

Issue 62

ODD BOB

Newsletter of the



July 2001

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Information for contributors:

The next issue of '*Odd Bob*' will be distributed at the Guild Committee Meeting on
24 November 2001.

All contributions to the editor:

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Master's Mutterings

Our Guild has been well served by its Officers over the years and it is very easy to take their hard work for granted. Often it is only when one of them decides that it is time to hand over to someone else that we really realise just how much we have been relying on them. At this year's Annual General Meeting we had four officers who felt it was time to 'retire', and to all of them we owe a great deal. Firstly, Geoff Holden decided it was time for him to retire from being a Guild Trustee, a post he has held since 1984. We are greatly indebted to Geoff for the dedicated way in which he has helped to look after the Guild's wellbeing during those 17 years, as well as for all the other work he has done. In recognition of his services to the Guild, Geoff was elected a Vice President, an honour he justly deserves.

The post of General Secretary is one of the most important to the efficient running of the Guild. Over the past five years, we have been particularly fortunate to have Barry Cowper in that post. This year, Barry decided that he should step down and we will greatly miss his efficiency and thoroughness. I thank Barry for all the support he has given me over this time, particularly in relation to the Millennium planning, and I know that Branch Secretaries also greatly appreciate the support he has given them. Fortunately we will not lose Barry's expertise as he was elected as a Guild Trustee in place of Geoff Holden.

The new General Secretary is Nigel Harrison from Burford and I look forward to working with him. In order to relieve the General Secretary of some of the workload, it was decided to create a new post of Minute Secretary and our thanks to Hilarie Rogers for taking on this role.

Graham Firman has relinquished the post of Peal Secretary after five years. We thank him for the thorough way in which he has kept track of the many peals that are rung for the Guild. We will miss his informative and often amusing comments on these peals. Thanks are due to Claire Edwards for stepping into the post.

John Payne has produced the Guild Report since 1994 and felt that it was time for someone else to take over. Our thanks are due to him for the particularly efficient way in which he has done this job, managing to get all the information together to produce the report by early March each year. It was very unfortunate that the Annual General Meeting could not find a successor to John. However I have had two members expressing an interest in doing this job and I hope we can soon report that a replacement has been found.

My thanks to all the Guild Officers for their support and endeavours on behalf of the Guild. With the pressures of work and other aspects of modern life, it is often difficult for individuals to take on additional responsibilities. One thing we need to do is to try to find ways of running the Guild that do not demand so much time from individuals. For example, modern communication systems are beginning to make an impact on the way we operate with many Branches setting up e-mail networks so that notices and information can be more easily distributed. I hope all members, but especially Branch and Guild Officers, will be alert to useful new procedures and come forward with suggestions.

John Wells

OBITUARIES

RAY ALLUM

On Wednesday 25th April 2001, Raymond Allum died at the age of 86 years. Ray had been a regular and enthusiastic ringer at St Andrew's Church, South Stoke for most of his life and had been tower captain from 1952 until 1992.

During his life, Ray introduced many villagers to the joys of ringing and was a mainstay of the tower for many, many years. He was a real village character and ran the village shop which was sadly closed when he finally retired two years ago.

A private cremation service was held for the family on Thursday 3rd May, followed by a service of thanksgiving for his life at St Andrew's Church the following day. At the end of the service the bells were rung as his ashes were interred in the churchyard. A framed address, which had been presented to Ray on his retirement as tower captain, has now been hung in the tower.

Ray will be sadly missed by many.

Robert Small
South Stoke Tower

J M ALLEN 1914 - 2001

It is with deep sadness that we record the passing of Jim Allen, for over 40 years Tower Captain at All Saints, Swallowfield. A truly Christian gentleman, friend to all who knew and loved him, honorary Grandad and Santa to several generations of Lamb's Lane school children and a consummate craftsman. We are indebted to Jim for the restoration, augmentation and maintenance of the bells at All Saints, and for the many young people and adults who, under his guidance, came to share his love of bells. It was only during the last few weeks of his life that he was reluctantly forced to miss a practice night or Sunday Service ringing. He started his ringing in the Winchester Diocese before the War, living as he did on the edge of the Stratfield Saye Estate. On his return he married and settled across the county border on Swallowfield, joining the Reading Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild in 1957. He soon set about the major task of evicting generations of jackdaws from the tower at All Saints and restoring the original five bells to ringable condition. The first peal on the new six, following re-hanging and augmentation, was rung in January 1974.

A churchgoer all his life, he regularly accompanied his late wife Dorothy when she was Organist to many churches in the district.

While evidence of his workmanship is to be found all over the Parish, few were aware of his Service record during the Second World War, for he seldom spoke of it, but it was a privilege to stand beside him on Remembrance Sunday.

A quarter peal of 1260 Stedman Doubles, his favourite method, was rung on un-muffled bells prior to his funeral service on 13th March 2001.

Summoned by bells and reunited with Dorothy, may he rest in peace.

Swallowfield, Berks. 13 Mar, 1260 Stedman Doubles: Helen M Diserens 1, Bobbie May 2, Noel J Diserens 3, Philip H Tocock 4, E John Wells (C) 5, John M Clark-Maxwell 6. For the funeral of Jim Allen, Tower Captain.

(Originally published in The Ringing World (p. 472) and reproduced with acknowledgement)

MARGARET PUGH

1921 – 2001

It is with deep sorrow that we record here the death of Margaret Pugh who had begun to ring as a learner at Shiplake 30 years ago and continued to do so well into this year.

Margaret was born in Cambridge where her father was working at the time. She matriculated from Lancaster Grammar School and passed the Civil Service examination for the Foreign Office, which she joined at the age of 16.

She lived in London, was bombed out twice and volunteered for an overseas posting in 1943. She was flown to North Africa and finally to Rome where she knocked on the door of the British Embassy – recently re-opened. She found that she was not expected – no advice had been received of her posting, but she was xxxxx heartily. There was so much to do! She lived in Rome, Milan and Trieste. Later she was moved to Singapore and then to Hong Kong.

When her overseas service expired she returned to work in London, living in a flat in Pimlico; (the upstairs flat was occupied by Wilfred Brambell (father Steptoe)). On her immediate return from overseas she attended a course at the Sorbonne in Paris, and lived in a nunnery during that time, (very reasonable accommodation; Margaret always watched the pennies!).

Margaret was an accomplished needlewoman, and embroidered and made many things for the house, and she would do the *Daily Telegraph* crossword. She did silver and jewellery work at the Maidenhead College.

At Christmas 1967 Margaret visited her mother who lived in Heswall, West Wirral, and at a neighbour's drinks party met Ron Pugh, a widower with a daughter (Rachel) aged 17 and a son (Robert) aged 3. Ron's wife had died from cancer at the early age of 42. So he had his hands full. But helped by his widowed mother and others, life went on.

On a visit to London, he called upon Margaret. They eventually married in the summer of 1968 and Margaret became a mum and a housewife in the Wirral. They moved to Shiplake in January 1969 and settled at Willowbrae in Baskerville Lane.

Margaret did many school runs with Robert and began her many activities in the village and Henley. She played badminton and tennis (into her seventies), and was a strong supporter of

the W.I. (a past president and holder of other offices).

She loved Shiplake Church and was a regular attender and lesson reader until her illness. She was an accomplished bell ringer and was tower Secretary and Treasurer until earlier this year and always very supportive of new and younger ringers. Last Christmas again she organised the handbell tune ringing team.

Until recently she was a committee member (assistant treasurer) of the Shiplake Memorial Hall. She enjoyed the French speaking group and the Falaise Twinning and exchange activity. She was in charge of the regatta shop at Henley Royal regatta for a number of years. Her activities in the village are well known. She was always helpful to others, particularly the younger generations.

She loved her trips to Vancouver to visit Rachel's family and to France, even during her sickness and treatment. She was a great leader and was in the round an educated person. Ron is going to miss her strength and courage.

A number of ringing friends rang Shiplake bells half muffled for her funeral on 14th May and a half-muffled quarter peal was rung on 17th May.

Cyril Crouch

AGM of the Oxford Diocesan Guild at Kidlington

We were welcomed on this excellent occasion as 'fellow ringers' by the Revd Anthony Ellis. Tony is well known to members of the Guild, especially members of the Reading Branch, where his previous incumbency found him responsible for three parishes with bells. During his time there he managed to circle the eight at Mortimer and two sixes at Mortimer and Padworth to peals! Kidlington, however, which has not been used to the same amount of ringing, is proving to be slower work!

The service, which was based on the Guild's new service book, *Services for Ringers*, was a shortened form of Evensong, which was then followed by the meeting in the church after a sumptuous tea.

The meeting was brisk and the agenda carried through in a business-like fashion. Unusually, there were more than the expected number of changes in office. Barry Cowper, Hon. Gen. Sec., stepped down after five distinguished years and was replaced with Nigel Harrison from Burford. We thank Barry for his time in service and for seeing us through the Millennium period with such competence. However, he didn't escape into retirement completely as he was shortly to be elected as a bell-fund trustee upon the resignation of Geoff Holden.

Geoff's contribution to the Guild has been enormous, despite his being 'uninsurable because of his great age'. A suggestion to make him a Vice President of the Guild was welcomed with enthusiasm by the membership and despite his alleged 'dotage' he skipped off nimbly after the meeting before he could be recorded on camera.

A new post was created, that of Minute Secretary, and was filled by Hilarie Rogers. Claire Edwards succeeded Graham Firman as Peal Secretary. The post of Report Editor remained unfilled. Other posts-holders remained unchanged.

Among items of interest were:

- Insurance cover would be greatly increased for very much the same premium, thanks to the vigilance and determination of our excellent treasurer, Brian Gatward.
- The Best Kept Tower trophy was awarded to Bray, by a short head, but also very highly commended were Shiplake and Chalfont St Giles.
- The Ringing Day raised £541+ for the Bell Fund, with more to come.
- The Librarian asked outings' organizers to consider including the Library in their itinerary if they were contemplating an outing in the Reading area.
- Reading was just 'pipped' by one point in the Tewkesbury Shield, but fought valiantly.
- The Millennium Report was taking rather longer than expected but would be ready for the Festival.
- The Festival at Kirtlington would include supper and a Ceilidh.

Bobbie May



Barry Cowper, retiring General Secretary (right), with his successor Nigel Harrison

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

The Trustees have not yet met in 2001.

New money raised to date amounts to £346.85. Six donations from towers, branches or individuals have been received totalling £207.20, with the balance of £139.65 arising from interest in investments.

The work at Chilton and Weston Turville has been completed and grants of £1000 and £325 respectively have been paid.

The Trustees would like to thank all those who support the Restoration Fund.

Brian J Gatward – Honorary Treasurer

Group Personal Accident Insurance

For a number of years, the Guild has arranged Group Personal Accident Insurance cover via Ecclesiastical Insurance Group for Guild members. With effect from 1 May 2001, this cover has been placed with another insurer and increased benefits obtained for members.

Scope of coverage

Guild members are covered whilst ringing or attending to routine maintenance work to the bells in any church or bell tower, or whilst travelling to or from a church or bell tower to practise or take part in bell ringing anywhere in the United Kingdom. ("Routine maintenance" means any works for which approval in accordance with the Care of Churches Measure is not required - separate cover can be arranged where needed in connection with these more major items of work.)

Insurance is extended to include members teaching bell-ringing and persons under instruction by a Guild member at a church or bell tower within the Diocese of Oxford.

The members of the Towers and Belfries Committee are specifically covered for carrying out their duties on behalf of the Guild and the level of temporary total disablement is increased to £300 per week.

Benefits payable in the event of a claim

Age Range (years)	Temporary Total Disablement	Permanent Disablement or Permanent Partial Disablement	Death
16-70	£200 per week for up to 104 weeks	£25,000	£25,000
9 - 15	Nil	£2,500	£2,500
71-75	Nil	£2,500	£2,500
76-80	Nil	Nil	£2,500

Medical expenses up to £1,250 are payable for those aged 16 - 70 years and up to £125 for the other age groups.

Claims and Queries Concerning the Operation of the Insurance

Claims and queries should be directed in the first instance to -

The Honorary General Treasurer, Mr B. J. Gatward,
Grangewood, Mill Lane,
Calcot, Reading, RG31 7RS (01189 413097).

Claims must be confirmed in writing.

Please remember that it is a condition of all policies that claims must be reported to the Insurers as soon as practicable. A claim that is not notified within a reasonable time may be rejected.

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

The Trustees met in February and allocated provisional grants to Englefield (£5,475) and Rousham (£2,600). Applicants have been advised that, in view of the large number of other grants that were paid during 1999-2000, these grants will not be paid until 2002 irrespective of when the projects are completed.

New money raised to date amounts to £2,724.63. The main elements of this are: donations received from Branches of £1,543.46, donations from 10 PCCs totalling £266.00 and two tower funds have contributed £135.00. The proceeds of the Ringing Day currently total £748.15 and the Managing Trustees wish to thank all those who helped to make this a successful event.

The work at Brightwalton has been completed and the grant of £750 has been paid.

The next major fund raising item is the Annual Draw. The Managing Trustees thank those branches and individuals for donating prize money for the Draw and hope that the profit this year will be in the region of £1500.

Once again, the Managing Trustees would like to thank all those who contribute to the continued success of the Fund.

Brian J Gatward - Honorary Treasurer

Librarian's Report

The bookcases for the library have now been delivered, and very handsome they are too! There are five of them, all made of American oak, so in the room where they are sited, there is a very reverend oaken aroma.

I am in the process of putting the books on the shelves. The books are numbered in the order in which they were shelved in the previous library location. To make best use of the space available in the new bookcases, I can't keep the books in exactly the same order. I therefore have to ensure that I record the location of the books as I go along.

By the time this edition of *Odd Bob* is published, the library should be "up and running" and ready for business. I have been considering ways in which Guild members can access library material, and the following is a list which I have come up with so far.

1. **Borrow a book.** A means of conveying books between the librarian's house and a borrower can usually be found.
2. **Visit the library in my house.** You may want to do some research on a specific topic, or simply have a general browse through the contents. Groups of people would be welcome to visit. You could even visit the library as part of a tower outing - there are after all 13 handbells to try out. Providence has positioned a public house on the other side of the road from me, so a visit could be neatly tied up with the partaking of refreshments.
3. **Ask me to look information up.** I would be very happy to do this. Please

phone me up, or email or write to me with your query.

4. **At Guild, branch or tower events** (festivals, dinners and such like), displays of material from the library could be set up. There is a good selection of books and other items which would be suitable.

The other main area which I am working on at the moment is the library catalogue, to make it easier to update and generally work with. When this is done, it is the aim to put it on the Guild web-site. I am only part of the way through this project at the moment, but hope to be able to provide more information for the next edition of *Odd Bob*. I do need some help with this project on the computer side, so if anybody would be able to spare a few hours for this work, please let me know. The work would involve separating out the different fields in the catalogue (in an Ascii (.txt) file) by inserting a separation character, and a few other actions. Full instructions will be provided. So, if you would like to take part in a real live computer project, this is your chance.

Doug Beaumont

Focused practices – the way forward?

Notices were distributed to towers advertising a Stedman Triples course at Thame on Saturday 5th May. In the event there were four courses run that day – at Thame, Beaconsfield, Hungerford and Adderbury, tutored by Robert Newton, Ken Darvill, Mike Till and Patricia Newton respectively, and accommodating a total of 21 students.

With the use of e-mail, these courses proved relatively easy to organise. However, I must apologise to the applicants whose e-mails went astray; one of these I was able to accommodate, but the other I did not know about until the afternoon of the course. I wonder if there were any other frustrated applicants? On reading the notice, ringers at Hungerford and Adderbury asked for three or four places on the course, offered the use of their bells, and booked some of the helpers. Many other students and helpers were also booked by e-mail which meant that reminders the week before the course could be sent at the push of a button. Perhaps the fine-tuning of the organisation was not as good as it could have been. Two of the ringers who I thought were helping at Adderbury were not available, while at Thatcham a few extras turned up following the change of date of a peal attempt. In the event all courses seemed to go well, and the reports I received indicated that progress of the students ranged from good to exceptional. Thanks are due to all helpers and tutors who ensured that the afternoon was so beneficial.

At the end of the Adderbury course one of the students asked if I was going to run another course. In reply I pointed out that most of the students and helpers were from the Banbury branch, so my advice was that they should run a branch-based course or practice. Members of the Guild Education Committee are always pleased to assist with branch or tower courses if they are available - either as helpers or tutors - but the more branches can do for themselves, the more will be achieved. The feeling was that courses focused on one method lasting about three hours, including a short tutorial, are a good way to make progress. What could your branch do? If you need help, please do not hesitate to contact the Education Committee (*see the Guild Directory for contact details*).

Patricia Newton



Tutors and students at the Stedman Triples course at Hungerford

News from the Branches

Banbury Branch

Both ringing and socialising have been actively indulged in this quarter. Members of Gt. Tew tower took the lead in organising a ringing outing to London, which included a flight on the London Eye. Unfortunately the weather was cold, wet, snowing and misty so not much of London was seen but the close-up view of the big bike wheel beside the Thames impressed us all.

With Pancake Day falling, as usual, on a ringing day, the ringers who gathered at Banbury tower took equipment up with them and cooked pancakes up there. The fact that Banbury tower is now out of action is quite unconnected. (The church is being refurbished; accordingly practices at Banbury on the first Wednesday of the month have been suspended until further notice.)

Tadmarton's recently rehung bells were quarter-pealed by a mostly local band, Helen Butler ringing her first quarter. The AGM in April was a lower note. Ian Rodrick, having given a year's notice of his intention, stood down as secretary. Persistent canvassing had failed to find a new recruit so Graham Clifton has taken the reins again and hopes someone else will take it on next year. The job of Newsletter editor was more popular and Jean and Barry Davis volunteered without pressure. Ringing Master is Keith Abbott. The branch expressed regret at the Guild's reaction to Child Protection Guidelines and resolved to make sure two adults (preferably male and female) were always present when a young person was being instructed or transported. Two towers, being in the midst of agricultural estates, stopped ringing because of Foot and Mouth but are now open again. Plans are afoot for a busy programme of barbecues and ringing throughout the summer months, no wonder the branch membership has risen to 145 from the long term 'about 100'.

A peal was rung at Gt. Tew to celebrate the 100th birthday of Frank Stranks of Duns Tew.

His son Roger and grandson Simon rang in the peal; it was also Joan Warren's first peal.
Graham Clifton.

Bicester Branch

This is my first report as Secretary of the Bicester Branch having being elected at the AGM in February. At that meeting Cliff East stood down as President, Richard Stevens stood down as Secretary and Simon Cole stood down as Ringing Master. Many thanks to all the retiring officers for their work on behalf of the branch.

The new officers are as follows :

Willie Haynes (President), John Harris (Vice President), Simon Cole (Secretary), Terry Cowell (Treasurer), Keith Thomas and Teresa Carter (Ringing Masters) and Rosemary Henson (Branch Representative).

Richard Stevens scored his 1000th peal on Tuesday 3rd April with a peal of 5040 Vezelay Surprise Royal at Bicester. Congratulations to him on this achievement.

The Branch Outing to Gloucestershire was to be held on Saturday 7th April but was cancelled in light of the foot and mouth outbreak. It is hope to re-schedule this for Saturday 20th October.

The Branch Striking competition was held at Islip on Friday 11th May with four teams taking part. The results were as follows :

1st	Bicester	19 Faults
2nd	Islip	26 Faults
3rd	Ludgershall	29 Faults
4th	Charlton-on-Otmoor	53 Faults

Well done to all those taking part, especially Charlton-on-Otmoor who put in an excellent performance with almost all of their band coming from the millennium recruitment campaign.

Richard Stevens has stood down as Tower Captain of Bicester with his move to Cornwall soon to take place. Simon Cole is the new Tower Captain and Secretary, with Jan Smith as Treasurer, and Anthony Cole and Steve Walker as Steeplekeepers. Richard was presented with a card plus two framed prints, one of Bicester and the other of Magdalen College, Oxford, at the tower meeting on Monday 21st May. We owe Richard a great deal of thanks for his 17 years' service as Tower Captain.

We look forward to the Guild Festival on 14th July which this branch is hosting. Preparations are in full swing for what should be an enjoyable day.

Simon Cole

Central Bucks Branch

Branch practices have been held at Swanbourne, Granborough and North Marston which have all been fairly well attended. We now serve refreshments at our practices in exchange for a donation for the Bell Fund. This is proving to be a very popular decision. A Stedman Doubles practice was held at Bierton in June which provided some very

intensive practice for the attendees.

Our Branch Striking Competition was held at Aston Abbotts on June 9th 2001. Seven towers from the branch entered a team making it a very good contest. The team from St Mary's Aylesbury won for the sixth year in a row. Well done to all the other teams who entered - from Bierton, Quainton, Cuddington, Linslade, Wingrave and Whitchurch. Our thanks go to the ringers and helpers, and Aston Abbotts for their hospitality including refreshments and a continuous supply of tea throughout the evening!

Peter Fay and Mark Sellin are busy organising this year's Branch Outing in September. This year we are going to Rutland Water.

Ann Pedley

Chiltern Branch

The Branch Service, followed by the Annual General Meeting, was held at Ivinghoe on 21st April. It was a special day for two reasons: first, the restrictions on the ringing of Ivinghoe's bells have been lifted and, second, the attendance was a big increase on those of recent years. The Service was led most admirably by the Reverend Anne Ballard. At the meeting, eleven new members were elected to the Guild. For our post-meeting ringing we went 'abroad' to Dunstable.

Our striking competition should have been held at Little Missenden but there was a problem with the 4th's clapper. So, we went to our newest six-bell tower at Weston Turville. Five teams entered (three for 'fun') and Aston Clinton was sent forth to compete in the Guild competition.

Mike Davis

Chipping Norton

The Branch AGM was held at Burford. The shorter format, and bringing the month of the meeting forward to April, seems to have helped to increase the attendance as it was slightly up on previous branch meetings. We elected nine new members to the Guild keeping our numbers in the branch to just above one hundred. Mick Austin was elected as ringing master and Claire Tarrant as deputy ringing master, taking over from Martin Kirk and Sally Austin respectively, both of whom, for different reasons, had indicated that they wished to stand down. All other officers were re-elected and our treasurer Ken Wakefield took on the post of branch representative.

A fortnight later the annual Branch Outing took place, this year visiting the Tetbury and Dursley areas. We sadly had to miss out one church due to the foot and mouth out-break. The numbers taking part were lower this year as many of our branch ringers have links to the farming community. Lunch was at the Hunters Hall at Kingscote, the lasting memory of this lunch was of one ringer ordering and eating cheesecake with custard for his sweet! Many thanks go to Nigel Harrison for the organisation of the day and we hope that he might have time to fit in the arrangements for the outing next year, now he has been elected as Guild Secretary!

In May, to celebrate the golden wedding of John McVicker (the Shipton-under-Wychwood Tower Captain) and his wife Mavis, a quarter peal was rung at Shipton-under-

Wychwood. This was rung on seven bells. The method was Bob Minor with John ringing the tenor as a covering bell.

The branch practices at Swerford and Hook Norton were well attended. By the time this is published the next practice will be at Shipton-under-Wychwood on August 4th, to be followed by Charlbury on September 1st. The Branch Autumn meeting will follow the practice at Churchill on the October 6th. Many of us are looking forward to another Branch Annual Dinner at the Cross Hands, Salford Hill on October 13th. One ringer has already announced that he is going on a diet in preparation for this annual binge!

Barry Andrews

East Berks and South Bucks Branch

At the AGM held at Bray in April there was some change of officers with John Davidge replacing Graham Firman as Chairman, and myself taking over from Pat Moore as Secretary, helped by Clare Wright as Minute Secretary – unconsciously following Guild protocol of splitting up the Secretary's job. Pat had done an excellent job but sadly (for us) was forced to step down as she has moved temporarily to Chicago. Although with the help of modern communications she had been able to keep the Branch running amazingly proficiently from such a distance, it was obviously not a viable long term solution. Pat and David are a great loss not only to branch activities, but also to their local tower at Fulmer and to the Wednesday night handbell band.

Other branch officers are: Ringing Master – Angela Darvill; Deputy Ringing Master – Marcia Dieppe; Treasurer – Derek Fowles; Branch Reps – Myles Hawkins, Angela Darvill, Robert Newton and (newly elected) Marcia Dieppe. Fifteen new members were elected, and Derek Fowles of Bray became an Honorary Member.

Recent branch practices have taken us to two of our more 'interesting' venues. At Iver the suspended iron staircase tests the strength of those with even the slightest twinge of height phobia, but in spite of this many turned up to appreciate the opportunity to ring the special methods of Bristol and Superlative, some for their first time. At Chesham there is the infamous wooden beam obscuring the view of the opposite half of the band – the cartoon in the recent *Ringling World* if anything understates the challenge involved! Again a good attendance, and the chance to admire the view from the church roof between touches on a fine summer's evening was most enjoyable.

We have arranged two workshop practices in a particular method, with mostly practical ringing but also some tuition - Bob Triples in March, and Grandsire/Stedman Triples in June.

The 6-Bell striking competition was held at Penn and was very professionally judged by Alex Byrne from Reading, aided by Matthew Turner. High Wycombe retained their position of first place, followed by Beaconsfield 2nd (again), and Bray 3rd (again!) and Chalfont St Giles 4th. We do try to get new bands to enter and to get a different outcome, but clearly need to try harder!

Our flagship 12-bell band from High Wycombe came 3rd out of 8 teams in their eliminator of the National 12-bell competition, thus narrowly missing the qualification needed to partake in the final.

Katharine Firman

Newbury Branch

The Branch outing to London was very well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by around 30 members; thanks are due to Adam Rae-Smith for a well-organised tour. The variety of the rings in both the City and West London proved challenging on occasion, while all the churches had plenty to interest everyone while they were not engaged elsewhere. A few intrepid souls managed the 41½ cwt tenor of Bow, although some were disappointed to learn that the current ring was not the same as the ring heard on the BBC throughout the war, the bells having been destroyed in the Blitz (the original tenor was over 53 cwt!). St Sepulchre's had an interesting handbell, which was rung outside the condemned cell at Newgate prison at midnight on the eve of an execution. The bellman, having woken the hapless individual, then recited the following lines (which, no doubt, were less than welcome to the inmate):

*"All you that in the condemned hole do lie
Prepare you, for tomorrow you shall die
Watch all, and pray; the hour is drawing near
That you before the Almighty must appear.
Examine well yourselves, in time repent
That you may not to eternal flames be sent
And when St Sepulchre's Bell in the morning tolls
The Lord above have mercy on your soule.
PAST TWELVE O'CLOCK."*

The Branch hosted the 8-bell Striking Contest and Guild Ringing Day on 7th May. Warm congratulations are due to Reading St Laurence, the winners of the competition. We came third in our heat and an honourable sixth in the final at Chieveley. Special thanks are due to Ron Christopher and David Livingston for stewarding the competition and to Rod and Pat Brown for a splendid tea afterwards. We hope all the participants enjoyed the day. The Ringing Day gave people from far and wide the opportunity not only of ringing at our towers, but also to see something of our lovely villages and countryside. We were very grateful for the support given by tower captains who opened their towers, providing a warm welcome and often refreshments as well. My own thanks are due to Barry Cowper and Ken Davenport who, with Adam and our committee, gave me much needed help during the organisation of the day.

We are now looking forward to our own Six-Bell striking competition at East Garston on 7th July – having relished the wonderful tea provided at the AGM, we are certain to enjoy a splendid barbecue after the contest!

Rosemary Maslen

North Bucks Branch

The AGM this year was held at Bletchley, with ringing earlier in the day at Whaddon. Most officers were re-elected with only a new Assistant Ringing Master and Newsletter Editor. Sheila Watts decided that it was time to give somebody else a chance to edit *In Touch*, and Leigh Head has taken over this task. Catherine Stacy has filled the post of Assistant RM until September, when she goes off to university.

We were back at Bletchley a couple of weeks later for a joint surprise practice with the Luton District. This was well attended from both branches and was enjoyed by all. The next one of these is not until November, as it has been postponed from the original date in

July. A few of us joined the Kempston band for a ten-bell practice. This was a change of day, being a Wednesday, which clashed with many tower practice nights within the branch. Our usual Friday night is clearly a better day to get members along to a branch event. We hope the next ten-bell practice at Daventry will be better attended, being on a Friday.

The branch 6-bell striking Competition this year was held at Great Linford. We had a good field with six entries. Hanslope were yet again the winners, and will be at the Guild Competition to defend their excellent result as runners-up last year.

Helen Stanworth

Old North Berks Branch

As the last few months have been fairly quiet during the cold, wet and windy months of spring and winter I will write a brief synopsis of the Annual General Meeting held on 17 March at Drayton, which was attended by 42 members. It was preceded by our 6-bell striking competition, which was won for the first time in many years by Drayton — well done.

In the officers' Report it was stated that Tony Kimber - a ringer at East Hagbourne for many years - had died in February at the age of 80, and that a quarter peal of Plain Bob Doubles had been rung at Long Wittenham where he had once been a ringer. Michael Cannon retired from organising learners' practices, but the Ringing Master, Barbara Payne, hoped to resume these during the year, probably in a different format. Richard Loyd agreed to arrange some Surprise Major practices during the year — the first one was held in April, and the next will be in June.

Subscriptions had been received from 241 members, with a further 12 Life Members, to give a total Branch membership of 253. The Branch had in excess of £2200 held in its two bank accounts.

All the Officers were re-elected with the exception of Tracey Cutler, who was replaced by Nicola Turner as the new Newsletter Editor, and Bernard Stone was replaced by Jack Berry as a Branch Representative. It was agreed that the Newsletter be published only twice a year in future — probably in May and November. New members elected were Eileen Bracken and Brian Hunnisett (Blewbury), Peter Cline (Drayton), Julia Sargent (Long Wittenham), Matthew O'Shea (Sutton Courtenay), Brenda Rockall and Christopher Tuckett (Wallingford).

A Social will be held on July 21st. This will take the form of a mini-outing within the Vale of White Horse Branch, with an evening social of food and drink. The November Social will be held on either 10th or 17th at Blewbury. It was agreed the Branch hosts the Guild Festival in 2002 — we have our thinking hats on, and are trying to decide what form this should take.

I had been approached by the Guild Secretary regarding distributing papers by e-mail, and thought it was a very good idea. I put it to the Meeting that we compile a Branch e-mail address book with contacts for as many of our towers as possible so we could distribute our papers by e-mail as well. To date I have received addresses for about 90% of our towers. It has proved to be very successful so far, and has helped me a lot.

The project to rehang Milton bells was discussed at length. It was agreed to adopt this as our Millennium project as nothing had been done as a Branch to celebrate the event. We hope to raise the cost of a bell — around £4000. If everyone donates the fee from one wedding we will soon have the amount needed. The Branch will probably give a donation from the funds, and will provide a suitable inscription on the bell. As far as is known there have been only four new bells in the Branch over the last 30 years, so it is a rare opportunity for the Branch to leave a tangible reminder of its activity for future generations.

At this point I would like to thank the retiring Guild Secretary, Barry Cowper, for all his help, patience and assistance during the time I have been Branch Secretary. I am sure I speak for everyone who knows him when I say he will be a hard act to follow. Our best wishes go to his successor, Nigel Harrison.

Shirley Haines

Oxford City Branch

Hugh Deam of Marston has written this report of ringing outings for *Odd Bob*:

'The Marston Ringing outing to the Malvern Hills in March and the Iffley and Marston outing to the Chilterns in April were both well attended with a fine standard of ringing from Grandsire up to Surprise at a dozen diverse towers which were virtually all eminently compatible with fluent ringing.

The pub chosen for lunch in Hanley Castle, The Three Kings, provided a particular delight for many in its unabashed rural ambience.

The autumn outing is planned for 22nd September to Lacock, Avebury and surrounds. Details at <http://www.stnicholas.marstonringers.faithweb.com>

Amongst the quarter peals this year Robert Bruce rang his 100th quarter in the tower on 18th March, Hugh Deam conducted a 13 method quarter on 11th March and Ailsa Reid rang her first quarter on an inside bell on 25th March.'

One evening in early June St. Aldate ringers welcomed 43 American handbell tune-ringing visitors. This group, called *Bats in the Belfry* (sic), were on a tour of Britain finding out more of the customs and history of ringing throughout the country. They had already visited Whitechapel and Big Ben and were heading further afield to York and Edinburgh.

A special practice was arranged and Len Porter explained full circle ringing which he demonstrated to the audience using a small model bell. The Americans then spent some time ringing plain hunt on hand chimes, a skill easily accomplished because of their expertise with handbells - the concept of plain hunt was a little more demanding! In the ringing room they watched some rounds, short touches of Grandsire Doubles and ringing down, every group applauding. (Gratifying, but embarrassing!) There were plenty of questions and one ringer (who needs to remain anonymous) commented that there were really rather intelligent questions. One gentleman observed that the anticipation of the striking of the bell was similar to the skill required when feeling the cast in fly-fishing. They were all intrigued by the rhythm and mathematical pattern of the methods. It also amused them that those of us who were married, were married to another ringer and that two of the band had been ringing for over 50 years. It was a good evening, which was enjoyed by everyone, and the Americans were generous in their thanks; Ambassador Tours arranged the tour and we hope they will visit again next year.

The Guild AGM took place in our Branch, at Kidlington, in May. The church at Kidlington

is a joy to hold events in because it has all the right amenities and plenty of space in the church for the meeting. It also has a ringer-friendly incumbent, Anthony Ellis, of course! It was a good afternoon and the events were well reported in *The Ringing World* by Bobbie May. It is important to add that many City Branch members contributed to the organisation of the tea and the Kidlington ringers were magnificent in their ability to sort out all the tea-time debris after the feast.

Katie Lane

Reading Branch

Our AGM this year was held at Stratfield Mortimer and a number of members braved the vertical ladder to grab St John's bells. I am delighted that Father Paul Chaplin, who made us so welcome, has taken up ringing and is now a member of the Guild. There were three changes in Branch Officers: Jim Diserens now edits the Newsletter, Nina Byrne takes over as Training Officer and Annette Townsend becomes a Guild Representative.

Nina has already put some training initiatives in place. The first of a series of weekday afternoon sessions aimed at 'ringers at leisure' showed just what demand exists. Eighteen ringers arrived for the first afternoon and ringing varied from plain hunt to Cambridge Surprise Minor. Nina is currently in the category 'at leisure', but by the time this has been published, the baby will have arrived, and her 'leisure' will have vanished!

Reading Branch has been most successful in recent striking competitions. They represented the ODG in the Tewkesbury Shield (10-bell) and took 2nd place, just one fault behind the band from Southwark Cathedral. The judges commented that 'there was little to choose between Reading and Southwark'! In the National 12-bell eliminator held at St Laurence, Reading, the band came first, beating the College Youths, and now go on to the final at South Petherton. Reading contributed four of the 12 entries for the Guild 8-bell competition. Two teams from St Mary and St Laurence attained 1st and 3rd place respectively.

To avoid Foot and Mouth areas, we battled through London traffic to towers in Essex and north-east London for our Branch outing. Havering atte Bower was a fairly demanding, and heavy, six but otherwise a good day's varied ringing was enjoyed by some 15 members. Our thanks to Ken Baker for all his hard work.

Englefield bells are back in their new frame and, although still noisy, are much easier to handle. Both Nettlebed and Purley have now pealed their newly re-hung bells. In the latter case three ringers scored their first peal. Congratulations to them all.

On a sad note, I have to report that three of our senior ringers have died. Jim Allen (Tower Captain of Swallowfield), Margaret Pugh (Shiplake) and Raymond Allum (Tower Captain of South Stoke from 1952 to 1992). Full obituaries appear in this issue of *Odd Bob*.

Vivien Bloundele

Sonning Deanery

There has not been a lot of activity since the beginning of the year but the Branch appears to be alive and well with all the officer posts filled at the AGM in February.

One of the main issues discussed at this meeting was the format of the Branch Practices. These have not been well attended during the past year so it was decided to provide some sort of focus for these practices and also try to boost the weekday practices of the towers in the branch. It was agreed that two courses of action should be tried.

In the first plan the local band would be consulted about each branch practice in order to help the band achieve an objective: they might like to have a quarter peal, simulator practice or to practise for a particular method. This would be followed immediately by the usual open practice from 7.30 until 9.00 pm advertised widely for anyone who would like to attend.

The second plan would advertise "open" practices at towers in the Branch on a rota basis for the normal weekday practices. The purpose would be to boost each local band in both numbers and expertise in order to help improve standards and encourage ringers to move around the towers more freely. So far "open" evenings have been held at St. Paul's Wokingham, Easthampstead and Arborfield. These have all proved to be successful.

Also, on the first Wednesday of each month, Surprise Minor practices are being held at Finchampstead under the instruction of David Struckett.

A six-bell striking competition was held at Binfield Church on 1st April. The winners were Easthampstead who will go forward to represent the Branch at the Guild competition in early October.

Sonning tower had just decided to have three of their clappers refurbished when a fourth one fell off the seventh bell showering dust everywhere. All four clappers have now been replaced and are working well thanks to the sterling efforts of Keith Nichols and others who worked so hard to get the job done as quickly as possible.

Hugh and Caroline Baxter have moved from the area to take up residence in the Vale of the White Horse. They are greatly missed for the support they gave to all aspects of ringing in the Branch.

So far this year 30 quarter peals have been rung with Sonning tower again well in the lead. Mike Dane achieved his 250th quarter as a conductor in January.

Jill Betts

South Oxfordshire Branch

Mutual help seems to be the theme running through the branch at the moment, with individuals (including millennium recruits) regularly ringing for services elsewhere, and joint practices being held. Berrick Salome and Brightwell Baldwin alternate their practice so that helpers can go to each; Thame ringers joined Great Haseley on two occasions recently when they couldn't practise on their own bells; and Dorchester is the venue for an 8-bell practice for any branch members on the first Tuesday of the month. Later in the year, Great Milton ringers plan to practise at Little Milton whilst their bells are away. Monthly Branch Practices continue, but we have abandoned extra, themed practices for the moment, since attendance has dwindled. Instead, we plan to arrange one-off practices in response to requests from individuals or towers, with time and venue to suit, and hope by this means to address any need. To date, Great Milton have had the benefit of two intensive evenings of Bob Doubles; and two Saturday morning practices have been arranged for some of the ringers at Little

Milton.

At the AGM in April, there was little change. Wendy Simon was elected a Branch Representative; and Andrew Davis took over as Deputy Ringing Master from Sue Dyke, who is having a well-earned rest. The Branch 6-bell striking competition in March was a hard-fought contest, and saw Benson and Chalgrove entering for the first time. There were several youngsters involved once more. Chalgrove came out winners, followed by Drayton St Leonard, Benson and Chinnor. Three teams entered the Holloway Shield Competition - Chinnor, Aston Rowant and Drayton St Leonard - and all enjoyed the matches. For the first time, there was a tie between Aston Rowant and Drayton St Leonard, and a play-off took place at Warborough, which saw Drayton St Leonard win by a margin of just one fault!

Brightwell Baldwin bells are now back in the tower - the front four were retuned, the fifth was close enough in tune not to need attention, and the tenor, being listed, was not touched. The cast-in staples were drilled out and the bells rehung in the existing frame (painted to a very high standard by Robert Wells) with new ringing fittings.

Congratulations to Bill Simon of Berrick Salome, and Maureen Owens of Chinnor, who have each rung their first quarter.

Hilarie Rogers

Witney and Woodstock Branch

On May 12th a coach-load of members, including several of our younger recruits, travelled to the beautiful region around Abergavenny for our Branch Outing. The sun shone, the novices, some on their first outing, coped well, and everyone had a good day. The high spots for me were a magnificent touch of Grandsire Caters at Abergavenny, a splendid tea provided for us by a kind lady in the church at Usk, plus some most interesting churches. Thanks to Richard White and Lorna Smale for arranging the trip.

Our regular eight-bell practices have been well attended, with several newer ringers, unused to eight bells, coming along to have a go. Also, the Bampton band, who have spent some time progressing from doubles to triples, succeeded on 29th December in ringing a quarter peal of Grandsire Triples with six of their regular band plus two ringers from Stonesfield. Congratulations to them, and also to Clanfield, where the bells welcomed the New Year for the first time for over 20 years.

In recent weeks Stonesfield has welcomed a record number of new recruits, mostly youngsters. With young bands at Ducklington, Wootton and North Leigh, this is an encouraging trend in our Branch. Perhaps some of these young ringers will help us to do a little better in future Guild Striking Competitions!

Our Branch 6-bell Striking Competition was held on 9th June at Church Hanborough where the bells, though beautiful sounding, are quite heavy to ring. Stonesfield once again won both the Call Changes and the Method sections. Special congratulations to Samantha Dove (aged 11 years) and Demelza Smale (9) on doing so well in their first competition.

Rachael Sherlaw-Johnson

Points From Peals

Over the past few months there have been some significant personal achievements for the Guild. Congratulations are due to Richard Stevens who rang his 1000th peal, at Bicester, on April 3rd 2001. A month earlier, David Lane rang his 750th peal in the same tower. Congratulations also to Brian Bladon who has now rung 3500 peals, and David Dearnley who rang his 3000th peal at Sprotbrough, Yorkshire on 17th February 2001. This particular achievement includes no mini rings! Bill Butler rang his 2000th peal at Thatcham on 9th February 2001, which he also conducted. Alan Ainsworth has now conducted 950 peals. This was achieved with a part-local band peal of Barford Surprise Maximus at Amersham on 17th February 2001. (We also note for the record that Alan has found time to turn in St. Paul's Cathedral Tenor single-handed.) Peter Bridle has now rung 300 peals on the tenor at Thatcham and on March 13th 2001 rang his 2600th peal. David Moore rang his 100th peal of Stedman Cinques at St. Michael, Cornhill on 11th March 2001.

Guild members have also been busy ringing peals on light bells. A peal of maximus was rung on the Balcote bells at Appleton (tenor 1-2-14). This is only the second peal of maximus that has been rung on these bells. A peal was rung at Wormhill in Derbyshire, the lightest (conventional) six, on 31st March 2001.

Several peals have been rung to commemorate special events. Among these included a peal at Thatcham on 4th April 2001 to mark the birth of Jade Kay Freemantle, first great-grandchild of Bill Butler. A peal was rung at Great Tew on 24th February 2001 to celebrate the 100th birthday of Frank Stranks, father of Roger Stranks.

Colin Turner rang his last peal as a 30-something at Newark on 17th March 2001. Colin has now rung 1000 different major methods to a single method peal. This was achieved with a peal of Brecknockshire Surprise Major at Sheldwich on 25th March 2001. I wonder if they were all as musical as Stedman Triples!? A new method was named Faringdon Standard Delight Major for the Royal British Legion service held at Faringdon on 19th May 2001. A peal was rung at Egham on 12th May 2001 as a 50th birthday compliment to David Cox. Ben Macdui Surprise Royal was rung at Thatcham on 4th May 2001 to mark Geoff Dodd's 69th birthday.

The first peal was rung on the recently rehung bells at Purley by a Sunday Service band. First peal congratulations to Jackie Benstead, Michael Adnett and Mark Benstead on this occasion. On 24th February 2001 the first peal of minor was rung on the recently augmented bells at Weston Turville. This was exactly 49 years to the day since the dedication of the rehung five bells.

A significant achievement of a different nature was a peal of Bristol Surprise Fourteen, rung on handbells on April 25th 2001.

Claire Edwards, Peal Secretary

Guild Web Pages

The Guild's web pages are now installed on a new server. The address is:

www.parishes.oxford.anglican.org/odg/

Tim Pett, Website Manager

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 Mr Mike K Till (*see Education Sub-committee listing*).

Library

The Guild maintains a comprehensive Library from which books may be borrowed. For details contact Mr Douglas J 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 Ralph Elmes (*see Towers and Belfries Sub-committee listing*).

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

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 (Registered Charity No. 284053)

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 2001 - 2002

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 Nigel G P Harrison	Easter House, Taynton, Burford, Oxford OX18 4UH (01993 823149)
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, Ayesbury, Bucks HP22 4LH (01296 641755)
Librarian	Mr Douglas J Beaumont	184 Kidmore Road, Caversham, Reading, Berks RG4 7ND (0118 946 1714)
Report Editor	<i>Vacancy</i>	
Newsletter Editor	Mr A Rex Agg	25 Wilton Road, Beaconsfield, Bucks HP9 2DE (01494 675517)
Peal Secretary	Miss Claire F Edwards	9 Thornbury Green, Wargrave Road, Twyford, Berks RG10 9RH (0118 934 0804)
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)
Minute Secretary	Mrs Hilarie Rogers	4 High Street, Drayton St Leonard, Wallingford, Oxon OX10 7BA (01865 890163)
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Guild web site		http://www.parishes.oxford.anglican.org/odg/
Guild Stewards	Mrs Sally Austin	16 Austins Way, Hook Norton, Oxon OX15 5LQ (<i>Banbury, Chipping Norton, Witney & Woodstock</i>)
	Mr N Jim Diserens	10 Queens Avenue, Wallingford, Oxon (<i>Old North Berks, Reading, South Oxon</i>) OX10 0NB (01491 824504)
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	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 A (Tony) Crabtree	Mrs Wenda Fowles	Mr W (Willy) Haynes
Mr David Lane	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 Timothy G Pett	20 St Amand Drive, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 5RQ (01235 526033)

Mrs Patricia M Newton

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Oxon OX9 5SX (01844 352926)

Mr Ken R Davenport

(see Guild Deputy Master)

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Mr W (Bill) Butler

(see Central Council Representatives)

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Mr Derek Fowles

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Financial information

Subscriptions

Resident members £5.50 per annum

Non-resident life members £5.50

Peal fees

30p per person per peal (35p as from 1st January 2002)

Annual report

£2.50 + 50p packing and postage

Badges

£1.50 each

Guild History

£3.00 per copy

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Woodstock Sherlaw-Johnson

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Chairman Mr Mike K Till

53 Bath Road, Thatcham, Berks RG18 3GF (01635 827957)

Secretary Mr Mike C J Davis

1 Rookwood Way, Great Missenden, Bucks HP16 0DF

			(01494 891312)
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	Mr Alan J Griffin	Rosebank, Bloxham, Banbury, Oxon	(01295 720359)
	Mr John A Harrison	<i>(see Central Council Representatives)</i>	
	Mrs Patricia M Newton	<i>(see Central Council Representatives)</i>	
	Mrs June Wells	15 Lytham End, Tilehurst, Reading Berks RG31 6FG	
			(0118 941 0061)
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			(01865 862671)
#	Miss Barbara Payne	Polgraines, Faringdon Road, Cumnor, Oxford OX2 9QY	
			(01865 862671)
*	Mr E John Wells	<i>(see Guild Master)</i>	
*	Mr Nigel G P Harrison	<i>(see Guild Secretary)</i>	
	# denotes co-opted member; * denotes <i>ex officio</i> member		

Guild educational leaflets

- | | | |
|---|--|------------------------------|
| 1. Rope splicing | 2. Bibliography | 3. Plain Hunt to Bob Doubles |
| 4. Maintenance | 5. Running a one-day course | 6. Sound control |
| 7. Stedman | 8. Grandsire | 9. Bob calling for beginners |
| 10. Handbell ringing | 11. Eight Doubles methods | |
| 12. Surprise Minor: Cambridge to London, Part 1 (Cambridge) | | |
| 13. Surprise Minor: Cambridge to London, Part 2 (Building on Cambridge) | | |
| 13. Surprise Minor: Cambridge to London, Part 3 (London) | <i>Parts 2 & 3 form a single leaflet</i> | |
| 14. Plain, Little and Double Bob Minor and Plain Bob Major | | |

Price: 50p per copy or £5.00 per set of 14 titles (all plus postage and packaging) from Mrs Patricia M Newton, The White House, Plowden Park, Aston Rowant, Watlington, Oxon OX9 5SX (01844 352926). 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	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Mr John C Davidge is Acting Chairman (see * below)</i>
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 Aplin Road, Bedgrove, Aylesbury, Bucks HP21 9BT (01296 27930)
	Mr Graham J Clifton	Stedman Cottage, Middle Aston, Oxford OX6 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	2 Brinsmore House, Oddington, Kidlington, Oxon OX5 2QZ (01865 331303)
Mr Alan J Marchbank	6 Broadway Avenue, Giffard Park, Milton Keynes, Bucks MK14 5QF (01908 611434)
Mr Len Palfrey	62 Horseshoe Road, Pangbourne, Reading, Berks RG8 7JL (0118 984 2698)
Mr Mike Shakespeare	19 Park Close, Kirtlington, Bicester, Oxon OX5 3HR (01869 350180)
Mr Mark Walker	29 Villeboys Close, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 3XR (01235 536159)
* Mr E John Wells	(see Guild Master)
* Mr Nigel G P Harrison	(see Guild Secretary)
* Mr Brian J Gatward	(see General Treasurer)
* denotes <i>ex-officio</i> member.	

Diary of Events for 2001

*	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 14	Guild		Guild Festival - Kirtlington	
Sat 14	Central Bucks	BP	Quainton	6.30 - 8.30
Sat 14	EBSB	SP	Winkfield	7.00 - 9.00
Sat 14	Witney & Woodst.	BP	Alvescot	7.30
Fri 20	North Bucks	BP	Newton Longville*	7.30
Sat 21	Banbury	SC	Great Tew (followed by barbeque)	6.00
Sat 21	Chiltern	BP	Great Kimble	
Sat 21	Old North Berks		Branch social - White Horse area	
Sat 21	Oxford City	BP	Kidlington	7.00 - 8.30
Sat 21	Sonning Deanery	BP	Shottesbrooke	7.30 - 9.00
Tues 24	Witney & Woodst.	AP	Witney	7.30
Sat 28	EBSB	BP	Old Windsor	7.00 - 9.00
Sat 28	North Bucks	SC	Wicken (inter-branch SC)	6.00 - 8.30
Sat 28	South Oxon	BP	Towersey*	7.00 - 9.00

AUGUST

Wed 1	Chiltern	AP	Great Missenden	
Wed 1	Old North Berks	SP	Harwell	7.45 - 9.00
Sat 4	Chipping Norton	BP	Shipton-under-Wychwood	7.30 - 9.00
Tues 7	Bicester	BP	Souldern	7.30 - 9.00
Wed 8	Old North Berks	BP	Letcombe Bassett/Sparsholt	7.30 - 9.00
Sat 11	Central Bucks	BP	Little Horwood/Mursley	6.30 - 8.30
Sat 11	EBSB	AP	Beaconsfield	7.00 - 9.00
Sat 11	Oxford City	BP	Garsington	7.00 - 8.30
Sat 11	Reading	BP	Shiplake	7.00 - 9.00
Sat 11	Witney & Woodst.	BP	Yarnton	7.30
Fri 17	North Bucks	BP	Twyford	7.30
Sat 18	Chiltern	BP	Weston Turville	

Sat	18	Sonning Deanery	BP	Barkham	7.30 - 9.00
Mon	20	Banbury	BP	Cropredy	7.30
Sat	25	EBSB	BP	Turville/Hambleden	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	25	South Oxon	BP	Aston Rowant*	7.00 - 9.00
SEPTEMBER					
Sat	1	Chipping Norton	BP	Charlbury	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	1	North Bucks	QM	Shenley*	7.30
Sat	1	Reading	HY	Englefield (with six bell SC)	tbc
Tues	4	Chiltern	AP	Stoke Mandeville	
Wed	5	Bicester	BP	Middleton Stoney	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	8	Guild	SC	Ten-bell SC - venue to be confirmed	
Sat	8	Central Bucks		Branch outing	
Sat	8	EBSB	SP	Lane End	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	8	Witney & Woodst.	BP	Clanfield	7.30
Sat	15	Chiltern	BP	Ellesborough	
Sat	15	Old North Berks	HY	Sutton Courtenay	
Sat	15	Oxford City	BP	Horspath	7.00 - 8.30
Mon	17	Banbury	BP	Great Tew	7.30
Fri	21	North Bucks	BP	Woughton*	7.30
Sat	22	EBSB	BP	West Wycombe	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	22	Sonning Deanery	HY	Twyford (with 8-bell SC)	4.00
Sat	22	South Oxon	BP	Watlington	7.00 - 9.00
Fri	28	Guild		Easthampstead Course (to 30 Sept.)	
OCTOBER					
Wed	3	Old North Berks	SP	Blewbury	7.45 - 9.00
Thur	4	Bicester	HY	Stratton Audley	7.30 - 9.00
Fri	5	Chiltern	AP	Aston Clinton	
Sat	6	Guild	SC	Six-bell SC - EBSB Branch	
Sat	6	Chipping Norton	HY	Churchill	7.00 - 8.30
Mon	8	Old North Berks	BP	Steventon	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	13	Central Bucks	SC	Wingrave (Orchard Cup)	2.30
Sat	13	Chipping Norton		Branch dinner	
Sat	13	EBSB	HY	Fulmer (with SC final)	
Sat	13	Newbury	AG	Bucklebury	
Sat	13	Oxford City		Branch outing	
Sat	13	Reading	BP	St Laurence, Reading	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	13	South Oxon		Branch outing	
Sat	13	Witney & Woodst.	BP	Combe	7.00
Fri	19	North Bucks	BP	Clifton Reynes	7.30
Sat	20	Banbury	HY	Bloxham	3.00
Sat	20	Bicester		Branch outing - Gloucestershire	
Sat	20	Sonning Deanery	BP	Easthampstead	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	27	EBSB	BP	Boyne Hill	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	27	South Oxon	HY	Little Milton	7.00 - 9.00
NOVEMBER					
Fri	2	Bicester	BP	Kirtlington	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	3	Chipping Norton	BP	Ascott-under-Wychwood	7.30 - 9.00
Mon	5	Chiltern	AP	Bledlow	
Thur	8	Old North Berks	BP	Harwell	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	10	Central Bucks	BP	Winslow	6.30 - 8.30
Sat	10	EBSB	SP	Great Marlow	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	10	North Bucks	SP	Woburn*	7.30
Sat	10	Reading	BP	Mapledurham (with novice SC)	tbc
Mon	12	Witney & Woodst.	BP	Eynsham	7.30

Fri	16	North Bucks	BP	Weston Underwood	7.30
Sat	17	Chiltern	BP	Stoke Mandeville	
Sat	17	Oxford City	AG	Wheatley	
Sat	17	Sonning Deanery	BP	Arborfield	7.30 - 9.00
Mon	19	Banbury	BP	Bodicote	7.30
Sat	24	Guild		General Committee Meeting - Chipping Norton B.	
Sat	24	EBSB	BP	Horton	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	24	South Oxon	BP	Brightwell Baldwin	7.00 - 9.00

DECEMBER

Sat	1	Chipping Norton	BP	Kingham	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	1	North Bucks	QM	Newport Pagnell*	3.00
Mon	3	Bicester	BP	Bicester	7.30 - 9.00
Wed	5	Chiltern	AP	Great Missenden	
Wed	5	Old North Berks	SP	Drayton	7.45 - 9.00
Sat	8	Central Bucks	BP	Bierton	6.30 - 8.30
Sat	8	EBSB	BP	High Wycombe (with Christmas social)	
Sat	8	Oxford City	BP	Iffley	7.00 - 8.30
Sat	8	Reading		Carol service, Purley	6.00 - 9.00
Sat	8	Witney & Woodst.	BP	Witney	7.30
Fri	14	Banbury	BP	Tadmorton	7.30
Fri	14	Old North Berks	BP	Appleton	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	15	South Oxon	BP	Benson	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	15	Chiltern	BP	Aston Clinton	
Sat	15	Sonning Deanery	BP	Sonning	7.30 - 9.00
Fri	21	North Bucks	BP	Old Wolverton*	7.30
Wed	26	Banbury	BP	Deddington	10.30-noon
Fri	28	EBSB		Post-Christmas outing	
Sat	29	Reading	AP	St Laurence, Reading (higher numbers)*	7.00 - 9.00

Easthampstead 2001 - Anonymous Helpers!

Joyce Vernon would like to thank all those of you who have replied so promptly to the letter asking for help at Easthampstead.

Unfortunately some **four** people have omitted to put their names on the return slips and Joyce has no idea who they are from! If you think you may not have put your name on your slip, please ring Joyce on 0118 947 4281.

Golden Wedding Congratulations!

We extend our congratulations to Stan and Wyn Mason (Boyne Hill, Maidenhead) who celebrated their Golden Wedding on 23rd May 2001.