, with a little help from nearby towers, things are progressing well and hopefully we will one day have members in Letcombe Regis - a tower which has not had any members for several years.

Shirley Haines

Oxford City

All City Branch members extend a warm welcome to Wheatley members on their transfer from the South Oxon Branch. Their youthfulness and energy will be a great bonus to this branch although we realise that the transfer was not made without considerable discussion; all the towers in the Team Ministry will now belong to the same branch.

Sound control is being installed at Wheatley which should be finished in two to three months' time. Additional news from Wheatley is that Jonathan Everett has been elected as Youth representative in order to represent the high percentage of young ringers in the tower.

Headington, too, has four new ringers and Sunday Service ringing on the first and third Sundays is well supported, as are practices. The Headington PCC has agreed for the restoration of the bells and the faculty is awaited.

At Marston 40 quarters and two peals were rung at St Nicholas during 1998. Most heartening is the increased number of Marston ringers participating in the quarters (11) and

the number of visitors welcomed (12). Conducting was shared between five different ringers and 1999 has already seen extended opportunities for more ringers to improve their calling in quarters. Ringing in of the New Year was the best attended for several years. The 1999 Marston/Horspath outing is planned to the South Mimms area, a little further afield than usual.

During January the Marston practice was transferred to North Hinksey where the band was made most welcome; this will take place in future on weekends where a peal is scheduled.

New Year was also rung in at Wolvercote and followed by the traditional mince pies and mulled wine after the watchnight service. John Beale has returned to ringing after a break due to illness. Several promising new ringers have joined the band which is encouraging news.

Kidlington have decided to change their practice night from Friday to Tuesday for a trial period of three months commencing Tuesday, 2 March; visitors are always welcome. The Reverend Anthony Ellis has now transferred to the City Branch.

In January, 10 Kidlington ringers joined over 30 others at Whites of Appleton for a practice on the mini ring. This was greatly enjoyed by all, including the opportunity to wander round the workshop and take pleasure in the sight of two rings of bells hanging in their frames awaiting installation. Very many thanks to Brian White and his staff, Graham and Mark.

Katie Lane

[John Lonsbrough disclaims responsibility for the phrase "despite the relatively inexperienced band" attributed to him in the City Branch outing report in the last issue. He says that, as a relatively inexperienced ringer, he would not presume to judge the competence of other ringers - Ed.]



City Branch outing, October 1998

Reading

Our annual branch outing in October was again a most enjoyable day. The weather was kind to us when over 30 people, representing nine of our towers, met at Stockbridge for the first ring of the day plus delicious cakes and coffee in a delightful 'tearoom' in the main street. We went on to ring at five more towers including two in Salisbury. Due to lack of interest in travelling on a coach, this year's outing was by car which was possibly one reason for the very few staying for sustenance at the pub at the end of the day's ringing.

Monthly practices: November, at St Laurence, attracted about 25 people with a variety of ringing experiences. It was a good chance for the less experienced ringers to ring on 12 bells and get helpful advice from those with more experience. The December practice at St Giles incorporated the Advent Carol Service again and was another successful event. Approximately 75 people attended. The seven lessons were read by representatives of Burghfield, Englefield, Goring, Henley, Shinfield, Swallowfield and Theale. Handbells were rung by Pangbourne ringers and the choir was made up of 14 ringers representing 10 of our towers. Many thanks go to members of St Giles for providing and serving mulled wine and mince pies after the service. The January practice at Burghfield was very well attended - it was a good thing that their ringing room has doors leading onto a balcony! It was pleasing to see some of the local new recruits I mentioned in my last report at their first branch practice.

Around the towers: in my last report, I said that the **Mortimer** churches were struggling for ringers. It was pleasing to hear recently that there are four adults now wanting to learn there. We hope to give them their first handling lesson within the next couple of weeks. **Mapledurham** church has not had its own band of ringers for quite a while. A new band is now being taught and hope to be able to ring their own bells for the millennium. **Purley** bells have been out of action for some time. They now have the go-ahead and the money to put their bells back into action and a number of ringers are learning at Pangbourne so there will be a ready-made band eagerly awaiting their own bells later in the year. **South Stoke** have a new band of very enthusiastic recent recruits. It is always difficult if learners outnumber experienced ringers in a tower and this is certainly the case here, but enthusiasm and determination has enabled them to make excellent first strides and they will have a competent local band to ring for the millennium. **Shinfield** have a number of learners who have reached varying levels of competence ranging from "nearly handling" to just learning Stedman and St Simon's. Several of their ringers have other time-consuming hobbies so are unable to attend practices as often as they would like to.

The Nettlebed ringers organised a fun, fund-raising quiz at the end of January which was a great success. Nineteen teams of four took part and Bradfield 1 was the winning team, but only by one or two marks. The evening raised over £500 towards the £7000 still needed of the original sum of £24 000 for the necessary work on the frame and bells.

Our branch officers have so far agreed to run three training sessions for learners of varying abilities: at Burghfield in February, Checkendon in April, and Shinfield in June. No doubt other sessions will be arranged for the latter half of the year.

We have several Millennium Events in the pipeline: a skittles evening in May; a branch

quiz in September; quarter peals in every tower between 31 December 1999 and 29 February 2000; a lunch at the home of one of our members on 1 January 2000 - after the noon ringing - and possibly a branch lunch or dinner in the summer of 2000.

Rosemary Morgan

Sonning Deanery

Fund-raising to repair the bell frame at Easthampstead continues slowly; a quiz was held in February. Another 12-bell combined practice with the Farnham Branch of the Guildford Guild was held at St Laurence, Reading on 6 December. During quarter-peal week in November, nine quarter peals were successfully completed; the branch Ringing Master, Michael Dane, rang in all nine. John Harrison is arranging another series of training courses. These are particularly useful at helping people achieve specific targets. Many thanks to John and the course tutors for their hard work.

Congratulations to Carol Court and Timothy Lunnon on their first quarter peals.

Our best wishes go to Joan Rance, currently in Frimley Park Hospital recovering from a broken hip.

On 26 August, the ashes of Nellie Lily Pearce were buried in the churchyard of All Saints, Wokingham, after a memorial service in the church. An ex-ringer and wife of a former tower captain, Nellie was a member of the Guild until 1987. A memorial service for Ron Butler, former tower captain at Binfield, was held on 13 December at Binfield.

Pam Elliston

South Oxon

As seems usual, there is little to report at this time of the year. Attendance at branch practices at the end of last year was good, and especially so at the first practice of 1999 in a rather chilly Ewelme. Interest in 8-bell practices has continued, although the monthly Surprise Minor practices have ceased for the time being. A useful morning's ringing was held in the Christmas holidays, for those of school age, during which we discovered the reason for the garden rake at Horspath (beats shinning up the ladder to retrieve the spider!). Thanks to Tina for organising these sessions, and to the helpers who regularly turn up.

At the Autumn meeting in November, our Vice Chairman, Meg Way, stood down due to her threatened move from the area. Olive Lawrence took over. After due preparation and debate, a vote was taken on the request from Wheatley tower to move to the City Branch. It was with reluctance, but understanding, that the branch agreed to their request.

Congratulations to Callum Keen of Tetsworth, and Barbara Hingley of Great Milton, who rang their first quarter peals recently. Other achievements have included first quarter on ten for Jeanette Barrington; first Cambridge Major for John Tchighianoff; first Carlisle Minor for Kay Tuckwell and first Ipswich Minor for Brian Gray. Kay and Brian also rang their first of Stedman Caters.

Hilarie Rogers

Vale of the White Horse

Our activities have included a workshop for under-18s - all abilities. This was held at Stanford-in-the-Vale on a pleasant June afternoon. This was followed by a branch barbecue at Buckland Memorial Hall. The evening was excellent, boasting a balmy evening, with food cooked by Wendy Taylor and her husband, and salads provided by a representative from each tower to complement. The younger element were permitted to swim in the adjoining swimming pool. Other entertainment was provided by Gordon Belcher and his 'rock' band, and Tony Crabtree and friends on handbells.

In July we had our branch outing to the Hampshire area. Again an enjoyable time was had, and some good ringing too! Also in July, Shellingford saw the completion of the augmentation and rehanging project, with the dedication of the six bells. Meanwhile, Longcot's improvement scheme got under way.

November saw Longcot's work completed. they now have eight bells which were also dedicated. As with Shellingford, ringers are still being trained.

In December we were found in the Eagle in Faringdon having an excellent, relaxing and enjoyable pre-Christmas Dinner.

So, on to 1999, and as is the case of most towers we are all trying to ensure we have enough competent ringers for 2000!

Eleanor Banks

Witney and Woodstock

The last report that I have to write for Odd Bob as Branch Secretary! Thank you to all the Tower Correspondents and Branch Officers for their support over the last few years. Rachel Sherlaw-Johnson has kindly agreed to take on this job, and I wish her all the best in her new role.

The Branch Practice in November was held at South Leigh, where there were over 30 ringers present, making the Ringing Master work harder in one night than the last six months! The December practice was held at Witney, another eight-bell practice that was very well supported. Special practices have been held at Ducklington, ringing Beverley Surprise Minor, and Church Hanborough, ringing Stedman Doubles, Cambridge Surprise Minor, and spliced minor, which was fun.

Most towers enjoyed lots of ringing over the Christmas period, with many continuing the tradition of ringing the old year out and the New Year in. The New Year started with a practice at Eynsham and a very enjoyable trip to the Chipping Norton Theatre for the annual pantomime, where there appeared to be as many ringers as at a branch practice!

There have been several quarter peals arranged and rung for people to improve their striking and attempt new methods. Well done to all those who have achieved a "first"!

Lorna Smale

The Bells of St Mary, Datchet

Colin Turner asks "How did it happen" that Datchet bells are being re-hung for chiming only. The answer is "All too easily" and there is nothing very much that anyone could have done to prevent it. The incumbent, churchwardens, PCC and congregation of any church are not obliged to seek advice or guidance from anyone. Furthermore, once the Diocesan Authorities have granted a faculty the church is free to do as they please within the bounds of that faculty.

Colin seems to infer that the Guild should have been aware of what was being planned for Datchet and should have been able to influence, in some way, the decisions of the incumbent, churchwardens, PCC and congregation. The Guild is reliant on the eyes and ears of the members for much of its information. I am quite sure that most of the members have many other activities outside ringing to be able to keep more than an occasional eye on what is happening to long unringable bells.

Even if the Guild had been alerted to the proposals what could it do other than make contact and offer to provide advice? Advice that the church authorities in Datchet would be at liberty to refuse or, if accepted, ignore. I would hazard a guess that the decision to re-hang Datchet bells for chiming was based on what the church and its congregation could afford. Unless there is a "Fairy Megabucks" out there somewhere willing to fund all the work necessary to rehang bells like those at Datchet for full circle ringing, I would suggest that we should be thankful that we have not lost the bells altogether and, at least, the residents of Datchet will be able to hear them again. This way the bells will be there in the future if "Fairy Megabucks" is able to fund the major work necessary for them to ring full circle.

Len Palfrey

I felt moved to reply to Colin Turner's article in the November 1998 issue of Odd Bob, in which he bemoans the decision of the Datchet PCC to rehang the bells for chiming only and criticizes the ODG and particularly the EBSB for not involving themselves in the project resulting in a change of opinion. Although not directly involved in the affairs of Datchet Parish Church, I have rung in the surrounding area all my life and I have been in touch with members of St Mary's, Datchet PCC whilst the matter was under consideration. The PCC were fully aware of the implications of their chosen bell restoration scheme and had considered and costed full circle alternatives, getting estimates from reputable bell hangers. Unfortunately any viable scheme to enable full circle ringing would have involved major structural work on the tower, the cost of which would have been prohibitive.

I find it far from surprising that the ODG was not alerted to the events at Datchet. The ODG is an organization of church bell ringers and, to the best of my knowledge, Datchet has not had a band of bell ringers this century. Bell ringers have taken no active part in the life of the church and although various schemes have been mooted to return the bells to a ringable condition, in the main such schemes have been conceived by bell ringers from outside the parish. Whilst it is likely that any scheme to return the bells to ringable condition could have counted upon generous grants from the ODG, this would still have left a significant sum to be raised in excess of the £30 000 needed to hang the bells for chiming only. Such a sum would need to be raised by Datchet parishioners who have no tradition of full circle ringing in order to effect a difference in sound from that produced by chimed bells which is virtually imperceptible to the uninitiated.

Indeed, one person can ensure that chimed bells are rung for service. If one considers the many towers within a ten mile radius of Datchet, few of them have sufficient ringers to ensure a good standard of change ringing for the millennium and beyond. In fact I know of towers in the area that are reduced to using their chiming apparatus to provide service ringing. It would therefore seem inappropriate to me to have created yet another bell tower with insufficient ringers to ring for services. Whilst I would welcome any proactive initiative from the ODG to increase the Clergy's awareness of bells and ringing, it would perhaps be appropriate to encourage greater participation at grassroots level in the towers where it is possible to build upon long traditions of full circle ringing, particularly where the long term survival of change ringing is in doubt, rather than promoting initiatives which will largely benefit peal ringers and tower grabbers but will actually deny local people the opportunity to hear bells chimed for service.

On the matter of ODG intervention, I doubt if Datchet PCC would have appreciated any further pressure from yet another body with whom they would perceive very little connection. Having recently completed a successful bell restoration and augmentation scheme around English Heritage's demands I can fully sympathize with any PCC who believe that the fewer external agencies involved the better. Indeed, although our tower remains very grateful for advice and grants received from the ODG, we did not feel it appropriate to contact them until *after* we had broadly agreed on a restoration scheme and obtained estimates.

I wish Datchet well with their bells. Although not so well known as change ringing, Britain has a long tradition of chiming bells and it is a sobering thought that far more people are able to recognize Big Ben and its associated chimes than a course of Surprise Major.

Mark Instone

Bell Fund "Shop"

MILLENNIUM MUGS - are now in stock!

Cream mugs with dark blue design similar to the 'sweatshirt logo' but without the wording which is replaced with the words 'RINGING IN 2000'. PRICE £3.

GUILD TIES - dark blue/red stripe with gold logo - PRICE £8.50.

TOWER BELL DUSTERS - PRICE £1.50.

'GREEN SALLIES' TEA TOWELS - PRICE £3.

Ties, dusters and tea towels can be supplied by post for a small extra charge - address below

SWEATERS AND POLO SHIRTS WITH EMBROIDERED LOGO

We would like to place an order with the suppliers by the middle of April. The more we order, the better the price, of course. So if you are thinking of getting one of these we would like to hear from you as soon as possible.

POLO SHIRTS - £18. Small, Medium, Large, Extra large or XXL.

Colours: Black, Grey, French Navy, Turquoise, Aqua, Royal, Sky Blue, Lilac, Dusty Pink, Fuschia Pink, Cream, Lemon, Gold, Orange, Maroon, Purple, Bottle

Green, Jade, Emerald, Dark Royal, Navy.

SWEATERS - Lambswool £30. Adult sizes 36" - 50". Round or V-neck.

Colours: Black, Navy, Royal, Bottle Green, Jade, Burgundy.
Light Grey (V-neck only).

- Acrylic £21. Adult sizes 34" - 52". V-neck only.

Colours: Black, Navy, Royal, Puffin Blue, Bottle Green, Burgundy,
Light/Medium/Dark Grey.

- Acrylic/wool mix £26. Adult sizes 34" - 50". Round or V-neck.

Colours: Light Blue, Royal, Navy, Dark Midnight, Burgundy, Bottle Green, Medium Grey, Black.

Orders, stating item, size, colour and neck type, should be sent to Mrs Wenda Fowles, 10 Lynden Close, Holyport, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 2LB (Tel: 01628 629538)
CHEQUE WITH ORDER PLEASE - PAYABLE TO "O.D. BELL FUND".

Profit from all "Bell Fund Shop" items goes to the Bell Fund.

Guild Website

The Guild Website has moved and, by kind permission of the Oxford Diocesan Publicity Officer, can now be found at www.oxford.anglican.org/odg/odg.htm. I would like to record grateful thanks to John Martin for setting it up in the first place and looking after the pages for the first few years of its existence. I will endeavour to keep the information up to date but will rely heavily on Guild members to send me information. I would like to see more reports of recent events, links to branch newsletters and details of forthcoming events. Please send details to me (Tim Pett) by e-mail on tgpett@luna.co.uk.

Tim Pett

Points from Peals

A Reading Branch band had an outing to High Wycombe on 19 December to ring a peal of 4-spliced Surprise Maximus.

A peal at Newbury was specially arranged for and on the 80th birthday of Henry Lawrenson, a past Newbury ringer. A peal at Enfield was specially arranged and rung as a 60th birthday compliment to Peter Rossiter.

A peal at Thatcham on 4 December was rung in thanksgiving for the life of Josie Lewingdon, 1923-1998, a faithful member of the Thatcham church family. A peal was rung in thanksgiving for the life of Harold Pratt, a ringer at Great Tew for over 60 years.

We will miss the name of Lloyd Cartwright from our peal columns during the next few months as he has gone to Australia for a year. Just before he left he was surprised to be driven to Cookham to ring a peal (he thought he was going to Beaconsfield!). There hadn't been a peal there for eight years. Have a good time, Lloyd.

By ringing a handbell peal on 26 December, Bernard Groves has rung both a handbell peal

and a tower bell peal on every day of the year. He has also conducted a peal on every day of the year.

Geoff Dodd rang his first peal 50 years ago. To celebrate he rang several peals including one where he rang the same bell, method and composition at Amesbury, Wiltshire. Geoff has rung 3000 peals, all on tower bells.

A peal was rung at Chalfont St Giles in memory of George Swift - by some of lady friends.

Diane Grayshon rang her first peal at Swerford. This was the first peal on the rehung and augmented bells. Julian Stevens rang his first at Shrivenham, and David Crocker rang his first at Reading, St Giles (8-spliced Surprise Major). Julie MacVicker rang her first at Burford. Congratulations to them all.

A peal at East Ilsley was rung with the band's compliments to Lawrence Richard Parsons III on his betrothal to Sally Cook-Anderson. Another, at Shinfield, was rung for the licensing of the Revd Owen Murphy as Priest-in-Charge and the 20th anniversary of Bobbie May's first peal.

Congratulations to Dr Marion Ainsworth on being awarded a PhD by the University of London. A peal of London at Amersham conducted by her husband, Alan, was rung to celebrate the event. They also celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary by ringing another, also at Amersham.

Bill Butler has rung 500 tower bell peals at Thatcham and in so doing has circled the tower 50 times.

A peal of Plain Bob Triples was rung at Shrivenham to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the ring being augmented to eight.

A peal at Aldermaston was rung following the wedding of Ian Livingston and Leigh Polden. A handbell peal was rung as a wedding compliment to Sue Varley and Hugh Collins.

The retirement of the Revd Colin Jee, vicar of Ludgershall, Ashendon and Wootton Underwood for 32 years was marked by a peal at Wootton Underwood.

A peal at Deddington was especially arranged as a retirement compliment from ringing to Bill Ivings, tower captain at Deddington for over 30 years and a member of the Guild for more than 50 years.

Bernard Stone has rung 600 peals, and David Livingston has rung 200.

A band travelled to Backwell in Somerset to mark 30 years of Sunday Service ringing at this tower by James Taylor.

A peal at Burford was rung as a farewell to Michael Collett, retiring to the Isle of Wight after 50 years of ringing there. The peal was also a welcome to the Revd Richard Coombes, inducted a vicar of Burford on 29 September 1998.

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 - 99

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

General Treasurer	Mr Brian J Gatward	HP6 5HE (01494 725566) 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		www.oxford.anglican.org/odg/odg.htm
Guild Stewards	Mrs Sally Austin	16 Austins Way, Hook Norton, Oxon OX15 5LQ (<i>Banbury, Chipping Norton, Witney & Woodstock</i>)
	Mr N Jim Diserens	10 Queens Avenue, Wallingford, Oxon (<i>Old North Berks, Newbury, Reading</i>) OX10 0NB (01491 824504)
	Mr Simon Cole	83 Bristol Road, Bicester, Oxon OX6 7TH (<i>Bicester, Oxford City, South Oxon</i>) (01869 247525)
	Mr David M Joyce	4 Woad Lane, Great Linford Village, Milton Keynes, Bucks MK14 5HE (<i>North Bucks, Central Bucks, Chiltern</i>) (01908 667025)
	Mr Colin Fowles	127 Meadfield Road, Langley, Slough, Berks SL3 (<i>EBSB, Sonning, V of the W H</i>) 8HY (01753 671507)

Six General Committe 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 Mike K Till	53 Bath Road, Thatcham, Berks RG18 3GF (01635 827957)
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	(<i>see Guild Deputy Master</i>)

Guild Trustees

Mr W (Bill) Butler	(<i>see Central Council Representatives</i>)
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

	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 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 Rachael Sherlaw-Johnson	Malton Croft, Woodlands Rise, Stonesfield, Nr. Witney, Oxon OX8 8PL (01993 891318)

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 & 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 1999

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

MARCH 1999

Sat 13	Guild		Spring General Committee Meeting - Pangbourne	
Sat 13	Central Bucks	BP	Wingrave*	6.30 - 8.30
Sat 13	EBSB	SP	Marlow	7.00 - 9.00
Sat 13	Reading	BP	Pangbourne	7.00 - 9.00
Sat 13	Witney & Woodst.	BP	Aston	7.30 - 9.00
Tue 16	Banbury	BP	Steeple Aston	7.30 - 9.00
Thur 18	Chipping Norton	SP	Islip	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 20	Sonning Deanery	BP	Hurst	7.00 - 9.00
Tue 23	V of the WH	BP	Coleshill	7.30 - 9.00
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
Mon 29	Witney & Woodst.	AP	Ducklington	7.00 - 8.00
Wed 31	Old North Berks		Spring Social	

APRIL

Wed 7	Banbury	BP	Banbury	7.30 - 9.00
Fri 9	Bicester	BP	Kirtlington	7.30
Fri 9	North Bucks	SC	Wavendon (beginners' SC)	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	Oxford City	BP	Headington	7.00 - 8.30
Sat 10	Reading	BP	Caversham	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
Thur 15	Chipping Norton	SP	Shipton under Wychwood	7.30 - 9.00
Fri 16	North Bucks	BP	Wicken	7.30
Sat 17	C. Council		'Ringing World' Road Show - Tewkesbury	
Sat 17	Guild		Radley Course	
Sat 17	Sonning Deanery	SC	Arborfield* (six bell SC)	
Fri 23	Bicester	SC	Wootton Underwood	7.30
Sat 24	Banbury	AG	Mollington	tbc
Sat 24	EBSB	AG	Beaconsfield	3.30
Sat 24	South Oxon	AG	Thame	2.30
Tue 27	V of the WH	BP	Uffington	7.30 - 9.00
Thur 29	Witney & Woodst.	EP	Wootton	7.30 - 9.00

MAY

Sat	1	Chipping Norton	AG	Leaffield*	3.00 - 8.30
Sat	1	South Oxon	EP	Benson	7.30 - 9.00
Mon	3	Guild	SC	Eight-bell Striking Comp. - Witney & Woodstock	
Wed	5	Banbury	BP	Banbury	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	8	Central Bucks	BP	Hillesden*	6.30 - 8.30
Sat	8	EBSB	EP	Hitcham	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	8	Oxford City	HY	Oxford, St Aldate's	tbc
Sat	8	Reading	BP	Nettlebed	7.00 - 9.00
Mon	10	Bicester	BP	Bicester	7.30
Wed	12	Old North Berks	BP	West Hendred	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	15	Guild	AG	Annual General Meeting - Milton Keynes	
Sat	15	Sonning Deanery	BP	Twyford*	7.00 - 9.00
Thur	20	Banbury	BP	Adderbury	7.30 - 9.00
Fri	21	North Bucks	BP	Lathbury	7.30
Sat	22	Chipping Norton	SP	Great Tew	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	22	EBSB	BP	Chalfont St Peter	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	22	South Oxon	BP	Great Haseley	7.00 - 9.00
Thur	27	Witney & Woodst.	AP	Freeland	7.30 - 9.00
Fri	28	V of the WH	BP	Longcot	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	29	Guild		Handbell Day - Reading	
Sat	29	EBSB	SP	Maidenhead (Boyne Hill)	7.00 - 9.00

JUNE

Tue	1	Bicester	BP	Souldern	7.30
Sat	5	Guild		Ten-bell Course (S. Royal) - Bicester/Banbury	
Sat	5	Chipping Norton	BP	Charlbury*	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	5	North Bucks	QM	Bradwell (with SC)	3.30
Tue	8	V of the WH	SC	Coleshill (Greenley Shield)	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	12	Central Bucks	SC	Whitchurch (six-bell competition)	6.00*
Sat	12	EBSB	BP	Chenies	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	12	Oxford City	SC	Iffley (six bell)	
Sat	12	Reading		Branch outing	
Mon	14	Old North Berks	BP	Sutton Courtenay	7.00 - 8.30
Fri	18	North Bucks	BP	Great Linford*	7.30
Sat	19	Chipping Norton	SP	Kirtlington	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	19	Sonning Deanery	BP	Binfield*	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	19	V of the WH		Branch Barbecue, Buckland	
Thur	24	V of the WH	BP	10-bell practice, Thatcham*	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	26	EBSB	BP	Wraysbury	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	26	Oxford City	SC	Marston (U.18s)	
Sat	26	South Oxon	BP	Dorchester	7.00 - 9.00
Wed	30	Witney & Woodst.	AP	Witney	7.30 - 9.00

JULY

Sat	3	Chipping Norton	BP	Shipton under Wychwood*	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	3	Oxford City	BP	Oxford, St Thomas	7.00 - 8.30
Sat	3	Reading	BP	Padworth	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	3	South Oxon	EP	Warborough	7.30 - 9.00
Wed	7	Bicester	BP	Piddington	7.30
Sat	10	Guild		Guild Festival - Great Missenden	
Sat	10	Guild	SC	Ten-bell Striking Competition - Long Crendon	
Mon	12	Old North Berks	BP	Steventon	7.30 - 9.00
Fri	16	North Bucks	BP	Twyford	7.30
Sat	17	Chipping Norton	SP	Churchill	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	17	Sonning Deanery	BP	Sonning*	7.00 - 9.00

Sat	24	EBSB	BP	Turville and Hambleden	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	24	South Oxon	BP	Aston Rowant	7.00 - 9.00
Wed	28	V of the WH	BP	Buckland	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	31	EBSB	SP	Bray	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	31	North Bucks	SC	Wicken/Easton Neston*	6.00 - 8.00

AUGUST

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	14	EBSB	EP	West Wycombe	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	14	Oxford City	BP	Garsington	7.00 - 8.30
Sat	14	Reading	BP	Whitchurch	7.00 - 9.00
Fri	20	North Bucks	BP	Newton Longville*	7.30
Sat	21	Sonning Deanery	BP	Shottesbrooke*	7.00 - 9.00
Wed	25	V of the WH	BP	Ashbury	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	28	EBSB	BP	Wooburn	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	28	South Oxon	BP	Great Milton	7.00 - 9.00

SEPTEMBER

Fri	3	Bicester	BP	Ludgershall	7.30
Sat	4	Chipping Norton	BP	Burford*	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	4	North Bucks	QM	Olney/Lavendon	3.30
Sat	4	Reading	SC	Streatley	5.00 - 7.00
Fri	10	Guild		Easthampstead Course starts	
Sat	11	Oxford City	BP	North Hinksey	7.00 - 8.30
Fri	17	North Bucks	BP	Stowe	7.30
Sat	18	Old North Berks	HY	Appleton	tbc
Sat	18	Sonning Deanery	SC	Warfield* (eight bell SC)	
Sat	25	Chipping Norton	SP	Somerton	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	25	EBSB	BP	Amersham	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	25	South Oxon	BP	Chalgrove	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	25	V of the WH	HY	Hinton Waldrist	

OCTOBER

Sat	2	Chipping Norton	HY	Swerford*	7.00 - 9.00
Mon	4	Bicester	BP	Brill	7.30
Sat	9	EBSB	EP	Lane End	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	9	Oxford City		Branch outing	
Sat	9	Reading	BP	Shiplake	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	9	South Oxon		Branch outing	
Mon	11	Old North Berks	BP	Drayton	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	16	Chipping Norton	SP	Bicester	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	16	Sonning Deanery	BP	Sandhurst, Immaculate Conception*	7.00 - 9.00
Mon	18	V of the WH	BP	Shrivenham	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	23	EBSB	HY	Clewer (with SC final)	tbc
Sat	23	South Oxon	HY	Tetsworth	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	30	EBSB	SP	Slough	7.00 - 9.00

NOVEMBER

Tue	2	Bicester	BP	Islip	7.30
Sat	6	Chipping Norton	BP	Hook Norton*	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	6	South Oxon	EP	Dorchester	7.30 - 9.00
Wed	10	Old North Berks	BP	Cholsey	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	13	EBSB	SP	Farnham Royal	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	13	Oxford City	AG	Oxford, St Giles	
Sat	13	Reading	BP	Tilehurst	7.00 - 9.00
Thur	18	V of the WH	BP	Shellingford	7.30 - 9.00

EASTHAMPTSTEAD '99

3-DAY RESIDENTIAL RINGING COURSE

**FRIDAY 10 SEPTEMBER - SUNDAY 12 SEPTEMBER
1999**

Lectures and practical ringing for all standards from Plain Hunt to Surprise Major including Grandsire, Stedman and Plain Bob Doubles; Plain Bob, Treble Bob and Surprise Minor; Grandsire, Stedman and Erin Triples; Plain Bob, Treble Bob, Double Norwich and Surprise Major.

Optional lectures and practicals include bell handling, maintenance, rope splicing, change ringing on handbells, raising and lowering in peal, ringing with a simulator, computers in ringing, learning a method and conducting.

Cost £125

(inclusive of VAT @ 17.5%)

Full details and application forms are now available.

To request an application form please send a large stamped addressed envelope to the course organisers:

John and June Wells

*15 Lytham End, Tilehurst, Reading, Berkshire RG31 6FG
(0118 9410061)*

In the event of the course being over-subscribed, priority will be given to Guild members who return their application forms before the end of May. Places may still be available after the end of May; please telephone for information.

(Ringers under the age of 14 years must be accompanied by an adult)