

Issue 59

ODD BOB

Newsletter of the



July 2000

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Information for contributors:

The next issue of '*Odd Bob*' will be distributed at the Guild Committee Meeting on
25 November 2000.

All contributions to the editor:
Mr A Rex Agg, 25 Wilton Road, Beaconsfield, Bucks HP9 2DE
not later than **30 October 2000.**

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

Master's Mutterings

The events of the past few months have continued to reinforce the view of much activity related to this Millennium year. After the hectic organisation of ringing for the beginning of the year, we have now had a very successful Sponsored Ringing week. Congratulations to the South Oxon Branch for winning the shield for the most money raised per member. We have also had the highly successful and enjoyable concert at Witney on AGM day. Thank you to Bobbie May for thinking up and organising this event for us and particular congratulations to the handbell ringers. Bill Butler's Barford Handbell Ringers presented a wide range of music with their usual professionalism and the change ringing band literally mesmerised the audience with their Bristol Maximus. The Guild Festival will be past by the time you read this and I hope it will be an equally auspicious event.

At the AGM, which was notable for its brevity, we only had one change of Officer with Doug Beaumont taking over as Librarian from Philip Brown. Our thanks to Philip for all he has done for the Library over the past few years. One of the frustrations of being Librarian is the lack of use made of this valuable resource. Not only are there copies of most of the important ringing books, but there is much archive material from both the Guild as a whole and the branches. It is hoped that the catalogue will soon be more widely available but in the meantime please contact Doug to find out more about what is available.

Applications for Guild and Branch courses indicate that many of those newer members who came forward for the Millennium are continuing with their desire to progress in ringing. It is important that we continue to encourage and provide the support our less experienced members require.

I have already mentioned some of the issues facing us as we begin this new and exciting era, particularly communication. An aspect of this is the extent to which we can use newer means of communication. Already it is clear that use of e-mail is a quicker and cheaper means of getting information around the Guild. What we need to do now is to make sure that it is well organised and helpful to the Branches and the Guild. Some Branches already have a network so that communication between the branch secretary and the towers is well covered. I hope that all Branches will be able to follow suit as soon as possible. After that it should be possible to communicate notices, minutes, newsletters and other information easily at a fraction of the cost currently encountered. The usefulness of web sites also needs to be explored. All of this will be discussed at the Guild F&GP committee meeting and the Branch Secretaries' Meeting in the early Autumn, and any progress reported. In the meanwhile, if you have any ideas or are prepared to help in being part of the network, please come forward and let either your Branch Secretary or a Guild Officer know.

John Wells

ODG web site

The ODG web site is back but with a new address:

<http://oxfodioc01.uuhost.uk.uu.net/odg/>
Tim Pett

OBITUARY

ROBIN A BRYANT

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Robin Bryant, a long serving Branch member from Haddenham. Robin was an enthusiastic and extremely popular member, well known at Cuddington, Dinton, (and Stone in days gone by), as well as in his own tower, where he has been a staunch ringer since 1979. His dry sense of humour and willingness to be involved in all aspects of his own tower's activities, particularly maintenance of the bell chamber, set a fine example which was much appreciated. During his 23 years as a member of the Haddenham band he rang 111 quarter peals and two full peals. His 'organisational' abilities in helping to plan Haddenham's annual cycle ringing outing and his skill in selecting the worst weather weekend of every summer were legendary.

Not content with ringing at Haddenham, Robin used to cycle over to Cuddington on Friday evenings for their practice nights which he did from 1987 onwards. He joined them for many happy outings and bell ringing occasions, altogether ringing 14 quarter peals and one memorable peal which was the last peal on the six prior to rehangings.

He enjoyed the practical side as well as the social side and was keen to help the bell-hangers at both Dinton and Cuddington. He was very pleased to be in the first quarter peal on the new bells at Cuddington in October last.

We remember Robin, always smiling, always helpful and with his infectious sense of humour. He leaves us with many happy memories, both as a character and a friend whose regular commitment to bell ringing and the teamwork that it involves was outstanding.

Our sincere condolences are extended to his wife Sylvia and the family in their loss.

Ann Pedley

Guild Millennium Beer *Ringers' Delight*

We have sold enough for the promotion to go ahead but still need to sell another 150 packs.

The beer is available *now* in packs of 12 half-litre bottles at the discounted price of £17.40 per pack.

Orders to:

*Graham Clifton, Stedman Cottage,
Middle Aston, Bicester, Oxon OX6 3PZ*

*Cheques payable to:
Hook Norton Brewery Co Ltd.*

Guild Library

Douglas Beaumont was elected Guild Librarian at the AGM in May. He takes over from Philip Brown who was thanked for his work as Librarian in recent years.

Contact details for Douglas are listed under *Guild Officers - Librarian* in the *Guild Directory*.

Transfer of the library collection to Caversham will be completed as quickly as possible - hopefully in July.

Guild AGM - Longcot, 20th May 2000

This year's AGM was held at Longcot where the bells have recently been restored and augmented. This summary by Michael Dane, Sonning Deanery Branch representative, is reprinted from the June edition of the Sonning Deanery Branch Newsletter.

1. Matters arising from last year:
 - The Guild Service Book has been distributed to all Branches on disc and as a hard copy. This is planned to be a skeleton for use and can be updated later. Eventually this will be available on CD together with the catalogue of the Guild Library; other service types will be added such as dedications and anthems. All Branches are encouraged to use it and feed back comments to Bobbie May.
 - Clarification has been received from the Ecclesiastical Insurance Office about its Bells Down Policy, where towers separate from the church with their own access can continue with their current practice. However, the Archdeacon of Berkshire has advised Churchwardens that bells should be left down, and the Guild will be pursuing this.
2. The accounts of the Guild are printed in *Odd Bob (March 2000)* and the Guild Report. Donations to the Restoration Fund have amounted to £300 so far this year.
3. It was agreed to support *The Ringing World* in the same way as last year, that is to sponsor a page which if possible will be in the same issue as the report of the Guild Festival.
4. The Accounts for the Bell Fund are printed in the 1999 Guild Report. The income for the Fund so far this year is £14 794, including a £10 000 donation from the estate of Henry Lawrenson, £585 from the Ringing Day and £1617 from the Quarter Peal Day. Applications for grants have reduced this year, as was expected.
5. All of the Officers were re-elected with the exception of the Librarian who is now Doug Beaumont. *[See display box for details - Ed.]*
6. The Guild Web site was currently off line as there were problems with the Diocese Web site, but it was hoped to have it back soon. *[See display box for new web site address - Ed.]*
7. Millennium:
 - The Report on the Millennium will be produced later this year or early next.
 - The Plaques have been distributed to the Branches.
 - There have been 496 orders so far for the Millennium Ale which will be ready in June. There were still 100 packs to be sold. *[See display box for details - Ed.]*
 - There were two prizes for the Beer Label competition, one for the design and the other for the wording.
 - Ideas were still being sought for the Fun Day and entries for the competitions.
8. Members were encouraged to support the Festival, including the service in the Cathedral, on 8 July.
9. Peals and Quarters rung for the Queen Mother's 100th birthday will be included in the Millennium report.
10. All towers were encouraged to support the Pudsey Bear appeal.
11. The new Striking Competition Rules were accepted.
12. The 10-bell Striking Competition will be at St Thomas, Oxford in September.
13. The EBSB Branch came third in the Tewkesbury Shield Competition.
14. Entries were still being accepted for the Best Kept Tower Competition.

Michael Dane

Longcot Dedication – Saturday, January 30th 2000.

Saturday, 30th January saw the culmination of years of hope and work at Longcot. Although the bells have been back in the tower since November 1998, rung, quartered and even pealed several times before the dedication, they had been silent for many years previously, some 25 –30 depending upon who you ask, to the extent that very few of the branch members had ever rung them. Problems with other parts of the church fabric delayed the dedication.

The previously derelict six had been combined with two new trebles to produce a delightful light eight, though Tony Crabtree wishes it to be known that he still has work to do on the 4th and 6th when the Buscot dedication is out of the way! I was fortunate enough to be asked along to the Vale of the White Horse trip to Loughborough Foundry to see the two new trebles being cast and watch members of the group have a stir at the pot. It was a wonderful day and must have been especially poignant for Bill Mitchell who was married at Longcot before they fell into disrepair.

The service was introduced by the Revd Ken Weaver who asked the congregation to give thanks 'to all who by their work, their prayers, their giving and their skills' had helped to bring about the restoration.

The address was given by the Venerable Norman Russell, Archdeacon of Berkshire, who found analogies between bell ringing and the Christian Faith. The bells were dedicated and rung in rounds by the local ringers. Various hymns were sung including a lesser known one *Ye joyful bells ring out your praise*, which goes to the tune of *Come Ye Thankful People*.



Longcot ringers with their guru, Tony Crabtree

The church was filled to capacity and contained many ringers. Entire bands rang afterwards from the local ringers, Vale of the White Horse Branch, Old North Berks Branch, Swindon Branch and (almost) a Guild Officers' band from the ODG. Photographs were taken with the Guild banner in evidence, no doubt to add to the weighty tome which was displayed and which catalogued the whole of the restoration and the run up to the Millennium ringing. This will make an excellent addition to the archives of the tower and Branch. A full ringers' spread was available afterwards where people could eat and chat on this very happy occasion.

Many people were involved in this restoration about whom I know nothing, but it would be impossible to write something like this without drawing attention to the dedication of the whole of the White Horse branch, the smallest in the Guild, whose record of restorations in the last few years has been second to none. This, in no small way, is due to the commitment and inspiration of Tony Crabtree, who is far too busy attending to the practical considerations of the next dedication to do his own secretarial work!

Buscot Dedication - Saturday, March 25th 2000

This grand occasion, yet another Tony Crabtree spectacular, was pulled together with much greater haste, though you would never have known it if you had been there. Just three weeks beforehand I had gone over to see how things were progressing and the bells were lying on the ground at the back of the church. Fine if you don't have a demanding job as well! However, things came together wonderfully and the bells rang out for the Feast of Title at St Mary the Virgin, Buscot, for the Annunciation, complete with Eucharist.

The church was bulging at the seams, but beautifully warm, especially if you were ringing the 2nd which was placed right next to the radiator.

Thankfully Dominic, Bishop of Reading, managed to find Buscot in time and the choir from St Mary-le-More, Wallingford, was in attendance. The bells had been made up to their present number with additions from the redundant church of S.Laurence, Woolverton and St John the Baptist, Purbrook in the diocese of Portsmouth. Members of that congregation were also present.

Several children were made Godparents to the bells in a family service on March 12th and were there to pass the bell ropes to the churchwardens.

The bells were rung before and after the service and, though Tony made some remarks about the tuning of the treble, they sounded very well and several unexpected minimus methods were rung.

People bundled back into their cars, some over the stile (in the pitch black!) and repaired to the village hall for a sumptuous reception, where there was a photographic display of the progress of the bells. Well done, Tony, and everyone else who helped.

Bobbie May

Ringling Day and 8-Bell Competition 2000

Those who went ringing on May 1st must have had clear recollections of last year's 'scorcher' when we all stood for anything up to 50 minutes in queues, which often went all the way round the church, in order to get a ring. Thus, from the outset, business was brisk and towers opened well ahead of schedule in many cases. The volume of ringers was comfortable, not excessive, and while this is not quite such good news for the Bell Fund, the quality of the ringing, as commented on by Robert Newton and observed by others, was good by ringing day standards. Indeed, I found myself dusting off the grey cells for dim recollections of past-remembered methods, not always to good effect! Ringers joined Guild members from all parts of the Exercise, some who hadn't been on our ringing day for some years. I'm sure the lure of a 'rare' tower is a significant one.

The organization at the towers was, for the most part, excellent, and even when the ringers arrived, sometimes twenty minutes or so ahead of schedule, they behaved themselves until the stewards arrived. Thanks for this must go to Phil Dunn and Terry Wagstaff.

The choice of Linslade for the competition was a good one. The bells themselves, though fairly spirited, were light enough to allow any team to take part and provide good competition. You also needed to pull a straight rope as the rope-circle is extremely cosy!

The Judge was Andrew Aldrick from Abbots Langley and he had the difficult task of sorting out the front runners.

Little Bob turned out to be something of a death trap and many small method faults were accrued. Congratulations go to High Wycombe, who rang the fastest test piece of the day and won with 22 faults. Second were Reading St Mary with St Laurence with 24½ faults and Reading Branch with 27. Aston Clinton gained 47 faults, North Bucks 58 and South Oxon 68. After an exceptionally good piece of ringing EBSB Branch had an untimely demise just before the end and was given an estimated 30 faults. But for that, the competition would have been even fiercer. Witney and Woodstock Branch had to withdraw because they were a ringer short on the day.

The judge commented that it was good that all the teams rang a good number of rounds. This poses the question, did he realize that's what was supposed to happen and those rounds should have been judged? It is possible that it could have made a difference to the first two placings. However, we listened to some fine ringing during the afternoon.

The success of the day and its smooth running can be attributed to Ken Davenport, Deputy Master. We would also like to thank Graham Gill, Heather Dobson and the incumbent at Linslade for their flexibility over ringing times and those who provided the formidable spread afterwards.

Out of 15 Branches, and only seven competing teams, Reading ringers managed to claim 2nd and 3rd places. Next year will be the turn of triples once again and perhaps that will ensure an even bigger take up in both Reading and the rest of the Guild.

Bobbie May

Towers and Belfries Committee Report

At a recent meeting of the committee, a new chairman and secretary were appointed. The details are:

Chairman: Richard Stevens, Dellow, Blackthorn Road, Launton, Bicester, Oxon, OX6 0DA
Telephone - 01869 243920 (ansafone available) e-mail: rcstevens@lineone.net

Secretary: Ralph Elmes, Phoenix Cottage, Nuffield, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon, RG9 5TE
Telephone - 01491 641874 e-mail: Ralph@tesco.net

The committee was set up after the death of Fred Sharpe in 1977 to ensure that towers in our diocese would always have access to advice on bell installations and related matters. We always aim to give impartial comment and help local ringers look after their bells. Much of the day to day work is relatively easy and allows bells to operate smoothly with the minimum of effort. If you require help or advice on any bell related matter, please feel free to contact a member of the committee.

We are also willing to arrange bell maintenance courses as required. All that is needed is a free Saturday, two towers who are willing to allow us in, and the sure knowledge that you will get your fingers dirty! If your tower or branch would like to arrange such an event, please contact either a member of the committee, the secretary or myself.

Members of the Guild will remember that a trophy was given by the Roderick family from Bodicote in memory of their daughter for the Best Kept Towers Competition. This competition takes place in alternate years, and allows your tower to have a free inspection as well as taking part. On previous occasions, there has been a remarkable rise in standards on all fronts.

Why don't you enter your tower? We will be pleased to supply you with a list of the items which will be looked at and you will have time to implement those things which are not yet present in your tower. Failing that, both the Secretary and I will be pleased to hear from those of you who are thinking about entering.

The present plan is that judging will take place later this year and the winner will receive the trophy at next year's AGM.

Good luck to you all in looking after your bells.

Richard Stevens (T & B Committee Chairman)

Pudsey Peal-Appeal

Time to think what you can be doing for this! Last Friday in November 2000

It took three months for the original letter to get into *The Ringing World*. I hope it won't be so long before ringers start to respond.

It's our way of responding to the good publicity we've had over the last few years and to show that we can give something back. The publicity won't do us any harm either! It's also something to look forward to and cheer ourselves up with on a miserable November day!

Can you:

- Ring in /organize a peal?
- Work on your tower captain/vicar so that they are keen to have their bells rung to a peal (or quarter)?
- Collect money for a peal that's being rung?
- Help to organize such an event?
- Think of some good practical ways of getting the maximum funding out of this event?
- Make sure that your part in the organization of this event gets back to me?

All money to BBC's Children in Need.

If you have any experience of Charity Fund-raising and could share your expertise, please contact me.

Time to start now!

Bobbie May (0118 988 4172)

Bobbie@bmay.freemove.co.uk)

Spotlight on the week

BELL RINGERS: When the annual meeting of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers takes place in Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, this afternoon, 220 delegates will debate such controversial issues as the efficiency of their training programmes. Most will want to go through the agenda like the clappers. But it could turn into a right ding-dong.

_____(Daily Telegraph 29 May 2000)

Youth Training Day - 29th April, 2000

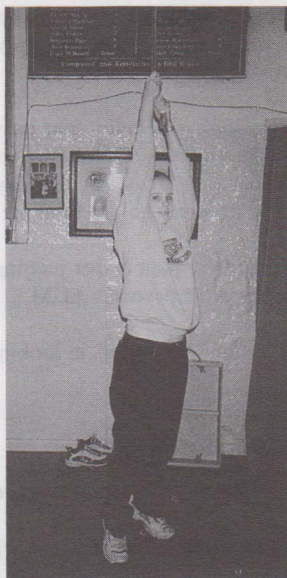
A "thrilling" day (as described by David Dainty in his article for *The Ringing World*).

Twenty-two young students from all parts of the Guild, ringing from Plain Hunt to Bristol Major and Cambridge Royal, enjoyed a day full of instruction and practical ringing. It was good to see Daniel Sandham returning as a helper after many years as a student.

We are grateful for all helpers and tutors who give up the day to help with Guild courses. Progress made, particularly by these young students, proves how beneficial these courses can be.



*Lunch in Bray Churchyard.
Girls from Barkham and Tilehurst in the front;
the Shiplake contingent behind*



*Jenny Crabtree (Shrivenham)
ringing on the simulator at
High Wycombe*

Pat Newton

NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

Banbury

There was a danger that things would fall flat after the Millennium celebrations, but I'm glad to report that this has not happened up at the "sharp end" of the Guild.

We had a most enjoyable Branch Dinner on 18th February, with a record attendance. We had an excellent meal before a most interesting and amusing talk by Canon Derek Palmer, a former Queen's Chaplain. This function seems to be becoming a "must" in many diaries, which is good.

Our AGM in April was hosted by Cropredy, and well supported. There was much discussion about our Branch outing which made a loss last year. It was decided to change the timing this year to November as this is the only coach outing that we have and it would be a pity if we dropped it. We also decided to repeat our successful Summer School in August. We put a tentative toe in the water last summer and were astonished at the response. This event, which was run over two days, was heavily over-subscribed. Clearly there is a need for more basic ringing tuition for those who do not want to pay a premium for residential courses.

As far as tower news is concerned, it was good to see Shennington joining the Guild and coming to our AGM. I have just heard that Whites of Appleton have removed Tadmorton's bells prior to rehanging - watch this space.

Our Branch practices continue to be well supported, under the management of our new Ringing Master, Graham Clifton. It would be nice to see more novices turning up - where are you all??

We hope to have a presence at next month's Fun Day. Let's hope for good weather.

Finally, after our AGM, I should record our thanks to our Chairman, the Revd J Chard. Jeff was slightly late for the first time ever due to a clash with a televised rugby match from Llanelli. He then proceeded to conduct the meeting with the efficiency and humour which we have grown to expect. We are grateful to him.

Ian Rodrick

Bicester

The Branch AGM took place on Saturday, 26th February when 38 new members were elected. This means that the branch membership has almost doubled in the last year. Most encouraging! The branch officers remain the same as last year.

The branch outing on 1st April was a most pleasant day. Ringing was enjoyed at Cardington, Eaton Socon, St Neots, Tempsford and Biggleswade. To finish our day, the Langford WI put on a splendid tea for us. Our thanks to all for having us - also to Simon Cole and his family who made the arrangements.

On Easter Monday, 24th April, the first peal ever to Bletchingtondon was successfully rung. This was an excellent occasion and the thanks of the band go to the local people for allowing the peal and for entertaining us afterwards. A report appeared in the *Bicester Advertiser*, complete with pictures.

Bletchingtondon, Oxon, St Giles. Monday, 24th April 2000. 5040 Plain Bob Minor in 2 hours 25 minutes. 1. William H Haynes, 2. Simon J Cole, 3. Malcolm Fairburn, 4. Mark Walker, 5. Philip J Curtis, 6. Richard C Stevens (C). For Easter. The first peal in the tower.

Not to be outdone, the Ludgershall ringers scored a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles on Sunday, 19th May. For Phil Bearman, this was his first quarter-peal - the first of many, we trust. The quarter-peal was rung to mark the birth of Benjamin, a son for Henry and Karen Parsons, Karen being a local ringer. Well done, everyone.

Our practices continue each month and are advertised in the list of Guild events. Visitors are always welcome to join us.

Richard Stevens

Central Bucks

I took over as Branch Secretary after our AGM in February at which I was coerced - no sorry - nominated in. Unfortunately although my predecessor had written a good article for the March issue of *Odd Bob* he forgot to send it in! Therefore I hope you don't mind if I reproduce some of it - although reports on Millennium ringing seem somewhat dated now!

"Well did we all ring on 1st January 2000? I think that the majority of towers with members rang and at least one tower where there are no local ringers was rung. As for all the hype, I hope they don't decide that this year wasn't the start of the new millennium after all and we have got to go through it all again at the end of this year. Bah! Humbug!

One sad note was that Soulbury bells were not ready for the millennium ringing and our condolences to the Soulbury band, who must be very frustrated at having to wait so long for the return of their bells. Hopefully their wait will not be long now.

Our branch training courses are proving very worthwhile. Ongoing is a Cambridge Minor practice, which is making good progress."

Since then we have held regular branch practices, all fairly well attended although there is always room for more.

On May 1st we hosted the Guild Ringing Day. The weather was glorious and everyone I met that day, whilst stewarding at three of the towers, was in good spirits. The event was very successful and well attended and I believe the total money raised was in the region of £585.

The bells of Dinton have finally been rehung and are in full working order. The dedication service is at 2.00pm on Sunday 16th July and of course everyone is welcome. Practice night at Dinton is Thursdays at 7.45pm should anyone want to give them a try. The Soulbury bells are now back in their tower and hopefully it won't be too much longer before we are able to ring them.

Ann Pedley

Chiltern

Two augmentations are being planned in the Branch. Aston Clinton (8 to 10) is a fairly well-known project by now. Then, out of the blue, came the announcement that Weston Turville is to receive its sixth bell.

It is 50 years since Doug Walton, the tower captain, organised the hanging of the present five for full-circle ringing, leaving a pit for a new treble. It is also 50 years since Doug himself learnt to ring. So, as it was also the Millennium year, Doug and his wife nipped out and bought that treble, so to speak. The local band are thrilled to bits, of course; the Walton's generosity will enable them to expand their repertoire and host six-bell events within the Branch and Guild.

More news of both these augmentations in due course.

We held a good Grandsire and Plain training day at Cheddington in February, and a further one at Little Missenden in April included some practice for learner-conductors and

a nice touch or two of Cambridge. Erica Sage of Great Missenden went along to bone up on Grandsire (touches of) and had to compete with her tower captain who tried his hand at Morrison's 240. Erica won.

Cheddington and Mentmore have combined practices on a benefice basis as follows:

1st, 3rd and 5th Saturdays at Mentmore; 2nd and 4th Saturdays at Cheddington

Time: 10.30 to 12.30

Wednesday practice at Cheddington now ceased.

Mike Davis

Chipping Norton

My first task as the new secretary to the Chipping Norton Branch is to write this report. I must start by thanking Linda Hoare for her work over the last year, and The Reverend John Acreman for his continued support as chairman.

Our AGM was held at Hook Norton on a warm and sunny 6th May. Perhaps the good weather was to blame for the poor attendance! A change-round of the Branch officers occurred, so that Nigel Harrison became vice-chairman, Linda Hoare the Branch representative, and myself as secretary; all other officers were re-elected. A total of 19 new members were elected and two were re-elected. Many of these new members were recruited for, and took part in, the Millennium ringing. The Branch Millennium ringing was a great achievement with all the towers, that could be rung, being rung on 1st January 2000.

The annual branch outing took place on 29th April, and included an interesting variation of towers in the Cirencester area. Once again Nigel Harrison planned the outing with his usual thoroughness, and as many as 40 ringers turned up at some point during the day.

It is good to report that both Ascott-under-Wychwood and Leafield are now managing to ring for Sunday service at least once a month. Many other towers still struggle to get a full band for Sunday service ringing.

A 1260 of Grandsire Triples was rung at Chipping Norton for the Pentecost Choral Evensong and to celebrate the birth of Benjamin, son of Gavin and Sarah Southwell. Both proud parents are members of the Chipping Norton band, Gavin ringing his first quarter away from cover.

Barry Andrews

East Berks and South Bucks

A very successful and well-supported Half Term Outing took place at the end of February. We began on the light six at Chenies which, with the adjacent Tudor manor house, was featured in one of the recent "Midsomer Murders" on television. Our second port of call was the eight at Kings Langley where ringing unfortunately had to be curtailed because of a funeral. In the afternoon we rang on the eight at Beaconsfield and then on the six at Little Missenden. Our thanks go to Angela Darvill for making all the arrangements, including those for good weather!

To coincide with the Guild sponsored ringing week, we held a quarter peal week. Thanks

to a lot of hard work by the Deputy Ringing Master, David Moore, who coordinated efforts and sent in a "flying squad" of assistants where needed, quarters were successful in 26 of the Branch's 34 towers. A few more attempts came to grief towards the end but 145 ringers took part and five people achieved their first quarter peals. Sponsorship raised a considerable sum of money for the Guild Bell Fund [for details see *The Ringing World* (2 June), p.556-7]).

To mark the Millennium and to celebrate the success of the quarter peal week, a Branch Dinner was held at "The Plough" in Winchmore Hill, when 36 people enjoyed a good meal and a very pleasant evening.

Our AGM was held in April at Stoke Poges where those arriving for tea were welcomed by a gentleman dressed in dinner suit, offering glasses of sherry. The Vicar of Stoke Poges conducted the service and the sermon was preached by a ringer, the Revd Paul Kingman. Both the Ringing Master, Peter Bruce, and his deputy, David Moore, had expressed a wish to stand down and the Chairman thanked them for all their hard work in recent years. Theirs had been a very successful partnership and the Millennium Practices which they had arranged had been very much appreciated.

Our new team of Branch Officers is as follows: Chairman - Graham Firman (Bray), Ringing Master - Angela Darvill (Beaconsfield), Deputy Ringing Master - Marcia Dieppe (Cookham), Treasurer - Derek Fowles (Bray), Secretary - Patricia Moore (Fulmer), Branch Representatives: Angela Darvill, David Moore (Fulmer), Myles Hawkins (Chalfont St Giles) and Robert Newton (High Wycombe).

A long service certificate was presented to Bryan Matthews, Tower Captain at Stoke Poges, and others have been prepared for Gordon Limmer (Burnham), Arthur Newton (Hughenden) and Ted Peett (unattached). We pass on our congratulations to all four of these gentlemen for their valued contribution to ringing in our Branch.

The first round of the Lorna Newton competition has been completed and twelve teams have gone forward into the second round draw. This will give six teams in the final which is scheduled to take place at Hambledon in October.

Our other 6-bell striking competition took place at Chalfont St Peter on 10 June and the winners were High Wycombe (28 faults), followed by Beaconsfield (53), Bray (70) and Fulmer (144).

Pat Moore

North Bucks

At the AGM in March it was 'as you were' with all officers re-elected for another year. Our branch website: www.northbucks.org.uk was also launched at this meeting. This has been set up and is maintained by our archivist, Doug Hird. Not only does it let everyone know what we are about to do, but also contains large parts of the branch archives about what we have done in the past. The style is based on 'In Touch', the branch newsletter, thus giving all branch publications a common 'corporate identity'. As part of setting up the website we have also been looking carefully at our obligations under the new Data Protection Act. Our conclusions are that it is almost impossible to be exempt under the act and it is probably best to register, pay the fee, and be sure that we are doing everything correctly. Although we are investigating registering our branch, it

may be to our advantage financially to register the Guild rather than each branch individually.

We held a very successful 10-bell practice in March at Bicester. As we do not have any towers with more than eight bells in the branch, we have to rely on the hospitality of towers outside the branch for these practices. Our thanks to Bicester for allowing us to visit their tower. Another of these practices is planned for the end of June but we have still to confirm a venue.

The branch 6-bell striking Competition was held at Lavendon at the beginning of June. Unfortunately there were only three entries, due to clashes with various weddings, either being rung for, attended, or starring! Congratulations to Peter Tribble and Christina Jones on getting spliced, but you really should have avoided the day of the striking competition! By the way Hanslope won the competition, for the third year in a row.

We have also been planning what to do with our 'Powergen' Money. This was donated by Powergen for ringing when they changed the name from East Midlands Electricity. It is to be used locally for bell maintenance work. Four towers applied for a grant from this money - Buckingham, Lathbury, Simpson, and Woughton. The applications were discussed at the June Quarterly meeting and it was agreed that the grant be made to Simpson for work to get the bells ringing again once the bulding repairs are completed later this year.

Helen Stanworth

Old North Berks

We held our AGM, together with our 6-Bell Striking Competition, at Cumnor in March. The meeting was one of our best-attended meetings by members for many years. We welcomed Tracey Cutler of Abingdon as our new Newsletter Editor, and gave our grateful thanks to her predecessor, Peter Butler, for all the hard work, time and effort he put in over the years to make our Newsletter the success it is. We also welcomed Barbara Payne as our (returning) Ringing Master, and thanked Michael Cannon for his work during the previous year. After many years of holding office within the Branch as Secretary, and then as Branch Representative, Len Cox from Didcot and East Hagbourne decided it was time to retire. We thanked him for all the sterling work he had done over the past 30 years and more on behalf of this Branch. Peter Butler was elected as our new Branch Representative to replace him. We wish all our new officers well over the coming year.

As reported at the AGM, it is proposed to transfer Moulsoford (3) into the Reading Branch. This is because it is felt it would be in the best interests of Moulsoford to do so. Members of the Reading Branch are teaching their learners, and it comes within the Sreatley Benefice. The motion will be put to the Reading Branch Half-yearly Meeting in September. Regarding Chilton, Whites of Appleton hope to remove the bells early in June so, hopefully, by the time you read this work will be under way.

Unfortunately the Ten-pin Bowling at the Lakeside Superbowl during Holy Week had to be cancelled due to lack of support - I think many ringers made the most of the Easter break and left for various holiday locations on the Thursday evening. Our next social event will be a Barbecue to be held at the home of Peter Butler in Blewbury on 22 July. A half-day ringing outing in the area will precede this. On 18 November we will be holding a social

evening at Radley Village Hall - this will probably take the form of a Quiz Night.

Our Branch Practices have been very well attended so far this year. We had to switch our proposed practice at East Hendred to Childrey at fairly short notice due to Hendred having the church fumigated because of death-watch beetle. The Radley Course was held as usual during April, and many of our ringers turned out to help make the day the great success it always is. In May the Milton ringers held a fund-raising day when most of the towers within the Branch - and a few outside - were opened up throughout the day for paying visitors. The estimated cost of work on the bells is around £50 000 plus the cost of installing a ringing gallery and additionally putting an electric winding mechanism on the clock to free up space in the belfry and ringing room. Everything went like clockwork thanks to Colin and Nicola Turner's hard work and good organisation - Colin seemed to pop up everywhere throughout the day! The event raised around £730.

Shirley Haines

Oxford City

The biggest piece of news in our branch is the new ring of six bells at Leigh End in Wheatley. Mark Walker, whose parents should receive honours in the Queen's Birthday honours list, has installed a stunning ring of six in his bedroom. The tenor weighs just over ½ cwt and the peal was cast by Taylors of Loughborough in 1997. Mark has done much of the work himself but was advised, guided and abetted by Brian White, Graham Clifton and Len Porter. Brian officially opened the ring on 4th May and 35 guests packed into the house to hear them rung. There was spontaneous applause from those visitors hearing them for the first time which drew smiles from the City Branch ringers who had been ringing them for several weeks previously and knew what to expect.

The first quarter was rung on 11th May, 2000 - Plain and Little Bob Minor - John Beck 1, Brian White 2, Mark Walker 3, Paul Lucas 4, Graham Clifton 5, Len Porter (C) 6, in 59 minutes. Please take note: ringing at Leigh End is by invitation only. The Walker parents are very tolerant of the variety of strange people trampling through their home, but they do like to know who is coming and when to expect them!

Headington bells have now been rehung and make a super little eight. Practices will resume on Tuesday 6th June and the dedication service will be on Sunday 17th September in the afternoon, all are welcome.

St Aldate's church has almost completed the reordering and services will recommence on Sunday 2nd July. Practices should start soon after that but much work will need to be done in the ringing room because it has been used as a builders' store and workshop since last summer. It is filthy!

As a result of the cancellation of the Fun Day I have dozens of plants for sale and no one to sell them to. If anyone would like to come to Wheatley and purchase some from me the funds raised will be denoted to the Guild - perhaps combine it with tea in our garden and a visit to Leigh End?

Katie Lane

I must first thank Rosemary Morgan for all the work that she has done for the Branch over the last four years as Branch Secretary. We are sorry to say 'goodbye' to John Butler, our most senior ringer in BOTH senses of the word, as he has moved to be with his daughter. John was Tower Captain at Bradfield for very many years. A farewell quarter peal of Doubles was rung at Bradfield on 2nd April with John on the treble and Rosemary as joint conductor on the third. It was also a 95th birthday compliment to John. We wish them both much happiness in their new home in Devon, and hope that they will be able to continue to ring.

I am very grateful for all the help and advice that I have received as a new Branch Secretary. I soon discovered that it was essential for information to reach towers as quickly, efficiently and economically as possible. I have therefore persuaded the towers to supply me with at least one E-mail correspondent (which may or may not be the Tower Correspondent) so that information can be sent very quickly. All, bar one, of the Branch towers can now receive their information this way. I naïvely acquired a scanner but have yet to get to grips with it! I currently redraft Guild word documents onto my computer so that they, too, can be readily dispatched. Time alone will tell if this really is a more efficient way to disseminate information.

The AGM was followed by a dinner this year at which some 50 members were present. It was a successful and enjoyable evening. Another is planned for next year with a venue close to the tower hosting the AGM.

In March, Len Palfrey assisted by Nick Balshaw, ran a 'Tower Maintenance Day' at Theale. A short introductory safety talk was followed by a hands-on session. Six students worked on the six bells for about six hours to the benefit of both the students and bells.

Nettlebed bells have been removed and structural work is now being carried out on the tower. It is expected that the bells will be reinstalled in their new frame in August. Henley is about to have their tower flag-pole removed and replaced by a dual purpose flag-pole/mobile 'phone aerial. The cabinets of electronics (total weight about one tonne) are to be placed high up on a walkway in the belfry. One-2-one is planning to have the work completed by the start of the Royal Regatta! The bells will be out of action for 3 – 4 weeks whilst the work is carried out.

Branch Practices have continued to attract reasonable attendance. Unfortunately, the one in April was in the evening of the Radley Day so fewer people were present. The 'new' ringers are still thirsting after tuition. Whitchurch have had a day for their ringers to gain more experience in ringing Doubles. The problem of moving people on from 6-bell ringing to 8-bell ringing is being addressed by 'hit squads' of experienced ringers descending on a tower on their practice night. Henley has already benefited by one such evening and Shiplake have a similar evening booked. Other sessions will be arranged for later in the year. Shiplake have also hosted a Saturday morning devoted entirely to Stedman Doubles and Triples. We are very grateful to the Ringing Masters and their helpers who give up so much of their time to these initiatives. It ensures that the momentum built up for the Millennium is maintained.

Vivien Bloundele

South Oxfordshire

Since the last *Odd Bob*, our branch has been busy celebrating the Millennium with a Quarter Peal Month, and a social evening, which are described elsewhere. At our AGM in April, another batch of new recruits was elected, pushing our total membership over 125 for the first time we can remember. Many of the Millennium recruits are now reliable members of their towers, tackling plain hunt and beyond in some cases. The AGM also approved the election of John Apsley of Great Haseley as an Honorary Ringing Member.

The first of our bi-monthly Kent Minor practices took place in April, to supplement our 8-bell practices and Branch Practices. A one-day Grandsire Triples course was arranged for Dorchester tower in March, and the usual youngsters' practice was held in the Easter holidays. Once again the branch fielded a side in the Guild 8-bell competition, improving on last year's placing.

The branch 6-bell competition was held at Tetsworth at the end of March, with slightly relaxed rules to encourage more entries. In the event there were four teams, Brightwell Baldwin and Tetsworth entering for the first time. They joined Drayton St Leonard, who borrowed some ringers to make up a 'B' team as well as an 'A' team. Some local leg-pulling greeted the verdict of DSL 'B' in first place ahead of DSL 'A', with Tetsworth and Brightwell Baldwin close behind. The Holloway Shield competition for the Millennium had an increased entry (plus 50%) with Watlington, entering for the first time, joining the stalwarts of Drayton St Leonard and Great Milton. The final result ended with Drayton St Leonard having to polish the Shield for another year and Great Milton and Watlington trailing in their wake.

Great Milton and Brightwell Baldwin have launched campaigns to raise money for work on their bells. We were delighted to see Little Milton on the front page of *The Ringing World* in May - the new band has now finished painting the walls, and rang without any helpers in the tower for Easter Sunday. Their captain, Ken Dyer, rang his first (and second) quarter recently - and sailed several feet into the air whilst breaking his first stay (on a separate occasion), considerably at another tower!

Our branch has decided to divide its donations equally between the Bell Fund and the Restoration Fund, following consideration at our AGM. Almost £300 was raised during the Sponsored Quarter Peal Week at the end of February, which has gone to the Bell Fund as requested.

CONGRATULATIONS to Kay Bartholomew and Shirley Smith who rang their first PEAL on 11th March at Aston Rowant. Also to Robin Fairey (Tetsworth) who rang his first quarter on the same day. First quarters have also been rung by Jan and Gemma Rasmussen (Towersey), and Dave Hewitt (Drayton St Leonard). Benji Coles rang his first Bob Triples inside, and trebled to his first Major; and Alan Keen, Mark Hunter and Gordon Smith have all rung their first of Grandsire Triples. Christopher Rogers rang his first of Bob Major, and Brian Gray his first of Cambridge Major. Brian, Sue Dyke and Kay Tuckwell rang their first Erin Caters. At the end of April a quarter was rung at Drayton St Leonard to mark 30 years' Guild membership by John Apsley, and 20 years' membership for Hilarie Rogers.

The branch was saddened to hear of the death of Fred Keen, Tower Captain of Chinnor, at

the end of May - he had been unwell for some months. He was a regular visitor to most towers in the branch and beyond, and was always willing to ring for services, weddings and quarter peals. He would quietly suggest some unlikely-named method, and wait for the reaction as he explained its make-up (Grandsire at the front, Pink Single, plain lead of Plain Bob at a Bob, 3rds if the treble is below you, Antelope, April Day, Reverse St Bartholomew - all of which we associate with Fred!). He was elected to the Guild in 1956, and became an Honorary Member in 1990. He was one of our Ringing Masters from 1983 to 1988 and called many quarters for the branch. We shall miss him.

The Branch Quarter Peal Month was a great success. Quarters - 19 in total - were rung in every tower except Chinnor, where the attempt was postponed due to the death of Fred Keen the previous day (it is planned for another occasion). The month was rounded off with a Social Evening in Chalgrove Village Hall on 3rd June where we were treated to a lovely meal prepared by Jeanette Barrington and helpers and entertained in fine style. Singing, music, sketches, poems, handbells, quiz, all contributed to a very enjoyable evening, and it was encouraging to see so many youngsters taking part as well as the old hands!

Hilarie Rogers

Vale of the White Horse

The Vale Branch has been very active during the spring months. Ann Williams organised an outing in the Charlbury - Burford area for the Letcombe Regis band. The ringers at Letcombe are mostly new to the art of ringing so several Vale Branch members joined the outing to lend a hand and hopefully some experience, two of the more energetic ringers cycling between towers! It was an excellent day: good weather, good bells and plenty of good ringing for experienced ringers and learners alike. Tony Crabtree and friends spent a day combining rails and ringing in the Stroud area travelling between towers by train - another enjoyable day.

Longcot hosted the Guild AGM that allowed several ringers to add the new eight to their collection of Towers Visited During the Year.

At Faringdon two first quarter peals have been rung: on 2nd April Anne Ilott rang the treble to a quarter peal of Plain Bob and Grandsire Doubles, and a month later on 7th May Megan Phillips rang the treble to a quarter of the same composition. Congratulations to both young ladies. On 28th May Sebastian Munday from Stanford in the Vale asked his father and grandfather to ring in his first quarter peal in which he rang the treble to Plain Bob Doubles - well done the Munday family!

The rehang and augmentation at Buscot (three to four) was completed during March with the dedication on 25th March. It was attended by well over 100 people stretching the little church to bursting point. The bells were also open for the Guild AGM and a good number of people came through during the morning. The bells have had several visitors and anyone is welcome to visit. The contact is Tony Crabtree.

The Vale has started a monthly "Surprise Session" on the 3rd Sunday in the month for evensong, going to different eights in the branch each month. The aim (for the older members) is to maintain our skills in the standard surprise major methods and (for the younger ones) to learn new methods so that eventually the branch can be self sufficient in ringing spliced standard surprise major methods. Unless those blue lines are brought out

regularly and dusted down, it is amazing how quickly they fade with age!

The Vale branch has a number of young people learning to ring and we are delighted with their progress but, even though the millennium recruitment drive is more relaxed now, we do not intend to rest on our laurels. Open Days are planned for the summer months in the hope of attracting new recruits. How successful we are I hope to report in the next edition of Odd Bob.

Kay Chamberlain

Witney and Woodstock

The Branch AGM was held in February at Combe. Anthony Cole stepped down after three busy years as Ringing Master, his successor being Richard White. We thank Anthony for all his hard work and cheerful enthusiasm and wish him and Sarah every happiness in their forthcoming marriage. Lorna Smale takes over as Chair, and Lindsey Cutler as Newsletter Editor.

The sun shone bravely on our two outings this Spring. The first was an afternoon in the wilds of Bucks, where the high spot for most of us was the rather heavy eight at Buckingham. The second outing was by coach to Hertfordshire - not such pretty scenery (and we got lost in Watford) but all the bells were rewarding to ring, especially the last at Hemel Hempstead. For those of us who had previously thought of this place as a muddle of 60's horrors and a most confusing roundabout, it was a pleasant surprise to find a picturesque street and a beautiful church with an elegant spire. Here we heard the best ringing of the day when the Branch's 'top brass' rang a splendid touch of Bristol. Thanks to Richard and Anthony for organising these enjoyable trips.

Witney church was the setting for the excellent concert given by the Reading Male Voice Choir and the Barfield Handbell Ringers. After the concert the exhausted catering team tottered along Church Green and into the Fleece. (They had laboured under difficult conditions: I turn on the urn, nothing happens....me to the Vicar: "Your urn doesn't work". Vicar, beaming happily: "Ah! So that's why nobody ever uses it!".) In the Fleece, well installed at the bar, we found a large selection of the Choir who then burst into song and treated us (and most of Church Green) to a marvellous impromptu concert with most of us joining in. A great end to the evening.

A group of handbell ringers in the Branch have formed a small group to be called "The Patching Handbell Ringers" in memory of our dear friend Ted Patching, who introduced all of us to handbells at North Leigh. In March we gave a short recital to Stonesfield WI, and in July we will be performing at a charity event at Ditchley Park.

Rachael Sherlaw-Johnson

Witney concert raises £289

- The profit from the Witney concert was £289.55 to be split between the charities 'Witney Families Together' and the Bell Restoration Fund.
- This is an excellent result from a most enjoyable concert. Thanks to all involved, both organisers and performers.
- The Trustees of the Bell Restoration Fund are grateful for this financial support.

Central Council Meeting 2000

Normally the second and third meetings of the triennium are shorter than the first, so I did not object too much when it was suggested that I write this year's report. There were only four motions on the agenda together with the normal elections for replacements of Honorary members who had completed their term of office, and the committee reports.

The normal business of the meeting proceeded quickly and all Honorary members were re-elected with the only change being the replacement of the previous *Ringling World* editor by the current editor.

Immediately after the adoption of the Annual Report of the Council the Secretary announced his intention to resign during the next few months due to changing work circumstances and also to distance himself from *The Ringling World* of which, by virtue of his office, he is Company secretary.

This was obviously a surprise and was greeted with a stunned silence. It must have been a recent happening as much of the following debate centred on the correct procedure to be followed. Eventually, since the resignation had not happened, the only course of action was to wait until it did happen and then for the President to appoint a stand-in until the following meeting where a successor could be appointed.

The four motions were passed with little discussion and the report of the Administration Committee presented. This report included feedback on the consultation process that had been taking place. As a result three working groups had been set up.

The proceedings are interrupted by *The Ringling World* AGM. This meeting had a proposal to increase the board of directors from six to ten. The reason for this proposal was somewhat obscure since the proposer was unable to be present through illness. After much discussion the motion was lost by a small majority. The President had already agreed to facilitate an independent review of *The Ringling World* following the events of the past year and it was felt that the outcome of this review should be known before making any significant changes. Under any other business, the immediate past editor asked for an apology from the directors for breaching a confidentiality agreement. After discussion, without knowing any of the facts, we were rescued by a procedural motion of next business and moved on.

After the return to the Central Council meeting the other committee reports then followed and were all adopted. I finally left the hall at 6.30 pm from a meeting which normally ends about 4.00 pm and with several reports "eagerly" awaited before next year's meeting in Liverpool.

Ken Davenport

Points From Peals

- A peal at Deddington was rung in thanksgiving for the life of William 'Bill' Ivings, a ringer at the church for over 60 years. Another, at Newbury, was rung in memory of Walter Hunt who was tower captain there in the 1960s.
- A peal at Thatcham on 4th January was specially arranged in memory of Audrey Butler and all the other Thatcham ringers who rang these bells during the previous millennium.

- A peal last November was rung in memory of Joan Rance at Binfield.
- Peter Bridle has circled the tower at Bucklebury.
- Bill Butler had a footnote to a peal rung at Thatcham on 31st March 2000: 'Circled the tower as conductor this millennium'.
- A peal at High Wycombe was rung on the 50th anniversary of Bill Butler's first 12-bell peal, also at High Wycombe.
- A peal at Amersham was rung as an 18th birthday compliment to Jillian Galloway. Jillian rang the second.
- David Livingston had a 'non-significant' birthday peal rung for him at Slough.
- Alan Ainsworth and John Davidge have rung 100 peals together.
- Joyce and David Cornwall have rung 200 peals together. Where did this happen? No surprises – it was at Hughenden.
- Colin and Nicola Turner have rung 1,000 peals together.
- By ringing the treble at High Wycombe to a peal of Bristol Maximus, Robert Newton rang his 1,600th peal. David Sullivan has rung 250 peals, and Bobbie May and Stephen Rossiter have rung 200 peals.
- Richard Stevens has conducted 300 peals.
- Philip Sampson rang his first peal for 10 years. The peal, at Kidlington, was the first on the bells since 1988.
- Tim Butler rang his first peal (at Goring).
- Bobbie May rang her first handbell peal of Bob Minor.
- At Wendover on 20th February Walter Lee rang a peal which was on the 64th anniversary of his first peal. He rang the same bell and the same method, Grandsire Doubles.
- A peal of Plain Bob Minor at Bletchington on 24th April was the first peal in the tower.
- A peal at Blewbury on 1st April of Grandsire Triples was rung by Sunday Service ringers to mark the rehangings of the bells.
- A new mini-ring has appeared in the RW under the ODG heading. It is 'The Balscote Ring' at White's of Appleton. The tenor weighs 2 cwt.
- We are pleased that Stephen Ivin has become a resident member of the Guild and can now take part in peals rung for the Guild. Stephen conducted a peal at St Thomas, Oxford which was his 250th peal of London Major.
- A handbell peal at Aston Rowant was rung as a retirement compliment to Bernard Groves. (Retirement from work, not ringing of course!). The peal also had the footnote: 'Rung at this venue after meeting 10 bells short'!

Graham Firman, Peal Secretary

Guild Directory and Information

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

- the encouragement of the attendance of its members both at service ringing and at public worship;
- the recognition of the position of ringers as Church workers;
- 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;
- the promotion of interest in the care of all the bells within the Diocese; and
- 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 Douglas G Beaumont (*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 Richard C Stevens (*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*).

The Oxford Diocesan Restoration Fund

The Restoration Fund is separate from the Bell Fund and may provide grants in support of augmentation schemes. Any donations or assistance in fund-raising will help this objective. Contact Mr Brian J Gatward (*see Guild Officers - General Treasurer*).

Guild Officers for 2000 - 2001

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 Douglas G Beaumont	184 Kidmore Road, Caversham, Reading, Berks RG4 7ND (0118 946 1714)
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 web site		http://oxfodioc01.uuhost.uk.uu.net/odg/
Guild Stewards	Mrs Sally Austin	16 Austins Way, Hook Norton, Oxon OX15 5LQ (<i>Banbury, Chipping Norton, Witney & Woodstock</i>)
	Mr N Jim Diseren	10 Queens Avenue, Wallingford, Oxon (<i>Old North Berks, Reading, South Oxon</i>) OX10 0NB (01491 824504)
	Mr Mark Walker	15 St Nicholas Park, Butts Lane, Old Marston, (<i>Bicester, Newbury, Oxford City</i>) Oxford OX3 0QN (01865 438440)
	Mr David M Joyce	4 Woad Lane, Great Linford Village, Milton Keynes, Bucks MK14 5HE (01908 667025) (<i>North Bucks, Central Bucks, Chiltern</i>)
	Mr Colin Fowles	127 Meadfield Road, Langley, Slough, Berks (<i>EBSB, Sonning, V of the WH</i>) 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	Miss Ann Pedley	18 Rochester Place, Aylesbury, Bucks HP21 8QZ (01296 488132)
Chiltern	Mr Mike C J Davis	1 Rookwood Way, Great Missenden, Bucks H16 0DF (01494 891312)
Chipping Norton	Mr Barry Andrews	26 Little Lees, Charlbury, Chipping Norton, Oxon OX7 3HB (01608 810933)
East Berks & South Bucks	Mrs Patricia Moore	1 Elmwood Park, Gerrards Cross, Bucks SL9 7EP (01753 890477)
Newbury	Mr Nick Holland	6 Brinley Hill Court, St Mary's Road, Kingsclere, Newbury, Berks RG20 5PN (01635 299386)
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 Vivien Bloundele	71 St Mark's Road, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon RG9 1LP (01491 573 489)
Sonning Deanery	Mrs Pearl Larkins	13 Frensham Road, Crowthorne, Berks RG45 6QJ (01344 774506)
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	17 Damson Trees, Shrivenham, nr Swindon, Wilts SN6 8BB (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 Alan J Griffin	Rosebank, Bloxham, Banbury, Oxon (01295 720359)
	Mr John A Harrison	(see Central Council Representatives)
#	Mr Peter Day	Polgraines, Faringdon Road, Cumnor, Oxford OX2 9QY (01865 862671)
#	Miss Barbara Payne	Polgraines, Faringdon Road, Cumnor, Oxford OX2 9QY (01865 862671)
*	Mr E John Wells	(see Guild Master)
*	Mr Barry W M Cowper	(see Guild Secretary)

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

Guild educational leaflets

1. Rope splicing
2. Bibliography
3. Plain Hunt to Bob Doubles
4. Maintenance
5. Running a one-day course
6. Sound control
7. Stedman
8. Grandsire
9. Bob calling for beginners
10. Handbell ringing
11. Eight Doubles methods
12. Surprise Minor: Cambridge to London, Part 1 (Cambridge)
13. Surprise Minor: Cambridge to London, Part 2 (Building on Cambridge)

13. Surprise Minor: Cambridge to London, Part 3 (London) *Parts 2 & 3 form a single leaflet*

14. Plain, Little and Double Bob Minor and Plain Bob Major

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

Education committee - course titles

Plain Hunt	10-bell methods
Plain Bob Doubles	Towards better conducting
Grandsire Doubles	Towards better striking
Stedman Doubles	Raising and lowering in peal
Doubles and Minor	Tower leadership (seminar)
Plain Bob Minor	Computers and simulators in ringing
Cambridge Minor	Rope splicing
Triples methods	Tower maintenance (by T&B committee)
Stedman Triples	Handbell ringing (methods)
Plain Major methods	Listening
Surprise Major methods	Bell handling on video

Towers and belfries sub-committee

Chairman	Mr Richard C Stevens	Dellow, Blackthorn Road, Launton, Bicester, Oxon OX6 0DA (01869 243920)
Secretary	Mr Ralph A Elmes	Phoenix Cottage, Nuffield, Oxon RG9 5TE (01491 641874)
Members	Mr Nick Balshaw	3 The Crescent, East Hagbourne, Didcot, Oxon OX11 9JY (01235 815452)
	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 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 Len Palfrey	62 Horseshoe Road, Pangbourne, Reading, Berks RG8 7JL (0118 984 2698)
	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 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 8	Guild		Guild Festival - Christ Church, Oxford	
Sat 8	South Oxon	AP	Watlington	7.30 - 9.00
Thur 13	Old North Berks	BP	Wallingford	8.00 - 9.15
Fri 14	Banbury	BP	Sandford	7.30 - 9.00
Sat 15	Chiltern	BP	Bledlow	
Sat 15	Central Bucks	BP	Waddesdon	6.30 - 8.30
Sat 15	North Bucks	SP	Woburn (joint with Luton District)	7.30
Sat 15	Oxford City	BP	Kidlington	7.00 - 8.30
Sat 15	Sonning Deanery	BP	Wokingham (St Paul's)	7.00 - 9.00
Fri 21	North Bucks	BP	Beachampton*	7.30
Sat 22	Banbury	SC	Rousham (with BBQ)	6.00
Sat 22	EBSB	BP	Fulmer	7.00 - 9.00
Sat 22	South Oxon	BP	Thame	7.00 - 9.00
Sat 29	Chiltern	EP	Ellesborough	am
Sat 29	EBSB	SP	Slough	7.00 - 9.00
Sat 29	North Bucks	SC	Inter-branch SC - Hanslope	6.00
Sat 29	Reading	AP	St Laurence, Reading	8.00 - 9.30

AUGUST

Wed 2	Banbury	BP	Banbury	7.30 - 9.00
Wed 2	Chiltern	AP	Great Missenden	
Fri 4	Bicester	BP	Kirtlington	7.30
Sat 5	Chipping Norton	BP	Chadlington	7.30 - 9.00
Wed 9	Old North Berks	BP	Appleford	7.30 - 9.00
Sat 12	Central Bucks	BP	Marsh Gibbon	6.30 - 8.30
Sat 12	EBSB	SP	Bray	7.00 - 9.00
Sat 12	Oxford City	BP	Garsington	7.00 - 8.30
Sat 12	Reading	BP	Englefield	7.00 - 9.00
Fri 18	North Bucks	BP	Drayton Parslow	7.30
Sat 19	Chiltern	BP	Weston Turville	
Sat 19	Sonning Deanery	BP	Waltham St Lawrence	7.00 - 9.00
Wed 23	Banbury		Summer Ringing School (also Thur 24th)	
Sat 26	EBSB	BP	Wooburn	7.00 - 9.00
Sat 26	South Oxon	BP	Shabbington	7.00 - 9.00

SEPTEMBER

Fri 1	Newbury	BP	tbc	
Sat 2	Chipping Norton	BP	Chastleton	7.30 - 9.00
Sat 2	North Bucks	QM	Leckhampstead/Lillingstone Lovell	3.00/4.00
Sat 2	Reading	HY	Purley (including SC)	5.00
Mon 4	Bicester	BP	Brill	7.30
Tues 5	Chiltern	AP	Stoke Mandeville	
Wed 6	Banbury	BP	Banbury	7.30 - 9.00
Sat 9	Guild	SC	Ten-bell competition - Oxford City	
Sat 9	Central Bucks		Branch outing	
Sat 9	EBSB	SP	Hitcham	7.00 - 9.00
Sat 9	Oxford City	BP	Wheatley	7.00 - 8.30
Sat 9	South Oxon	AP	Benson	7.30 - 9.00
Fri 15	North Bucks	BP	Loughton	7.30
Sat 16	Chiltern	BP	Great Missenden	
Sat 16	Old North Berks	HY	Marcham	7.00 - 9.00
Sat 16	Sonning Deanery	SC	Wokingham (All Saints)	5.00

Mon 18	Banbury	BP	Great Tew	7.30 - 9.00
Sat 23	EBSB	BP	West Wycombe	7.00 - 9.00
Sat 23	South Oxon	BP	Dorchester	7.00 - 9.00
Fri 29	Guild		Easthampstead course starts	
Sat 30	Reading	AP	St Laurence, Reading	8.00 - 9.30

OCTOBER

Tues 3	Bicester	BP	Islip	7.30
Wed 4	Banbury	BP	Banbury	7.30 - 9.00
Fri 6	Guild		Branch secretaries' meeting - Radley	
Fri 6	Chiltern	AP	Aston Clinton	
Fri 6	Newbury	BP	Shaw	
Sat 7	Guild	SC	Six-bell competition - Brightwell Baldwin	
Sat 7	Chipping Norton	HY	Wigginton	7.00 - 9.00
Wed 11	Old North Berks	BP	West Hanney	7.30 - 9.00
Sat 14	EBSB	HY	Hambledon* (+ Lorna Newton SC)	
Sat 14	Oxford City		Branch outing	
Sat 14	Reading	BP	St Laurence, Reading	7.00 - 9.00
Sat 14	South Oxon		Branch outing	
Fri 20	North Bucks	BP	Tingewick	7.30
Sat 21	Banbury	HY	Somerton	
Sat 21	Bicester		Branch outing	
Sat 21	Chiltern/C. Bucks	SC	Marsworth (Orchard Cup)	
Sat 21	Sonning Deanery	BP	Finchampstead	7.00 - 9.00
Thur 26	Bicester	HY	Bicester	
Sat 28	Chiltern	EP	Aston Clinton	am
Sat 28	EBSB	BP	Farnham Royal	7.00 - 9.00
Sat 28	South Oxon	HY	Warborough	7.00 - 9.00

NOVEMBER

Wed 1	Banbury	BP	Banbury	7.30 - 9.00
Wed 1	Bicester	BP	Piddington	7.30
Fri 3	Newbury	BP	tbc	
Sat 4	Chipping Norton	BP	Spelsbury	7.30 - 9.00
Mon 6	Chiltern	AP	Bledlow	
Sat 11	EBSB	SP	Hughenden*	7.00 - 9.00
Sat 11	Reading	SC	Pangbourne (novices SC)	2.30
Sat 11	Reading	BP	Caversham	7.00 - 9.00
Mon 13	Banbury	BP	Bodicote	7.30 - 9.00
Tues 14	Old North Berks	BP	Brightwell	8.00 - 9.15
Sat 11	Central Bucks	BP	Steeple Claydon	6.30 - 8.30
Sat 11	South Oxon	AP	Great Milton	7.30 - 9.00
Fri 17	North Bucks	BP	Stony Stratford	7.30
Sat 18	Banbury		Branch outing - Leicester	
Sat 18	Chiltern	BP	Stoke Mandeville	
Sat 18	Newbury	AP	Whitchurch	
Sat 18	Oxford City	AG	Headington	
Sat 18	Sonning Deanery	BP	Wargrave (+ committee meeting)	7.00 - 9.00
Fri 24	Guild		Pudsey peal appeal (Children in Need)	
Sat 25	Guild		General Committee Meeting - Wokingham	
Sat 25	EBSB	BP	Chenies	7.00 - 9.00
Sat 25	South Oxon	BP	Drayton St Leonard	7.00 - 9.00