

Issue 56

ODD BOB

Newsletter of the



July 1999

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Information for contributors:

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

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

Whilst hand-written or typed copy is preferred, you may find it convenient to submit 3.5" diskettes prepared in MS WordPerfect, Works or Word format.

Line drawings or photographs to illustrate your article will also be welcomed.

The next issue of '*Odd Bob*' is scheduled to be distributed at the
Guild Committee Meeting on 27 November 1999.
All contributions to the editor please not later than 1 November 1999.

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

Master's Mutterings

Readers may well have noticed a recent series of articles in *The Ringing World* outlining an idea to form a Guild of Instructors with the basic aim of encouraging and developing good training of ringers. The Guild Education Sub-committee has also been looking at this matter in recent years and has run a number of courses with this aim in mind, with others to follow.

There is much enthusiasm for training courses particularly at the more elementary levels of Plain Hunt and simple Doubles. This has been particularly noticeable with the over-subscription of the Radley and Easthampstead courses this year. What is clear is that our recruits and less able ringers are looking for quality in the training they receive.

There are a number of reasons for this. Firstly, in the world of work, commercial and industrial training has greatly improved in the past decade or so and we are now more aware of what constitutes 'good training' and are therefore more critical of what is offered. Secondly, 'hobby'-based holidays and recreational courses are more common and it is much more usual for people to be prepared to pay for good tuition in order to develop their expertise in their particular area of interest.

What does this mean for ringing? We have traditionally left training to tower captains, ringing masters and those few keen members who are willing to give time to training others. Not all of these have been experienced teachers or trainers and so the quality of training has varied considerably from the excellent to what might be politely called mediocre. The way many have approached training has been 'that was how I was taught' (or rather their perception of how they were taught). This is a rather 'hit and miss' approach and it is small wonder that we often lose recruits.

One of the pleasing products of the Millennium Project has been the way in which some branches are reassessing their training policy and approaches. There are now a variety of initiatives around the Guild. Branch training days with particular emphases, Summer Schools, 'Flying Squad' help for individual towers, tower-based training and so on. At the Guild level there have been workshops on Teaching Bell Handling, From Rounds to Plain Hunt, Seminars on Recruitment and Retention, and Running Practices. All this is healthy, but requires much time and effort both on the part of those tutoring and the participants. At a recent course one of the helpers was heard to remark 'It is good that there are opportunities such as this nowadays. There were no courses when I was learning'. The opportunities are often there, but are we making the most of them?

As we enter the next millennium, the Guild Education Sub-committee will be looking to develop good practice in the way we train ringers. This requires a willingness on the part of members to:

- attend training sessions, either as a student or helper,
- be willing to communicate and receive ideas, particularly at seminars and other fora for discussion,
- continually reassess their approaches to training, and
- encourage learners to attend courses.

No one has all the answers and we can all learn from other people's experiences. Only by participating can we improve the level of training.

John Wells

OBITUARY

ROBERT ARNOTT

The Oxford Diocesan Guild has sadly lost Bob Arnott, a member for almost 80 years, who died on 10 February in hospital in Kent. Bob was born in October 1906 and his early hobbies included football and bell ringing. He was elected to the Guild at the age of 14 and served as Tower Captain of St Mary's, Thame, for some 50 years, retiring in the summer of 1990. Ringing chamber lighting in his early days comprised a single fan-shaped gas flame in the middle of the floor, with no stairway light. Not so very long ago he owned a cobbler's shop in the High Street (even in recent times he still had stocks of shoe-laces) and remained very active throughout his life - he could be seen cycling around well into his eighties.

Both Bob and his late wife Lily were well known, and held with affection throughout the branch, during their many years of service at St Mary's. They are both sadly missed and we extend our sympathy to their daughter Brenda, Rob and their family.

After his cremation on 19 February, his ashes were interred at a Memorial Service at St Mary's on 6 March. The bells were rung half-muffled before the service by the local band, with Brenda and Rob, followed after the service by a quarter-peal of 1260 Grandsire Doubles by Mavis Clarke 1, John Tchighianoff 2, Fred Keen (cond.) 3, Terry Gibson 4, Alan Keen 5, David Payne 6. A further quarter-peal of Grandsire (rung open) was attempted at Tetsworth but failed after 1080 changes. The ringers were Rosalie Gibson, Olive Lawrence, Kay Bartholomew, John Apsley, Tina Ruff and Cyril Lawrence.

Dedication at Charlton-on-Otmoor

Even on a Sunday you can't always depend on the traffic being light, especially on a Bank Holiday weekend, so it was with delight that we stepped inside the church early and to the strains of the choir finishing its rehearsal. No ordinary choir. When we established that Charlton was in the benefice of Queen's College, Oxford, then it seemed natural that the college choir should be presiding.

In fact, this was just the beginning of what turned out to be a splendid evening of music and ringing, with attention to detail throughout and for this Willie Haynes must be justifiably proud.

The rehearsal did throw up one question, however, and that was why were they practising a hymn not on the sheet? John Wells observed that the tune fitted the Ringers' Hymn and there were a few ghastly moments wondering whether Willie would ever live it down if we didn't sing it to *Belfry Praise*. However, words were exchanged; dashings-about were in evidence; a music version of A&M Revised was unearthed and bestowed on the organist and, as if by magic, the choir also seemed to acquire copies.

Ringling was heard before the service and punctuated the order of Dedication. Once again the Right Reverend Dr Anthony Russell, Bishop of Dorchester, reiterated his belief that the President had no need to ascend to the ringing chamber - the means in this case being

a very steep ladder! - and the business was done from below. He also gave a very interesting résumé of rural parishes in Oxfordshire. The service was a particularly beautiful setting by Orlando Gibbons and the responses were by Humphrey Clucas, a contemporary musician from one of the colleges. In addition the choir sang the Stanford setting of Psalm 150 and two anthems: *Alleluia, I heard a voice* by Thomas Weelkes, and *Faith, Hope and Love* by Schubert which, it turned out, had strong local connections. The Rector, Richard Sturch, translated and en-versed Friedrich Reil's original words and Jennifer Brown, past organist at Islip, arranged Schubert's music. Queen's College choir was supported by the two organ scholars, David Bednall and Edward Whiting.



Willie Haynes beside the tenor bell prior to the restoration work at Charlton-on-Otmoor

After this feast we were directed upwards and sideways. Sideways showed a display of the whole operation with Richard Stevens and White's very much to the fore, of which you will hear more from Willie in *The Ringing World*. If you were quick, there was an historic display of work done at Kidlington by Webb & Bennett, sometime workers of White's. Their historic display showed the Kidlington bell frame being made, but Webb & Bennett also were responsible for hanging the original Charlton-on-Otmoor bells in 1898.

Above, many ringers took advantage of the new work and I had the privilege of ringing the Millennium bell. Ringing was from rounds and call-changes to London and sounded very well. Outside they sounded even better, which is what counts after all. The bells are tuneful and mellow and sounded the end of a beautiful two hours spent in the wilds of rural Oxfordshire.

Bobbie May

Youth Training Day - 6 March 1999

From a student:

When I arrived at Bray church, I was confronted with 20 faces, only two of which I knew (my two sisters). I soon got to know a few more people who were luckily in my group for the afternoon sessions. At Bray church, I rang the treble to Plain Bob Doubles and a method that I'd never rung before - Plain Hunt on seven.

At 11 o'clock we had a tea break and an introductory talk at Bray village hall. At 11.30 we had an hour's tutorial during which we learnt the theoretical side of bell ringing. During this session I learnt some skills to improve my accuracy when ringing any bell to any method. We then had lunch.

After lunch we split into groups and were taken by car to towers in the district. First, I

went to Shottesbrooke where I learnt how to ring Bob Doubles and rang the treble to a touch. I then moved on to a nearby tower, White Waltham. The stairs here were built in a small turret attached to the corner of the tower. At White Waltham I rang the tenor (12 cwt) and the treble to Plain Hunt and Bob Doubles. We then went to McDonalds in High Wycombe for our tea.

After tea, we went to the Oakley Hall in High Wycombe and split into three groups: rope splicing, method ringing on handbells, and tune ringing on handbells. I chose rope splicing and made a loop that is used for extending bell ropes and is made from one single strand of rope. This session continued until 8.45 when we went home.

I thoroughly enjoyed the day and would like to thank Patricia Newton (the organiser), Helen McGregor (my group leader) and Alex Byrne (my tutor for the afternoon sessions).

Bobby Silverwood (St Mary's, Wootton near Woodstock)

From the organiser:

Another student, Sarah Crabtree of Shrivenham, wrote an article which appeared on the Planet Bell page of *The Ringing World* on 14 May. Sarah was the star pupil of the day ringing, amongst other methods, 4-spliced major. We cater for young ringers of all abilities from Plain Hunt upwards, and see them make good progress. I am very grateful to the many adults who give up the day to help with transport, refreshments and ringing, and make the course so enjoyable and purposeful for the young students.

ODG Handbell Day

It was with a certain amount of trepidation that I put my name forward for the ODG Handbell Day on 29 May. After all, it was more than 21 years since I had rung handbells regularly when I was living in Shropshire. At that time I had rung a handbell peal for the Shropshire Association! So, I weighed up my expectations and decided to do some homework.

The great day dawned, and some 30 hopefuls and experts descended on the home of Helen McGregor and Peter Bevis for a 10 am start. With seven rooms available, five quarter-peal attempts and two practices were going on simultaneously. Methods included Plain Bob Major to Plain Bob Maximus, Stedman Caters and Cinques, Treble Bob and Surprise in various guises, and so on. One hour was allowed between starts, so it would be possible to take part in six quarter-peals during the day.

At 1.00 pm we were allowed a lunch break! Our hosts provided us with a most excellent feast and if anyone starved it was their own fault! Everyone tucked in and took their turn at the washing-up, including the Guild Master - seen as never before! The day ended with a raffle in aid of the Guild Bell Restoration Fund, and the final prize won by 'Yours truly' was the privilege of writing this report.

The record of the successful quarter-peal attempts is attached - in my case two out four. The day was very well organised and all of us owe a great debt of gratitude to Peter and Helen for giving their time and making their home available for a very successful event. Thank you again, Helen and Peter. We hope we can look forward to another event for the Millennium year.

Richard Stevens

Quarter peals rung on handbells at Badgers Bottom, Tokers Green

29 May 1999

1280 6-Spliced S Major	1264 Plain Bob Major	1287 Stedman Caters
1-2 Tricia Newton	1-2 Marcia Dieppe	1-2 Anne Parkin
3-4 June Wells	3-4 Helen McGregor	3-4 Philip Saddleton(C)
5-6 Roger Bailey(C)	5-6 Roger Bailey (C)	5-6 Kath Firman
7-8 John Wells	7-8 Richard Stevens	7-8 Jim Diserens
		9-10 Graham Firman
1344 Plain Bob Major	1280 Oxford TB Major	
1-2 Jinny Kufluk	1-2 Bobbie May	1344 Spliced Kent & Oxford TB Major
3-4 Jenny Carter	3-4 Clare Larter	1-2 Ian Blagrove
5-6 Richard Stevens	5-6 Bernard Groves(C)	3-4 Roger Bailey (C)
7-8 Robert Newton (C)	7-8 Helen Diserens	5-6 Ruth Blackwell
		7-8 Philip Larter
1280 Plain Bob Major	1250 Cambridge S Major	
1-2 Margaret Wells	1-2 Prudence Fay	1264 Plain Bob Major
3-4 Philip Saddleton	3-4 Kath Firman	1-2 Chris Munday
5-6 Jim Diserens (C)	5-6 Bernard Groves(C)	3-4 Philip Larter
7-8 Viv Bloundele	7-8 Amy Wood-Blagrove	5-6 Neville Parkin (C)
		7-8 Simon Cole
1280 Yorkshire S Major	1264 DNCB Major	1344 Plain Bob Major
1-2 Prudence Fay	1-2 Ruth Blackwell	1-2 Bobbie May
3-4 Roger Bailey (C)	3-4 Clare Larter	3-4 June Wells
5-6 Clare Larter	5-6 Roger Bailey (C)	5-6 Roger Bailey
7-8 Helen McGregor	7-8 Philip Larter	7-8 Jenny Carter (C)
1320 Plain Bob Maximus	1282 Yorkshire S Royal	
1-2 Kath Bentley	1-2 Tricia Newton (C)	1344 8-Spliced S Major
3-4 Philip Larter	3-4 Kath Firman	1-2 Prudence Fay
5-6 Bernard Groves(C)	5-6 Ruth Blackwell	3-4 Ruth Blackwell
7-8 Tricia Newton	7-8 Graham Firman	5-6 Ken Darvill
9-10 John Wells	9-10 Neville Parkin	7-8 Robert Newton (C)
11-12 Alan Bentley		
1260 Plain Bob Royal		1250 Cambridge S Major
1-2 Prudence Fay		1-2 Clare Larter
3-4 Kath Bentley		3-4 Angela Darvill
5-6 June Wells		5-6 Bernard Groves(C)
7-8 John Wells (C)		7-8 John Wells
9-10 Ian Blagrove		

Running a Practice Seminar

A very useful seminar was run at Great Missenden on 20 February to discuss ways and problems of running practices. Most of the seven delegates who attended were quite inexperienced at running practices, being either new tower captains, or deputies or other tower members who had had to run a practice.

The seminar was led by John Wells, assisted by June Wells and myself, and various discussion points were addressed. All delegates came with their own questions and experiences to add to the discussion, and the session proved most useful and interesting. Most tower captains are appointed with little or no training for the job, and we do the best we can and cope with circumstances as they arise to the best of our ability. This was an opportunity to benefit from each other's experience.

To follow on from this we would like to run another seminar with the aim of producing a booklet along the lines of the Recruitment and Retention booklet that we distributed a couple of years ago. The date is set for **Saturday, 9 October**, but the venue is as yet unconfirmed. For this seminar to achieve its objectives, we need lots of support from experienced and inexperienced tutors. Please note the date in your diary and watch out for further information. The more ideas and problems we can discuss, the more useful the booklet will be to other ringers.

Patricia Newton

The Central Council Meeting 1999

A New Member's View

When I was elected to be one of the six representatives for the ODG, I little realised what I had let myself in for! In the first place I was elected a whole year before my first opportunity to attend a meeting, that being the first of the 37th triennium. Gradually information flowed in and I supplied personal details for the Council's organisers to use when including me in the arrangements. I received large parcels of papers to read before the meeting, to be held in Lincoln, 28 - 31 May, and then there were the arrangements for the meeting weekend itself. Should I book myself in for one or more of the peals? Was my wife going to come - or would it be too ringing-oriented for a non-ringer? Where would I (we) stay?

Eventually we decided I would go alone, so I booked into "Edward King House" and e-mailed the peal arranger, Judith Rogers, to let her know I would be available on the Saturday morning.

I took the Friday off so that I could travel up during the day and hopefully miss some of the Bank Holiday traffic. A forlorn hope!! It took me five hours to get there. However, Edward King House turned out to be the conference accommodation in the old Bishop's Palace, right under the Cathedral in very pleasant surroundings. The first person I met as I went into the front door was John Baldwin, now at Llandaff but previously from the ODG. We arranged to meet later and went for some supper before joining others at St Botolph, Lincoln for a quick ring. There we met up with numerous other Council members, one of whom was also in my assigned peal at Grantham the next day, so we arranged to travel together.

The programme for Saturday included a number of peal attempts, such as the Cambridge Royal at Grantham, and two "outings" which were run on the lines of an open day - 25p per tower, dash about as much as you like to fit in lots of towers! We took it steadily after our 3 hours 33 minutes at Grantham and only grabbed six! The evening event was a social gathering at the University of Lincoln to enable Council members to meet old friends and make new acquaintances. At about this point I discovered my fellow ODG

representatives had met in a bar somewhere and "volunteered" me to write this article about the meeting!

Sunday started with ringing at various towers around the area. I went to St Giles, Lincoln, and was invited to assist with some specially requested ringing at St Mary-le-Wigford, where it was the 30th anniversary of the Vicar's ordination. These were Oldfield bells, the front four of a six!

After lunch we rang at the Cathedral for evensong, then went to the open meeting on "Raising Standards - The Challenge to Instructors". The Central Council Education Committee has been discussing ways of improving standards throughout the country. One suggestion is to establish an "Institute of Bellringing Instructors", but it was quite clear from the discussion (both during and after the meeting) that there is a long way to go before such a venture could be started. It may not even be the right thing to do, but the discussion evoked much thought and crystallised in many minds the need to pass what is best in our training practice on to those who need support. We also need to assist our instructors in developing their skills, and help them to recognise when they may need help and show them where to find it.

Later in the afternoon we had a Ringers' Songs of Praise in the Quire of the Cathedral. Again, this was a lovely setting for the service. The Lincoln Singers sang the choral parts, including one of my favourite pieces, The Bell Anthem by Henry Purcell. We then had the after-dinner speeches in the Chapter House.

Monday was the meeting day! We had been warned to register early and be in our seats by 9.45. We duly arrived, signed in and picked up packages telling us about next year's meeting. The meeting started promptly and we were soon into business. Apologies, last year's minutes, statements by the President, the Vice President and Secretary all flowed by. Election of officers was well organised. The President had finished her three-year stint and handed over to John Anderson. There were two nominations for Vice President to replace John. These were Derek Sibson and Michael Henshaw. Their Nominators made the case for each prior to a ballot which resulted in Michael Henshaw being elected by a substantial majority. The Secretary, Treasurer, Auditors and Stewards were elected unopposed.

The business flowed fairly steadily and suddenly it was lunchtime. This was served in a refectory above the meeting room, so we could have a relatively quick meal and return to business. Immediately after lunch it was the AGM of *"The Ringing World Ltd"*. Howard Egglestone retired after 24 years on the Board and a new Board was elected. It was noted that subscriptions were down and there was a need to change to improve the appeal of the magazine. The new colour setting had helped, but plans were afoot to develop further. Market research was in hand to look at the likely appeal of a "Ringing Lifestyle" magazine. Keep reading YOUR *Ringing World* for details!

After the RW meeting we returned to Council Committee elections. There were 12 committees, varying from five members to 31. Each nominee was given an introduction by the nominator and in all we had seven ballots and one recount during the afternoon. A cup of tea was very welcome at about 5 pm! Once the committees had been elected, they each had to nominate a Chairman so that the Council Administrative Committee could be formed, each Chair being an *ex-officio* member of that committee. There were 12 elected members from the floor.....

The meeting finally closed at 6.45 pm and those of us returning home that evening made tracks for our cars; I made it home by about 11.15. I must say the whole proceedings were a surprise to me, and I am looking forward to next year's meeting when there will be more business and fewer elections. The social and ringing activities were superbly put together, as we have come to expect of Ringers in general, and I am confident there will be more on the results of the open meeting when Michael Henshaw and his committee have digested them.

Mike Till

Guild AGM - Milton Keynes, 15 May 1999

The AGM this year was held in the Council Room at the Church of Christ The Cornerstone in Central Milton Keynes. Michael Dane, Sonning Deanery Branch Representative, provided an excellent summary of the key points in the following article (reprinted from the May edition of the Sonning Deanery Branch Newsletter).

The Guild Service Book is still in progress and will be available in hard copy and on disc for Branches to decide which parts they want to use.

1. The Best Kept Towers Competition: a checklist used by the Judges has been produced and is being sent to the Branches as advice on what to look out for in towers.
2. Restoration Fund: the proposal from the Committee meeting was ratified that the loan of £1000 from the General Account was to be made a gift together with a further £1000. Five or six small contributions had been made to the fund.
3. It was agreed to sponsor a page in *The Ringing World* in the edition nearest the Guild Festival.
4. Bell Fund: income this year has been about £3500 with £840 so far from the Ringing Day. Three grants had been made.
5. Most of the existing officers were re-elected.
6. Millennium: this took most of the meeting as plans were outlined and discussed -
 - The framework of an article for parish Magazines was being distributed. It was noted that it is nearly too late to train new ringers for next January and that an effort should be made to get "lapsed" ringers back.
 - The AGM next year will be followed by a concert by the Reading Male Voice Choir at Witney at 7.30 pm.
 - The Festival Service will be at the Cathedral on 8 July 2000.
 - The Millennium Ale has been ordered from the Brewery and orders can be placed in March in cases of 12 bottles.
 - The Guild will provide a foil plaque to each tower which rings on 1 January 2000. The wording is still to be finalised and the only variable text on the plaque will be the tower name and dedication. The plaque will be mounted on a walnut-finish MDF backing (which has been donated by an anonymous donor).
 - A Fun Day is planned with possibly a knockout striking competition (eg. one minute rounds and a course of Bob Doubles). There will also probably be a BBQ etc.
 - We have *The Ringing World* cover for the issue after 17 January 2000 and Stan Scott has been asked to produce a collage of the towers restored for the Millennium.
 - A permanent record will be maintained of the ringing during the year 2000.

Michael Dane

A Simple Guide to Organising Bell Projects

Introduction

There are two sorts of scheme:

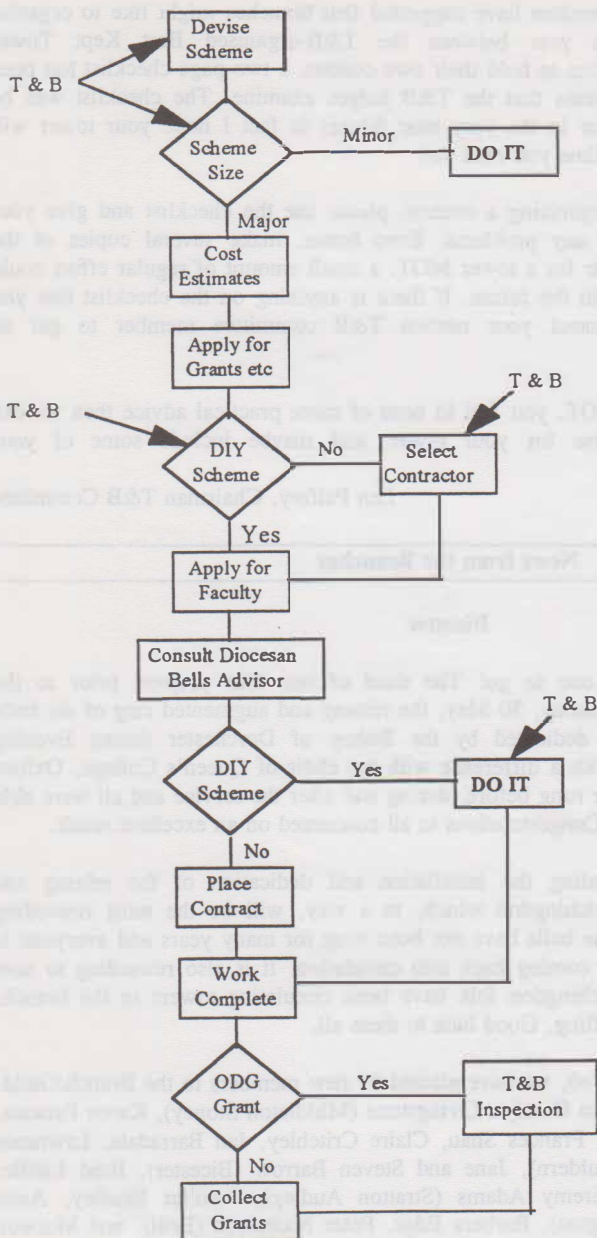
- a minor scheme that does not require a faculty,
- all other schemes that do require a faculty.

A faculty is the equivalent of church planning permission. The application (which is now free of charge) must be agreed by the PCC; it is then sent to Church House in Oxford by the PCC/Church Authorities.

How to Plan Your Scheme

Usually, minor schemes are those which cost less than £300 but you should check with Church House to be sure that your scheme qualifies.

There are many points in the projects where the Towers & Belfries (T&B) Committee can offer advice. Most of these are indicated on the flow-chart which shows how a typical project might proceed.



Maintain Our Towers

The Towers and Belfries Committee have suggested that branches might like to organise their own "contest" in the year between the T&B-organised Best Kept Tower competitions. To enable branches to hold their own contest, a two-page checklist has been devised covering all of the items that the T&B judges examine. The checklist will be circulated to every ODG tower in the very near future; in fact I hope your tower will have received its copy by the time you read this.

Even if your branch is not organising a contest, please use the checklist and give your tower an MOT, looking for any problems. Even better, make several copies of the checklist and use it once a year for a tower MOT: a small amount of regular effort could save your tower a nightmare in the future. If there is anything on the checklist that you do not understand, then contact your nearest T&B committee member to get an explanation.

If, having carried out your MOT, you feel in need of more practical advice then we can arrange a Maintenance Course for your tower, and maybe include some of your neighbours.

Len Palfrey, Chairman T&B Committee

News from the Branches

Bicester

Yes - it's three down with one to go! The third of our four projects prior to the millennium is complete. On Sunday, 30 May, the rehung and augmented ring of six bells of Charlton-on-Otmoor were dedicated by the Bishop of Dorchester during Evening Service. This was a service with a difference with the choir of Queen's College, Oxford taking the lead. The bells were rung before, during and after the service and all were able to sample this enhanced ring. Congratulations to all concerned on an excellent result.

We are now eagerly anticipating the installation and dedication of the rehung and augmented ring of six at Bletchington which, in a way, will be the most rewarding project in the branch. Here, the bells have not been rung for many years and everyone is looking forward to this tower coming back into circulation. It is also rewarding to note that a goodly number of Bletchington folk have been circulating towers in the branch, gaining experience in bell handling. Good luck to them all.

Since the last edition of *Odd Bob*, we have elected 19 new members to the Branch/Guild. A warm welcome is extended to Carolyn Livingstone (Middleton Stoney), Karen Parsons, Philip Bearman (Ludgershall), Frances Shan, Claire Critchley, Jan Barradale, Lawrence Williams, Martin Garrity (Souldern), Jane and Steven Barrow (Bicester), Brad Liddle, Ronald Bardsley Howarth, Jeremy Adams (Stratton Audley), Jennifer Bradley, Anna Lewis, Jessica Sprake (Kirtlington), Barbara Edge, Peter Nicholson (Brill), and Morwen Ashton (Piddington). We trust that all will value their membership and ring for many years to come.

The branch members enjoyed the Annual Outing on 27 March with ringing at Rothwell, Desborough, Finedon, Great Addington, Islip and Thrapston. Yes - Islip ringers went to

ring at Islip and decided they preferred Islip (Islip, Oxon and not Islip, Northants, of course!). Thanks to Simon Cole for another excellent day out.

Saturday, 22 May saw the wedding of Catherine Henson (younger daughter of Rosemary Henson) and Julian Murfitt at Chesterton, near Bicester. The three bells were rung before and after the service, and all will wish the newly-weds well in their new home at Downham Market.

Another noteworthy event came on 14 April, when ringers from Launton and Ludgershall got together and rang a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles to mark the 85th birthday of Les Burnell. Now the oldest ringer in our branch, Les learnt to ring with Sunny Jones at nearby Piddington and rang his first quarter-peal in April 1939. Les still rings faithfully and regularly at Launton and Ludgershall, hence the connection for this commemorative quarter-peal (details below).

Finally the Bicester Rotary Club has produced a book about the history of Bicester which includes two articles about bell ringing. One is a copy of an article by Frederick Sharpe about the Bicester Bell Foundry, run by Edward Hemins from 1728 to 1743. The other, by Richard Stevens, is a brief account of ringing at Bicester Parish Church down the ages.

Richard Stevens

Quarter-peal

Ludgershall, Bucks: 14 April 1999. 1260 Grandsire Doubles: Karen Parsons 1, Les Burnell 2, John Harris (C) 3, Mike MacArthur 4, Clifford East 5.

Rung to celebrate the 85th birthday this day of Les Burnell, and also the 60th anniversary of his first quarter-peal (Grandsire Doubles) rung in this tower and conducted by Sunny Jones of Piddington, the neighbouring village.

Central Bucks

Since the beginning of the year, as mentioned in the last *Odd Bob*, our Ringing Master, Phil Dunn, has been organising Cambridge Surprise Minor practices. These have been held almost once a month and have proved very worthwhile. Ed Houghton, our training officer, has been training approximately six ringers into the mysteries of Surprise Minor. It was at our May Branch Practice that the training was put to the test when three of the trainees rang Cambridge. The training will continue. Other training sessions have included a regular once-a-month basic method practice: Plain Bob Doubles and Minor, and Grandsire. The latest training was a ringing up and down session which was run by Phil Dunn at Linslade.

The new treble at East Claydon was dedicated in May by the Ven. John Morrison. I was very sorry not to have been there, but my son's football club decided to hold their presentation afternoon on the same day and parental duties must come first. I am informed that all went very well.

The branch practices have continued to be well attended and hopefully, with all the new ringers who have been learning in our towers, this will continue.

Andy Lancey

Chiltern

Things looked bad in the branch! Five unringable towers (31%!) and a broken wheel in another. What a way to greet the Millennium.

But wait! - things are looking up. Little Missenden acquired a new wheel for their third and restorers' scaffolding adorns the towers of Great Kimble and Ivinghoe. The wobbly weathercock which caused ringing to be suspended at Wendover has been removed. In its place, the top of the spire has been tastefully covered with what looks like a large bin liner.

Such a pity the Wendover bells could not be rung at the time of the dedication of the new ringing-room floor. It is a marvellous piece of work and the band are to be congratulated. The difference is remarkable. Being further away from the bells, life is more comfortable for the ringers and there is greater clarity of sound which helps striking.

Our training continues to develop nicely. Marsworth had two 'in-tower' sessions on Plain Hunt, and a useful Stedman Doubles day was held at Aston Clinton. The next big event is the Guild Festival at Great Missenden.

Mike Davis

East Berks and South Bucks

At the Branch AGM, held at Beaconsfield on 24 April, all of the existing officers were re-elected with the exception of Clive Buswell who had indicated that he was unable to continue as Newsletter Editor. We thank Clive for his excellent work in preparing a number of very interesting Newsletters. No nominations were forthcoming to replace him and the position remains vacant. In the meantime, the Firman family of Bray are preparing the next edition which will be ready for distribution in July.

Attendance at most of the recent branch practices has been good, with upwards of 30 on several occasions. Methods typically range from Plain Hunt on five to Glasgow and Belfast, although the meeting at Boyne Hill was abandoned after 45 minutes as only seven ringers turned up on that Bank Holiday weekend.

The Branch Officers have arranged monthly quarter-peals at Windsor Parish Church and have been inviting ringers to achieve personal firsts. These have ranged from ringing the treble to Triples, through Cambridge Major inside to Double Norwich and Belfast.

Two bands represented the EBSB in the Guild 8-bell competition which was held at South Leigh in the Witney & Woodstock Branch on a glorious, sunny afternoon. Both teams did well, with the Branch team being placed narrowly ahead of the one from High Wycombe.

The first round of the Lorna Newton contest has been completed and 12 bands are in the second round which needs to be completed by 24 July.

Five teams took part in the annual 6-bell Striking Competition at Chenies on 12 June. We are very grateful to Andrew Alldrick for taking on the task of judging and he placed the bands as follows: 1. High Wycombe (40 faults), 2. Beaconsfield (84), 3. Bray (104), 4. Amersham (110), 5. Fulmer (133). The local ringers provided tea and a limited period of

ringing took place afterwards.

Work on the church at Chesham is temporarily restricting access to the tower and ringing there is suspended. Fortunately, some neighbouring tower captains are kindly making their bells available so that the Chesham ringers are able to continue their practices at other locations.

At Farnham Royal, a major fund-raising exercise is under way as urgent repairs are required to the church and the bells need a major overhaul. A sum in excess of £30 000 is likely to be required and we will keep you informed of progress.

Pat Moore

North Bucks

Our Branch AGM was held at our newest tower, Downs Barn, where we were well provided for by the new young band being trained under the watchful eye of our Branch Chairman. There were only two changes to the officers, so the branch remains very much as you were.

In April we revived our beginners' striking competition. This was held at Wavendon. Four teams competed in the competition, after a little juggling to make up the teams. The test piece was three minutes of rounds - a long time when it is your first competition and your first go on the bells. We were pleased to see so many learners of varying abilities present. Godfrey Foat judged the competition. After making a few comments about each team's ringing, he announced The Wavendon team as the winners. In conclusion Godfrey thanked Leonard Wilson for the use of his rather hard tombstone as a seat whilst listening to the ringing!

In May we visited Lathbury for the branch practice. This tower was recently made ringable again by various repairs to the fittings and a new band has been formed there. Attendance was above average for a practice, no doubt due to the novelty of a rare tower.

The six-bell striking competition and June Quarterly Meeting were held at Bradwell on what was a rather dull day. Five teams entered, and the competition ringing finished just in time for the service, which was just as well as the vicar and organist were on a tight schedule and had requested that we keep to our timetable. Our thanks to Roy and Judy Woodruff for judging the competition. After tea, Roy announced the winners as Hanslope who retain the Colin Slack Trophy for another year.

We continue to elect a steady stream of new members but seem to have trouble retaining them for more than a few years, as the total membership of the branch stays at much the same level from year to year.

Helen Stanworth

Old North Berks

This year we held our Six-bell Striking Competition on the same day as our Annual General Meeting on 20 March at Harwell. Unfortunately Debbie, the wife of our Ringing Master Nick Clarke, broke her wrist whilst ice-skating in the morning - some people will have dangerous hobbies - and it was touch and go for a while whether Nick would be

able to get to the competition and meeting. Luckily he arrived in time for most of the competition. We still had only four teams entered, and Appleton will represent us in the final this year at Radley. After Evensong in the church, with the organ expertly played by one of our members, David Papworth, and a delicious tea prepared by local ringers and friends, the meeting itself was very well attended. Our new Chairperson is Gillian Loyd from Blewbury, and our Ringing Master is now Michael Cannon from Abingdon.

Twenty-four members enjoyed a very pleasant evening at the Lakeside Superbowl in Thatcham on 30 March during Holy Week. As Peter Butler wrote in our latest Newsletter: 'The way some of us were bowling it was just as well all our lanes were adjacent. It certainly saved some embarrassment'. Having said that, we must all do it again sometime.

Our Branch Practices are very well attended at present - perhaps too well, as sometimes it is impossible to fit everything in to please everyone. Mind you, it is certainly very heartening to see so many new ringers coming along, and hopefully they do learn something from attending these practices.

Shirley Haines

Oxford City

From Roy Goodwin on the Iffley Handbells.

In 1870 a Major Ind presented Iffley with a splendid new set of handbells. Over the years they have given many people much pleasure and entertainment. In the 1960s and 70s particularly, under the guidance of Elizabeth Barber, the Iffley ringers gave many handbell concerts and were awarded a certificate of distinction at the Oxford Music Festival.

More recently Serge Zvegintzov, an Iffley ringer, expressed concern about the poor state of the handbells and offered to take them to Whitechapel Foundry to find out how much it would cost to have them refurbished. A figure of approximately £2000 was quoted and this included new cases for the storage of the bells.

It was known that the family of the late Revd Hills (Vicar of Iffley 1959-1975) had expressed a wish to fund a memorial for their father and it was felt that the repair of the handbells would be fitting memorial to him.

On Sunday 23 May, at Morning Service, the Revd Richard Lea, Vicar of Iffley, rededicated the refurbished handbells in the presence of the Revd Hills' family and a full congregation. The Iffley ringers performed "The Bells of St Mary's" which proved very appropriate and was well received. Unfortunately Serge, who had initiated the work on the handbells, was ill in hospital in Swindon and missed the occasion. His wife, Caroline, promised to give him a full report.

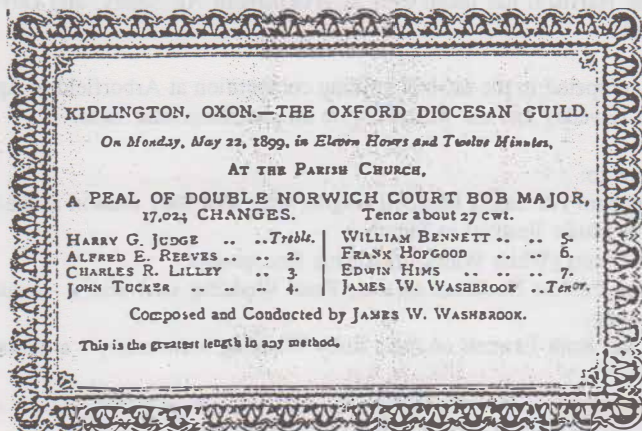
From T Peter Franklin: A Record Peal.

Kidlington's practice night on a Tuesday has proved much more popular and it has been decided that the change from Friday to Tuesday will be permanent.

A quarter-peal was rung on 13 March to bid farewell to Sue Booy's (the Kidlington Team Curate), a first quarter for Tony Stewart and to celebrate 55 years of ringing by Peter Franklin. On 23 March, 10 of the local ringers travelled to Dorchester to ring, with

others, for the Induction Service for Sue Booy, now Vicar at Warborough. On 10 July it is Christian Aid Flower Festival at St Mary's when it is hoped to have the belfry open to visitors.

Kidlington ringers are hoping to ring a quarter as a celebration of the record peal of 17024 changes of Double Norwich Court Bob Major rung on Monday, 22 May 1899 in 11 hours 12 minutes.



Reproduction of the original peal card found in the belfry cupboard at Kidlington

From Hugh Deem.

The Marston and Horspath Spring outing ventured as far as Hertfordshire and found a sunny gap amidst several days of stormy weather. Langleybury and Lemsford in particular proved ideal for smooth ringing. The feather-light front two at Radlett show that bells don't need to be inordinately heavy to be taxing for the unwary ringer. A summer outing for our towers has been arranged to Loughborough Bell Foundry and surrounding towers.

After a short period some five years ago, when practices never got started through lack of ringers, the slow process of rebuilding has been aided by our quarter-peal ringing for Sunday services which has encouraged active membership and sharing of conducting duties. A quarter-peal rung for The Children's Society May Day Appeal raised £100. After being inundated with young ringers throughout the 80s, the 90s have been marked by a dearth of youngsters and it is heartening that we at last have a teenage learner who only started in April but is on course to ring in the Under-18 Striking Competition in June.

Sonning Deanery

Our branch AGM took place in February at Waltham St Lawrence. A number of new officers were elected. They were Vice-chairman Rob Needham, Deputy Ringing Master Chris Brown, Meetings Secretary Sue Davenport, and Branch Representative Mike Dane. David Struckett took on Ringing Master in addition to Chairman, and Sue Ferguson took

over as Correspondence Secretary alongside her duties as Treasurer. We all pay tribute to Pam Elliston for her long and dedicated service as Branch Secretary.

We welcome several new members to the branch: Rosemary Martin (Binfield), Joyce Crockford (Arborfield), Andrew Mitchell, Alan Smith and Ann Daniels (Sonning) and Roy Russell (Wargrave). Harold Smith (Wargrave) celebrated his 80th birthday in January and we send belated congratulations.

After nine years as Tower Captain at Wargrave, Peter Munday has handed over to David Sullivan; John Harrison has taken over at Wokingham All Saints, and David Struckett at Finchampstead.

Seven teams competed in the six-bell striking competition at Arborfield in April. The judge was Malcolm Loveday and the winners were an Easthampstead band.

Congratulations to:

- Wokingham All Saints handbell ringers who won their section at the Richmond-on-Thames Music Festival in March.
- Robin Dixon (White Waltham) for his first quarter.
- Rob and Pauline Needham on their Pearl Wedding anniversary - a quarter was rung at Sonning.
- Dave and Ruth Fawcett on their Ruby Wedding anniversary - a quarter was rung at Binfield.

Lastly, our Summer School takes place at Twyford from 27 to 30 July.

Sue Ferguson

South Oxon

The branch decided to enter the Guild 8-bell competition this year, the first time for many years, and eight ringers (each from a different tower) were selected to form the band. A series of practices was arranged, during which the ringers got used to ringing together and the standard improved greatly. Understandably nerves played a part on the day but the standard of ringing was a credit to the branch. It was rounded off when the band met again at the end of May to ring a quarter-peal of Bob Triples at Benson.

At the AGM in April, most officers were re-elected, some with different hats. Tina Ruff is now Ringing Master, and John Aspley was welcomed back to the committee as Branch Representative after a break of 25 years. Two long-service certificates were presented by the Guild Master to Dick Lindars and George Messenger of Thame.

A new band is being trained at Berrick Salome, which has been without ringers for many years. The bells at Little Milton have been silent for some six or seven years and are about to be re-hung. In anticipation of this, six recruits are being trained at special practices at Great Milton and Great Haseley.

A peal was rung at Chalgrove, and a quarter at Benson, to celebrate the Ruby Wedding anniversary of Brian and Glenys Gray in March. First quarters were rung by David Payne (Thame), Pat Cox (Great Milton), Charlotte Rogers (Drayton St Leonard). Robert Wells (Brightwell Baldwin) and Alan Booker (Great Milton).

Sadly the branch lost its longest serving member in the death in February of Bob Arnott, who was Tower Captain at Thame for some 50 years.

Hilarie Rogers

Vale of the White Horse

The Vale of the White Horse Branch had a change around in officers at the AGM at the end of February. After more than 10 years as Chairman, and previously Vice-Chair, Anthony Williams decided to take a well-earned break. Branch Secretary for seven years, Jackie O'Hagan, was elected as his replacement, and Clare Knock was elected as the new Branch Secretary. Clare says she was caught napping: if she had been fully awake she would have turned down the job. However, she seems to be making a good job of it so far! Other officers are Bill Mitchell (Vice-Chair), Ann Stevens (Treasurer), Tony Crabtree (Ringing Master), Gordon Belcher (Deputy Ringing Master) and Eleanor Banks (PRO).

Since then we have had several successful Branch Practices and a very well-supported Branch Striking Competition. Held at Coleshill on 8 June, the Greenley Shield Striking Contest attracted no fewer than EIGHT teams - this from a branch with only 10 ringable towers! Several of the teams included youngsters (under 14s) and one of the Faringdon teams consisted of no-one older than 14 years. Most of the teams performed very well against a yardstick of their experience, and the main surprise of the evening was that the 'favourites' both had quite considerable crunches which brought all of the teams very close together. Pete Tombs, the judge, commented fairly but tactfully on each team's performance and announced the placings of the first three teams. Shrivenham 'A' go on to represent the branch in the Guild 6-bell competition. It was a very enjoyable evening (our striking competitions usually include a running buffet) and we look forward to re-convening at the Branch Barbecue later in June.

Jackie O'Hagan

Witney and Woodstock

Things have been quite busy in the Witney and Woodstock Branch. In February we held our AGM at which I took over as Branch Secretary from Lorna Smale who became Vice Chair. We thanked Lorna for all her hard work during the last three years. Twenty-one new members were elected to the Guild, and two members from Bampton, Edward Dixey and Graham Taylor, received Life Membership and Long Service Certificates. Congratulations to all of them. On Easter Monday we had an outing to Oxford; a great opportunity for those of us who had never rung on Oxford bells, though we live only a few miles up the road.

On 3 May our branch held a Ringing Day and was host to the Guild 8-bell Striking Competition at South Leigh. The weather was perfect and ringers started queuing at Tackley, the first tower, at 8.30 am. The stewards and their helpers managed the huge numbers of ringers most efficiently - not easy as some of the towers are very small and in some cases have difficult access. During the afternoon the 8-bell teams assembled at the beautiful church at South Leigh, enjoyed their tea, sat on the Green and watched the sheep, when not taking part in the excellent ringing. Our branch team was delighted to finish sixth out of nine teams, a great improvement on last year.

On the following Saturday the sun shone, more or less, on our Branch Outing to the New Forest and Bournemouth area. An energetic coachload, including several of our youngest members, had a marvellous day's ringing as well as a (very) bracing walk and a paddle!

Attendances at Special Practices have been variable. A recent one was held at Wootton to help the band of young ringers there who are making steady progress. All our learners are doing well, and all our ringable towers are on target for the Millennium. Details of future Special Practices will be listed on the Witney and Woodstock website 'Ring in 2000' for which the address is dsspace.dial.pipex.com/town/estate/qh77/www_odg/.

Rachael Sherlaw-Johnson

Points From Peals

The leading peal ringers for 1998 published in the Ringing World on 4th June contained several members of the Guild. This year it was ordered on total time ringing and not the number of peals rung. Nevertheless Colin Turner was still at the top with an incredible 695 hours of peal ringing (256 peals). Rosalind French also had a mention in the article as being the ringer who spent the least amount of time ringing peals – only 1 hour 46 minutes by ringing just one peal (on Anne Carpenter's mini ring).

Graham John has now rung the Surprise Royal alphabet on handbells. The last one was a new method called Ukraine.

A peal at Isleworth on 27th April was rung in thanksgiving for the life of Jill Dando, the TV presenter who was murdered the previous day.

Donald Carter has now rung 500 peals for the Guild and also peals in 600 different towers.

Tim Pett rang his 1,700th peal at Aldbourne on 2nd April.

Congratulations to Peter Duggin for ringing his first peal, the tenor behind to a peal at Warfield. This peal was rung to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the augmentation of the ring to 10. Frank Price and Susanne Sargeant rang in this peal and also in the first peal on the augmented ring.

Congratulations to Darren Washington and Vicky Elliston who rang their first peals.

John White has now rung 100 peals, and Joyce Cornwall 200.

A peal of Doubles in 22 methods was composed and conducted by Peter Ellis. It was a bobless palindrome.

Congratulations to Bill Butler who has now called 1,000 peals. Where did this achievement take place? Thatcham, of course.

Bobbie May rang her first peal of Major on handbells. Plain Bob at Tilehurst.

A Ruby Wedding compliment was rung for Brian and Glenys Gray, the local tower captain at Chalgrove.

A peal on 6th February was the last at Cuddington before the removal of the bells for augmentation and re-hanging.

By ringing the 2nd at St Mary's Reading, Alex Byrne circled the tower as conductor.

Peter Bridle has rung 250 peals on the tenor bell at Thatcham. That's over a million and a quarter changes on the same bell!

By ringing the treble to a peal at West Wycombe on 20th February Walter Lee rang a peal on the 63rd anniversary of his first peal. Earlier in the year a peal was rung as a compliment to him on his 82nd birthday.

A vast number of peals appeared in the peal columns having been rung as a 40th birthday compliment to Nicola Turner.

The first peal ever of Lincolnshire Surprise Fourteen was rung on handbells on 20th January.

Lloyd Cartwright rang the 42cwt tenor at Bow to a peal of Stedman Cinques just before he left for Australia. He is having a great time down there and has been ringing some peals, but is suffering from the lack of peals of Stedman Triples with John Pladdys!

After a handbell peal in Maidenhead a discussion took place about ringers who aim to ring a peal on every date of the year. Should a peal that starts before midnight and ending after midnight count for the first of these two dates, the second date or both? Clearly Bernard Groves wanted an excuse to ring a few more peals as he thought it would not count for either of the dates!

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 1999 - 2000

Master	Mr E John Wells	15 Lytham End, Tilehurst, Reading, Berks RG31 6FG (0118 941 0061)
Deputy Master	Mr Ken R Davenport	47 Brookside, Wokingham, Berks RG41 2ST (0118 978 6554)
General Secretary	Mr Barry W M Cowper	Avondale, 45 Longfield Drive, Amersham, Bucks HP6 5HE (01494 725566)
General Treasurer	Mr Brian J Gatward	Grangewood, Mill Lane, Calcot, Reading, Berks RG31 7RS (0118 941 3097)
Assistant Treasurer	Mr Terry Wagstaff	6 Firs Close, Whitchurch, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 4LH (01296 641755)
Librarian	Mr Philip G Brown	Lucketts, Clay Bank, Hook Norton, Banbury, Oxon OX15 5PA (01608 737207)
Report Editor	Mr John F Payne	53 Walker Road, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 2QU (01628 624490)
Newsletter Editor	Mr A Rex Agg	25 Wilton Road, Beaconsfield, Bucks HP9 2DE (01494 675517)
Péal 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 (Banbury, Chipping Norton, Witney & Woodstock)
	Mr N Jim Diserens	10 Queens Avenue, Wallingford, Oxon (Old North Berks, Newbury, Reading) OX10 0NB (01491 824504)

Mr Mark Walker 22 Old London Road, Wheatley, Oxford
(Bicester, Oxford City, South Oxon) OX33 1YW (01865 873388)
 Mr David M Joyce 4 Woad Lane, Great Linford Village, Milton
 Keynes, Bucks MK14 5HE (01908 667025)
(North Bucks, Central Bucks, Chiltern)
 Mr Colin Fowles 127 Meadfield Road, Langley, Slough, Berks
(EBSB, Sonning, V of the W H) SL3 8HY (01753 671507)

Six General Committee members

Mr Graham Clifton	Mr A (Tony) Crabtree	Mrs Wenda Fowles
Mr W (Willy) Haynes	Mr Brian Newman	Mrs June Wells

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 (01993 881 624)

Financial information

Subscriptions	Resident members	£5.50 per annum
	Non-resident life members	£5.50
Peal fees	30p per person per peal	
Annual report	£2.50 + 50p packing and postage	
Badges	£1.50 each	
Guild History	£3.00 per copy	

Branch Secretaries

Banbury	Dr Ian Rodrick	Silverdale, Weeping Cross, Bodicote, Oxon OX15 4ED (01295 253817)
Bicester	Mr Richard C Stevens	Dellow, Blackthorn Road, Launton. Bicester, Oxon OX6 0DA (01869 243920)
Central Bucks	Mr Andy Lancey	43 Moorhills Road, Wing, Leighton Buzzard, Beds LU7 0NG (01296 681879)
Chiltern	Mr Mike C J Davis	1 Rookwood Way, Great Missenden, Bucks H16 0DF (01494 891312)
Chipping Norton	Mrs Linda Hoare	Yew Tree Cottage, Langley, Witney, Oxon OX8 5QE (01993 8787189)
East Berks & South Bucks	Mrs Patricia Moore	1 Elmwood Park, Gerrards Cross, Bucks SL9 7EP (01753 890477)
Newbury	Mr William Butler	8 The Waverleys, Thatcham, Berks RG18 3EZ

North Bucks	Mrs Helen Stanworth	(01635 826799) 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 Sue Ferguson	18 The Ridgeway, Wargrave, Reading, Berks RG10 8AS (0118 940 3032)
South Oxon	Mrs Hilarie Rogers	4 High Street, Drayton St Leonard, Wallingford, Oxon OX10 7BA (01865 890163)
Vale of the White Horse	Dr Clare Knock	85 Barrington Road, Watchfield, nr Swindon, Wilts SN6 8TN (01793 782152)
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) *Parts 2 & 3 form a single leaflet*
14. Plain, Little and Double Bob Minor and Plain Bob Major

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

Education committee - course titles

Plain Hunt	10-bell methods
Plain Bob Doubles	Towards better conducting
Grandsire Doubles	Towards better striking
Stedman Doubles	Raising and lowering in peal
Doubles and Minor	Tower leadership (seminar)

Plain Bob Minor
Cambridge Minor
Triples methods
Stedman Triples
Plain Major methods
Surprise Major methods

Computers and simulators in ringing
Rope splicing
Tower maintenance (by T&B committee)
Handbell ringing (methods)
Listening
Bell handling on video

Towers and belfries sub-committee

Chairman	Mr Len Palfrey	62 Horseshoe Road, Pangbourne, Reading, Berks RG8 7JL (0118 984 2698)
Secretary	Mr Nick Balshaw	3 The Crescent, East Hagbourne, Didcot, Oxon OX11 9JY (01235 815452)
Members	Mr John Blackall	2 Alpin Road, Bedgrove, Aylesbury, Bucks HP21 9BT (01296 27930)
	Mr Graham J Clifton	Stedman Cottage, Middle Aston, Oxford OX5 3PZ (01869 347273)
	Mr A (Tony) J Crabtree	4 Stallpits Road, Shrivenham, Swindon, Wilts SN6 8BG (01793 784064)
	Mr John C Davidge	Rowallan, Back Lane, Chalfont St Giles, Bucks HP8 4PD (01494 873325)
	Mr Peter G Davies	Narrogin, Longworth Road, Charney Bassett, Wantage, Oxon OX12 0ET (01235 868646)
	Mr Ralph A Elmes	Phoenix Cottage, Nuffield, Oxon RG9 5TE (01491 641874)
	Mr W (Willy) Haynes	Brinsmore House, Oddington, Kidlington, Oxon OX5 2QZ (01865 331303)
	Mr Alan J Marchbank	6 Broadway, Giffard Park, Milton Keynes, Bucks MK14 5QF (01908 611434)
	Mr Richard C Stevens	Dellow, Blackthorn Road, Launton, Bicester, Oxon OX6 0DA (01869 243920)
	Mr Bernard J Stone	3 Bell Close, Grove, Wantage, Oxon OX12 7NH (01235 766673)
*	Mr E John Wells	(see <i>Guild Master</i>)
*	Mr Barry W M Cowper	(see <i>Guild Secretary</i>)
*	Mr Brian J Gatward	(see <i>General Treasurer</i>)

* denotes *ex-officio* member.

Diary of Events for 1999 - 2000

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

JULY

Sat	10	Guild		Guild Festival - Great Missenden	
Sat	10	Guild	SC	Ten-bell Striking Competition - Long Crendon	
Sat	10	Witney & Woodst.	BP	Northmoor	7.30 - 9.00
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	Wargrave	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	24	EBSB	BP	Turville and Hambleden	7.00 - 9.00

Sat	24	Newbury	BP	Thatcham - 10-bell practice	7.30
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	Kingham	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
Sat	14	Witney & Woodst.	BP	Yarnton	7.30 - 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	to be arranged	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
Sat	11	Witney & Woodst.	BP	Tackley	7.30 - 9.00
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

Fri	1	Newbury	BP	Shaw	
Sat	2	Chipping Norton	HY	Swerford*	7.00 - 9.00
Mon	4	Bicester	BP	Brill	7.30
Sat	9	Guild		Seminar - Running a Practice	
Sat	9	EBSB	EP	Lane End	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	9	Newbury	AG	Kintbury	
Sat	9	Oxford City		Branch outing	
Sat	9	Reading	BP	Shiplake	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	9	South Oxon		Branch outing	
Sat	9	Witney & Woodst.	BP	Stanton Harcourt	7.30 - 9.00
Mon	11	Old North Berks	BP	Drayton	7.30 - 9.00
Fri	15	North Bucks	BP	Leckhampstead	7.30
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	Guild		Initiatives in Branch Training - Kidlington	
Sat	30	EBSB	SP	Slough	7.00 - 9.00

NOVEMBER

Tue	2	Bicester	BP	Islip	7.30
Fri	5	Newbury	BP	to be confirmed	
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	Guild		Cambridge Major Course	
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
Sat	13	Witney & Woodst.	BP	Freeland	7.30 - 9.00
Thur	18	V of the WH	BP	Shellingford	7.30 - 9.00
Fri	19	North Bucks	BP	Chicheley*	7.30
Sat	20	Chipping Norton	SP	Burford	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	20	Sonning Deanery		Wokingham, All Saints* (Committee mtg)	
Sat	27	Guild		General Committee meeting	
Sat	27	EBSB	BP	Cookham	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	27	South Oxon	BP	Long Crendon	6.30 - 8.30

DECEMBER

Fri	3	Bicester	BP	Kirtlington (with Social)	7.30
Fri	3	Newbury	BP	Shaw	
Fri	3	V of the WH		Branch Dinner	
Sat	4	Chipping Norton	BP	Spelsbury*	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	4	North Bucks	QM	Woughton	3.30
Sat	11	EBSB	BP	Hughenden (with social)	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	11	Oxford City	BP	Horspath	7.00 - 8.30
Sat	11	Reading	BP	with Advent Carol Service	6.00 - 9.00
Sat	11	South Oxon	BP	Brightwell Baldwin	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	11	Witney & Woodst.	BP	Woodstock	7.30 - 9.00
Tue	13	Old North Berks	BP	East Hagbourne	7.30 - 9.00
Fri	17	North Bucks	BP	Great Linford*	7.30
Sat	18	Sonning Deanery	BP	Finchampstead*	7.00 - 9.00
Mon	27	EBSB		Post-Christmas social + ringing	

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JANUARY

Sat	8	Reading	BP	Pangbourne	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	8	Witney & Woodst.	BP	Church Hanborough	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	15	Sonning Deanery	BP	Wargrave*	7.00 - 9.00
Fri	21	North Bucks	BP	Shenley*	7.30

FEBRUARY

Sat	12	Reading	AG	St Mary's, Reading	3.00
Sat	12	Witney & Woodst.	AG	Coombe*	7.30 - 9.00
Fri	18	North Bucks	BP	Weston Underwood	7.30
Sat	19	Sonning Deanery	AG	Sandhurst, St Michael*	

MARCH

Sat	4	North Bucks	AG	to be arranged	3.30*
Sat	11	Witney & Woodst.	BP	Witney	7.30 - 9.00
Fri	17	North Bucks	BP	Old Wolverton	7.30
Sat	18	Newbury		Branch outing to Oxford*	

APRIL

Sat	8	Witney & Woodst.	BP	Aston	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	29	Guild		Youth Training Day	

JULY

Sat	8	Guild		Guild Festival - Oxford	
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INITIATIVES IN BRANCH TRAINING

SATURDAY, 30th OCTOBER 1999

at

KIDLINGTON

2.30 - 6.00 p.m.

An opportunity for representatives from Branches and Towers to get together to share ideas regarding training.

A number of branches are now running their own courses very successfully. Different types of course are being run catering for the needs of individuals and of tower bands. If you are involved with, or interested in, training at Branch level or at your own tower, please come and tell us what you are doing, or benefit from the experience of ringers from other branches.

**To reserve a place, or for further details, please contact
Patricia Newton on 01844 352926.**

Centre for Oxfordshire Studies

Having filled the gaps in their collection of *Odd Bob* Newsletters, the Centre for Oxfordshire Studies is now keen to obtain copies of ODG Annual Reports to complete the collection. Anyone able to provide copies of Annual Reports for the years 1984 to 1993 inclusive is invited to contact Mary Neave at the Centre on 01865 815749. The Centre is located at the Central Library, Westgate, Oxford.