

## ODD BOB

Newsletter of the



November 2001

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### Information for contributors:

The next issue of '*Odd Bob*' will be distributed at the Guild Committee Meeting on  
**9 March 2002.**

Contributions should be sent to the Newsletter Editor:  
Mr A Rex Agg, 25 Wilton Road, Beaconsfield, Bucks HP9 2DE  
e-mail: [rex.agg@ukgateway.net](mailto:rex.agg@ukgateway.net)  
not later than **11 February 2002.**

## *Master's Mutterings*

Firstly, I would like to thank all those members who were able to respond to the request to ring in memory of the victims of the tragic events of September 11th. It was another example of the value of our bells in expressing the mood of the nation. Those tragic events have affected us all in many ways and the Guild will almost certainly not escape feeling some of the consequences. At the very least, the unstable state of the world's economies is likely to have an effect on the financial position of the Bell and Restoration Funds and I know the Trustees are considering ways to lessen any unfavourable impact. May I urge members to consider any suggestions from them carefully and in the light of the changing circumstances?

As many of you will know, we have been looking at the way in which the Guild should respond to the requirements of Child Protection legislation in general and the Diocesan Policy, 'Better Safe than Sorry', in particular. After much thought and discussion, we have produced a proposed policy which should make it possible for us to continue to train young ringers at the same time as demonstrating our commitment to their well being by working within the requirements of the legislation. Understandably, some members have expressed their concerns over the possible restrictions that may arise from adopting such a policy. However, the reality of the situation is that we have little choice if we are to be seen to be acting responsibly in our dealings with young people.

The proposed policy aims to cover the range of ringing activities in which young people may participate at local, branch and guild level. Activities associated with individual towers will be covered by the policy adopted by the PCC and I urge all members, but particularly Tower Captains and those responsible for dealing with young people, to make themselves aware of their local guidelines and do all they can to work within them. At Branch and Guild level we have tried to introduce procedures which show how we are operating within the published guidelines but which are relatively straightforward to use. To help implement the policy and to help members with its implications, it is proposed to elect a Guild Children's Officer. The General Committee will be discussing the proposed policy on November 24th and if it is approved, copies will be circulated as soon as possible in order that the policy can begin to operate in the New Year.

I have been asked about the Guild's intentions over the celebration of the Queen's Golden Jubilee next year. I expect that a number of members have already started to make plans to ring as part of the celebration. The Officers feel that it is not necessary to make elaborate plans for the whole Guild but just to encourage bands to ring as is most suitable for them. There are, however, two significant dates when it would be most appropriate to ring - February 6th which is the 50th anniversary of the Queen's Accession, and June 3rd/4th which are the Bank Holidays designated for the celebration period. Apart from the obvious opportunity to ring peals or quarter peals, it has also been suggested that it would be very fitting if '50' was made a significant aspect of the ringing e.g. 50 minutes ringing, 50 different rows of Call Changes etc. I encourage all members to do their best to ring on these dates so that the bells of this Diocese can sound out their congratulatory message for all to hear.

In the last issue of *OddBob* I mentioned that the AGM had been unable to appoint a Report Editor. Fortunately, we have had a volunteer who is well qualified to take on the role and, as instructed by the AGM, the Deputy Master, Secretary, Treasurer and I are pleased to

confirm that Heather Browning from Shinfield is the new Report Editor. Our thanks to Heather for coming forward and I am sure she will receive full support from the Guild members. Details of how to contact Heather are given below.

I would like to finish by congratulating the Guild Librarian, Doug Beaumont, on his election as Master of the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths. This is the second time Doug has held this office and we wish him well during his period of office

John Wells

**The Guild's Report Editor is now**

Mrs Heather Browning  
38 Carolina Place  
Finchampstead  
Wokingham  
Berks  
RG40 4PQ  
Telephone: 0118 932 8321  
e-mail: heather.browning@btinternet.com

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

The Trustees met in September. This was the first meeting for the two new Trustees, Barry Cowper and Jim Diserens, following their election at the last Annual Meeting and they were duly welcomed.

I reported that new money raised to 19 September 2001 amounted to £4754.88. The main elements of this are: 11 donations received from Branches of £1,593.48, donations from 13 PCCs totalling £351.00 and five tower funds have contributed £306.00. The final proceeds from the Ringing Day were £748.15. The Draw realised a profit of £1451.00 and the Managing Trustees wish to thank the organisers, Steve and June Rossiter, and all those who supported the Draw in any way and by so doing helped to make this such a success.

Since the February meeting, further projects have been completed, duly inspected and grants paid to Brightwell Baldwin (£2,900), Chilton (£4,750), Farnham Royal (£1,300) and Weston Turville (£325). This brings the total grants paid for the year to £10,025. There remain six provisional grants that have been allocated at previous meetings and these are scheduled for payment in 2002 (£13,235) and in 2003 (£4,500). I have previously reported that applicants have been advised that in view of the large number of other grants that were paid during 1999-2000, grants will not be paid until 2002 and 2003, irrespective of when the projects are completed. It is clear from the responses to the offers of provisional grants, that these arrangements are generally satisfactory.



Investments are a standard agenda item. I reported that the total investment income for the first half of the year amounted to £7,805.69 and accordingly that the annual amount was forecast to be in the region of £15,000. This is a reduction from the income level of previous years (2000: £16,208, 1999: £17,159). The Trustees' last Annual Report drew attention to the reducing investment income as the direct result of lower interest rates. As is well known, interest rates have continued to fall during 2001 and the overall values of stocks and shares have suffered significant reductions. There is a direct and unavoidable impact on the Bell Fund from this situation and that is simply to reduce the amount of funds available for grants.

The Trustees considered three new applications. A request from Faringdon was deemed to be routine servicing of the bells and thus outside the terms of reference and not able to be supported. Requests for support for the non-augmentation elements of major projects at Aston Clinton and Milton were both deferred to the next meeting in February 2002. In view of the reduction in investment income to the Bell Fund and the recent levels of uncertainty in the financial markets, the Trustees considered this was the only prudent course of action available to them.

The provisional grant to Berrick Salome (£3,000 voted in 1998) has lapsed, as the work has not progressed. I have written to the local contact and I understand that other urgent work has been required on the fabric of this church so that it is not possible to forecast when work on the bells may take place.

Once again, the Managing Trustees would like to thank all those who continue to support the Fund.

Brian J Gatward, Honorary Treasurer

### ***The Oxford Guild of Church Bellringers Restoration Fund (Registered Charity No. 284053)***

The Trustees will shortly consider applications from Aston Clinton, Faringdon and Milton and I expect to report the outcome to the Autumn Meeting of the General Committee.

New money raised to date amounts to £437.13. Nine donations from towers, branches or individuals have been received totalling £229.20, with the balance of £207.93 arising from interest in investments.

No grants have been paid since the previous report.

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

Brian J Gatward, Honorary Treasurer

## ***Librarian's Report***

The work to convert the library catalogue to a format more easily amenable to computer processing continues. The actual conversion has taken place, with the kind help of some members of the Reading Branch. The converted version has now to be proof-read, and then corrected. I will then be in a position to add the new books which have been acquired over the past year or two. I will also add a column to hold the value of each book, which will allow the results of any valuation of the library to be stored.

Over several months I have been ascertaining which books the library needs to acquire. This is not straightforward because it means examining lists of books for sale, and using a computer "string search" through the catalogue, to see if there is any mention of the book in the existing stock. The list of books to buy now has about 30 items on it. At the same time, I have bought about six newly published books. The complete list of books acquired for the library during 2001 will be published in the next Guild annual report.

A library open day for members of the Reading Branch was held on 21st October. I asked just Reading Branch members because of the capacity issue but, in the event, the number of attendees was quite small (eight people visited). However, those who came enjoyed looking through the effects of the library, and were able to look up various bits and pieces of information.

Doug Beaumont

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### **Bell Fund Draw 2001 List of Prize Winners**

<b>Prize No.</b>	<b>Prize Value</b>	<b>Winner's Name</b>	<b>Town</b>
1st	£250 CASH	John Aspley	Great Haseley
2nd	£100 CASH	Tony Baker	Wokingham
3rd	£75 CASH	D Wolverton	Milton Keynes
4th	£50 CASH	S J Lawrie	Weston-on-the-Green
5th	£20 CASH	King	Iffley
6th	£15 CASH	Ms E Pratt	Shipton-under-Wychwood
7th	£10 CASH	M Robins	Hungerford
8th	£10 VOUCHER	Marcham Tower	
9th	£10 W H SMITH VOUCHER	J Corby	Marlow

## ***Oxford Diocesan Guild Festival***

This year's Guild Festival on 14th July provided a suitable contrast to that of the Millennium: instead of City, Cathedral and Collegiate splendours, the 2001 Guild Festival treated us to the idyllic rurality of the Bicester Branch.

The first tower, Chesterton, gave us the chance to practise Stedman on three bells. Refreshments were provided here to the musical accompaniment of the resident organist, and indeed the same organist mysteriously seemed to appear at almost every church during the day. Yes, it was Simon Cole who found time for this, together with organizing the choir for the Festival Eucharist as well as being the Branch Secretary responsible for the Festival - presumably he and the other officers of the Bicester Branch also organized the weather! The other towers open for general ringing were the six-bell towers at Charlton-on-Otmoor and Bletchington (+more refreshments) and the eight-bell towers at Ambrosden, Islip, and Kirtlington.

The Festival Eucharist at Kirtlington included a powerful sermon and a selection of suitably lively hymns. About 65-70 of us then adjourned to the comfort of Kirtlington village hall to conclude a most enjoyable day with a really excellent buffet supper and the Festival Celidh.

Nigel Harrison

## ***Shinfield Ringing Centre***

At last things are beginning to happen! Now that Ian's exams are over, he (our technical expert!) spent some time in the tower and assembled all the hardware above for the simulator. Last week tower members took part as he set up Abel and watched what happened. We discovered falseness that would have to be corrected once the clapper bars were on. Cyril and David joined us from Shiplake on Monday afternoon and we spent a couple of hours sorting out this problem. Finally, Ian and I came up early to practise on Tuesday and put on the clapper bars.

The results were considered to be very satisfactory. The quality of the sound was not perfect, though some people preferred to hear the sound coming from one point rather than the surround sound idea. From half way up the path the bells could not be heard, so we have our number one advantage already in that we can be 'open all hours'.

My old computer trolley now contains the computer etc. tucked into the corner behind the door and one of the church fabric group will be enclosing it in a lockable case for security. We are still awaiting the decision for the faculty covering other, permanent, alterations to the ringing room and tower.

On Tuesday we also tried out the video camera and watched people handling their bells. It is possible to watch this in real time through a viewer on the camera. If you want to watch in real time on the television, you have to turn your head through 90 degrees, though it plays it back as a recording the right way up!! There were bound to be a few teething problems! Ian is going to give us lessons in all this technology before he disappears off to Cambridge University at the end of September. We're all going to be on a very sharp learning curve, though this will have to happen before we open our doors to the outside world. Watch this space.

Bobbie May

## **The Guild Six-bell Competition — *Hat Trick for Reading***

By winning the six-bell competition on October 6th Reading, St Mary & St. Laurence, completed the hat trick, having won all three Oxford Guild final striking competitions this year. In addition to this they narrowly missed winning the Tewkesbury Shield (by ½ point!) and came fourth in the National 12-Bell Final.

Twelve teams entered the competition, with only three branches not competing. The heats were at Fulmer, judged by David Joyce, where Easthampstead, Aston Clinton and High Wycombe, went forward to the final, and Burnham, judged by Ken Davenport, where Reading, Shrivenham and Drayton St. Leonard went forward.

Chief judge for the afternoon, at Chalfont St. Peter, was Christopher K. Hill from Chobham. The final result was 1. Reading, St. Mary's & St. Laurence (39 faults), 2. Aston Clinton (50 faults), and 3. High Wycombe (56 faults).



*Bobbie May*

The Reading team were:

1. June A. Saint,
2. Alison E. Leach,
3. Helen M. Diserens,
4. Edward J. W. Manley,
5. Alex F. Byrne (C),
6. Stephen A. Rossiter.

*Steve Rossiter receives the 6-bell trophy from Christopher Hill*

## **The Guild 6-Bell Competition – a *Personal View***

As with many things to do with Church (Disciples, Tribes of Israel, Bells at Christ Church), there were entries from 12 branches. This meant that three branches did not put in a team, so we could console ourselves that the worst we could do was twelfth out of fifteen! The towers arranged for the heats were Burnham and Fulmer, north of Maidenhead/Slough, and it was rumoured that Burnham were a treat to ring whereas Fulmer were “interesting” (home from home, some may say!). However, we had our first piece of luck, in that we were drawn to ring at Burnham – and scheduled to be the second team to ring, so not much hanging around.

Having worked out our route, we needed to leave home at 12.30. Lunch was a struggle, as nerves set in about 11.15! Following a slow Spanish coach through Henley and almost to Maidenhead (“Does he think the speed limits are in kilometres?”) increased the anxiety even more: however the street maps John printed off his computer were a great help once we got



to Burnham. Unfortunately, they didn't prepare us for the big hole in the road that we couldn't go past, or the one-way street with two-way traffic. Or the choice of residents-only parking or one-hour maximum stay at the church! Some huffing and puffing ensued, plus several U-turns (not easy in our car) and one junction where left most definitely should have been right, until we came upon the church from the other side and.....plenty of parking.

Still 20 minutes until it was due to start, and no sign of anyone in authority. What was worse was the fact that the toilets were all locked up! Disaster! In due course the tower was opened (and the "facilities"), and Christopher, John and Dave went to ring up (with three others), taking my leaning-box up the (anti-clockwise) narrow spiral staircase – not easy. Once they had all come back down, it turned out that not all of the first team had arrived, so we were swapped to ring first (except Christopher and John had gone off to use the facilities by then!).

Into the lions' den (sorry, ringing chamber) to meet the loveliest, easiest bells we could have hoped for. Even a convenient wall to lean my box against. Only ourselves to blame then! Ten whole pulls of rounds and a plain course of Grandsire in our two-minutes practice. Charlotte daren't give the signal, so Christopher did that. Then we were off....., hardly daring to look at each other, wincing with every less-than-perfect stroke, the first 120 seemed to take for ever. But the calls came when they should, we didn't fall asleep (or off our boxes) or lose the rope or make too many mistakes. **AND THE RELIEF.....** To come out of the tower and see the other bands waiting to go up was wickedly comforting. **ALL OVER NOW!**

Listened to the rest, ate a peanut butter and jam sandwich, had some coffee, and eventually made our way to Chalfont St Peter for tea. Again, thanks to John for his little maps – found church and parked with no problems at all. Excellent tea, and then **THE VERDICT.....** the results of the other heat came first, along with comments about the interesting nature of the bells, and the three teams to go into the final were Easthampstead, Aston Clinton and High Wycombe. Our heat was next – judge saying critical things in a nice way – and then **THE BOMBSHELL.** We had been placed third (by a margin of one fault) and would join Reading and Shivenham in the final! Having taken notes of all the judge's comments so far, I found I could no longer write legibly and have the piece of paper with shaky writing on to prove it.

The draw was made for the order of ringing, and we were drawn fifth out of six. So while the others played Yahtzee and gambled with cards, I retired to the car to sus out the opposition and work out which bells were odd-struck (in other words, have a snooze). There was some cracking ringing! After deciding we didn't need yet another trip to the smallest room, we staggered up with the box again (good talking point anyway) and prepared to ring. The bells weren't as easy, and we were even more nervous, but managed to get through the 240 once more. The judge commented that the bells were difficult to strike well. As we feared, we were placed last in the final with 135 faults. The other places were 5th Shivenham (101); 4th Easthampstead (85); 3rd High Wycombe (56); 2nd Aston Clinton (50); and winners Reading (39). We had the distinction of accruing more than one fault per change on several occasions (which must mean we had quite a few changes with none!). Looking back, we were delighted (although it may not have appeared so at the time) to have got through to the final, and we could say that we came sixth out of all the towers in the Guild!!! Couldn't we???

[And it was a great relief to get back to our own lovely bells on Sunday!]

### Facts and Figures:

- Drayton band probably had the largest age span (12 to 76)
- We were the only six-bell tower to reach the final
- We definitely came from the smallest community
- Christopher had never called Grandsire before and had to learn to call the 240
- Dave always asks for a minder when ringing a touch, but learnt this one off by heart
- Until July, Hilarie hadn't rung for longer than a 120 for the past seven years
- To offset this, David (on tenor) has rung for many years and is happiest covering; Charlotte is our best treble ringer; and John is – well – John (and didn't have any "senior moments" at all!)

*From Hilarie Rogers of Drayton St Leonard, representing South Oxon.*

*The band was – Charlotte Rogers, Hilarie Rogers, Christopher Rogers (C), John Aspley, Dave Hewitt, David Watkin.*

### **Reading Branch Striking Competition 2001**

Ten teams met at Englefield for the afternoon of September 1st, ranging from almost novices to very experienced ringers. This is particularly gratifying since some other branches, of a similar size or larger, don't manage to field anything like that number of teams. Many think it's not worth entering because such and such team 'always wins'. I feel that listening to others ringing who are better than yourself is never wasted. Someone has to represent the branch with a good chance of winning the Guild competition and so the competition, for many teams, will be for 'the best of the rest'. Happily Reading never seems to have had a problem with this.

Englefield hasn't hosted a striking competition in living memory and it was lovely to be in such amiable surroundings, with food laid on at the Social Club (and the opportunity of listening in on the England/Germany match at the same time!). There were bound to be a few glitches, but the only ones seemed to be from a judging point of view: horses in and out of the stable blocks throughout the judging, and interested parties enquiring into 'what they were doing there', must have been a distraction, but we hope it didn't affect the overall result.



*Steve Rossiter, conductor of the winning team, receiving the Topper Trophy from Chief Judge, Tim Pett*

The judges were Tim Pett from Abingdon and Ken Davenport, Deputy Master, from Wokingham. Tim spoke about the quality of the ringing and Ken gave out the marks:

1. Mapledurham (242 faults), 2. Tilehurst (52½) – placed **Third**, 3. Purley (145), 4.

Englefield (136), 5. Pangbourne (107), 6. Caversham (69), 7. St. Mary's/St. Laurence's (Newcomers - 76), 8. St. Giles (102), 9. St. Mary's/St. Laurence's (Longer serving members - 34½ ) placed *First*, 10. St. Mary's/St. Laurence's (Officers - 49 ) placed *Second*.

While the judges were making up their minds Steve Rossiter (Chairman) managed to get through all the business in what must have been a record time! Forthcoming events were discussed and the old chestnut of moving the competition to another time of year. No new members were elected, though some have been elected at branch practices and it was thought this should be minuted. Doug Beaumont, Guild librarian, advertised an open day for the library which he was hoping to put on for the branch in October.

Many thanks to all who had a part in the organization of this excellent afternoon, especially John and Cathy Martin and the Englefield ringers.

Bobbie May

### ***Brightwell Baldwin Dedication***

Anyone ringing the bells of Brightwell Baldwin on or after July 29th this year would have been amazed at the difference in the 'go' and handling. Those who judged the six-bell striking competition earlier in the year must have thanked their stars that they didn't have to do it after the re-hanging, since any half-competent band could make a good fist of them. So another triumph for Whites of Appleton and no less a triumph for the whole village community whose dedication over the last few years has made this possible and through this even enhanced village life with some of the fund-raising activities. It is wonderful to see what happens when a whole village community pulls together.

Bells have rung at Brightwell Baldwin for nearly 800 years. In 1553 there were three bells and a Sanctus and the ringers were paid for November 5th and Coronation Anniversaries. The tower was restored in 1911 in time for the Coronation of King George V and Queen Mary when four new bells were dedicated by the Bishop. Ninety years later these seven bells have been renovated ready to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee.

Special guests for the occasion were Derek and Hilary Osborne whose part in the life of the present incumbent, Martin Garner, contained a series of amazing coincidences. One of the hymns in the service was one written by Canon Derek Osborne celebrating the life of Brightwell Baldwin church from the 13th to the 21st centuries. The choir, who led the service beautifully, included some of the ringers and the Rector himself.

Listed in the order of service was some of the minutiae showing the fund-raising efforts of an entire village community, and the sources of the Grants — some of whose representatives were present at the service. Tower Captain, Olive Lawrence, made sure that everything ran smoothly and according to the correct protocol and afterwards there was an opportunity to sample this excellent six.

Refreshments were served afterwards at Brightwell Park, home of the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire.

Bobbie May





*Brigtwell Baldwin bells during restoration*

### ***News from the Branches***

#### **Banbury Branch**

Great Tew tower hosted this year's branch striking contest and barbecue. Seven towers entered the contest, which was judged by Brian Curtis and Lorna Smale from Stonesfield. Having won for three years in a row Steeple Aston were favourites again but were beaten into third place by Bloxham (1st) and Mollington (2nd). Other towers taking part were Cropredy, Great Tew (two teams) and Rousham. The storm abated as the ringing finished and we adjourned to the vicarage garden for a pig roast. Having a BBQ ensures you get more teams!

On a sunny Sunday in July Roger Stranks arranged a trip to Brownsea Island for the Great Tew ringers and friends. The boat trip across Poole Harbour was provided free by one of Roger's friends from Duns Tew. We had 2½ hours on the island to ring for evensong and look round.

On Saturday 11th August, Graham Clifton and Roger Stranks helped the Rousham ringers remove their bells from the tower for refurbishment. Rousham must be one of the smallest parishes in the Diocese, only 46 people in the village and 15 of these are ringers. Can anyone beat this percentage? This is success of the Ring in the Millennium, as most of the band was trained to ring in the new Millennium. The restored bells will be rehung in November.

In June, Graham and Dorothy Clifton celebrated their silver wedding anniversary. A peal of Stedman Triples was rung at Steeple Aston in the morning followed by a party in the evening for about 90 family and friends. A new peal board now hangs in Steeple Aston tower to record peals rung for their wedding and their anniversary.



The Branch half-yearly meeting was held at Bloxham. It was decided to arrange once-a-month youth training days to bring young people together. It is hoped to encourage adjacent Branches to join in; two other training days are planned for the not so young. Our Branch social committee has been working hard arranging a quiz evening, dinner and walking ringing tour.

Two new members, Roger Davis and Berkley Lawrence, were elected to the Guild.

Graham Clifton

### **Central Bucks Branch**

July's Branch practice was held at Quainton, and August's was held at Little Horwood and Mursley. Both practices were fairly well attended.

In September we went on our annual branch outing. This year we took a full coach to Rutland, ringing at towers in Caldecote, Oakham, Brook, Hambleton and Preston. We were very lucky with superb weather and there was a lot of lovely scenery to admire. We stopped for dinner in Olney where everyone's tastes were catered for. Our thanks go to Peter Fay and Mark Sellin for organising the successful day and we are already looking forward to next year's.

In October it was our turn to host the Orchard Cup – the friendly striking competition between teams from Central Bucks and Chiltern Branches. The event was held at Wingrave and the weather was wonderful for the time of year. We all sat outside in the sunshine waiting our turn to ring. Seven teams entered this year and the Aston Clinton Gents team won the Cup, with the Aylesbury team coming second and the Aston Clinton Ladies team third. Our thanks go to the ringers and ladies of Wingrave for their hospitality and to Simon Cole for being our judge. Well done to all the teams that entered; the standard of striking was very high.

Our practice in November is to be held at Winslow and in December at Birtton. After the December practice we are holding a branch dinner. It is apparently well over ten years since the last one was held and if successful it may become an annual event.

As this is the last *Odd Bob* of the year, on behalf of all the ringers and officers of the Central Bucks Branch I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Ann Pedley

### **Chiltern Branch**

Aston Clinton maintains its position among the top towers within the Guild by gaining 2nd place at this year's six-bell competition. Hopefully, other towers within the Branch will be encouraged to join those illustrious ranks.

The damaged clapper at Little Missenden is back in order, so Barry Cowper's lively practices continue as before.

Congratulations to all who rang that peal at Monks Risborough - the first on the restored bells and the first peal for Gillian Little.

Training sessions at Monks Risborough and Bledlow were well subscribed and two special training sessions for the band at Marsworth were a great success.

Congratulations to Sean and Rebecca Asling from Stoke Mandeville on the birth of their daughter, Phoebe – a young lady already becoming familiar with the sound of different bells.

Mike Davis

### **Chipping Norton Branch**

On 10th September the Revd Mark Abrey was Installed and Inducted as incumbent of the United Benefice of Chadlington, Haythorpe, Spelsbury and Enstone in addition to him being priest in charge of the Benefice of Ascott-under-Wychwood. Ringers from his new parishes undertook the ringing before the service.

The attendance at branch practices has been on the increase over the last few months, with a sixth of the branch membership present at our recent practice at Churchill. The autumn meeting followed the practice and took place in the new downstairs meeting room in the church. The meeting elected three new members and one returning member.

A week later we were sitting down to our branch annual dinner at the Cross Hands Inn, Salford Hill. This was well attended: a total of 38 ringers and partners. The fabled huge portions of food were all true. We must send out a warning to diet before attending the dinner next year.

We have already started to think about next year and the Golden Jubilee. As a branch we are intending to attempt to ring a quarter peal at all ringable towers as our contribution to the celebrations.

After several successful years organising the branch outing Nigel Harrison has decided that it is time to let someone else have a go. Claire Tarrant kindly has taken on the organisation of the next branch outing and it is hoped that we will be visiting the Andover area in April or May next year.

Barry Andrews

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

Our main event in recent months has been the final round of the Lorna Newton knock-out striking competition, held at Fulmer and judged by ex-branch member David Struckett. Six teams reached this stage (albeit in some cases entirely through byes) and, with the rules prohibiting the top two teams from the main six-bell competition from taking part, it was a pretty evenly matched contest. Lane End emerged the winners, with Cookham getting the runners-up cup and High Wycombe B the wooden spoon.

Having already prided themselves with winning the Best Kept Tower trophy, Bray ringing chamber is now even more gleaming due to a makeover given to it by a TV Company. This was part of their clear-up operation after filming an episode of Midsomer Murders, which involved transforming it into an uncharacteristically dark and dingy place, together with a certain amount of dripping blood! The episode will include the bells being rung by actors (after being given a crash course) as well as by some real ringers from the area who enjoyed the opportunity to make their acting debut.

Marlow bells are unfortunately out of action for the foreseeable future whilst investigations are made on some moving stonework at the top of the spire, but Farnham Royal and Slough are back ringing again after repair and restoration works.

Katharine Firman

### **Newbury Branch**

In July the Branch six-bell competition was held at East Garston, where the bells proved a stiff test for less experienced ringers. It was good to see seven teams entering the competition. We believe that the friendliness of the Branch encourages towers to compete, especially those who are still in the early stages of the exercise. It was pleasing to note that, despite the evening thunderstorm, both the judge, John Chamberlain, and the majority of ringers stayed for the barbecue generously provided by East Garston. Congratulations are due to Lambourn who won the Marshall Shield, and to Thatcham on taking first place in the striking contest thus qualifying for the Guild Final on 6th October. Thatcham ringers had an exceptionally busy day on 6th October. During the morning they were involved in recording the bells, plus the choir, music and handbell ringing for a CD, and then, in the afternoon, some of the same people travelled to Fulmer to represent Newbury Branch in the Guild Final.

The AGM was ably hosted by Bucklebury on 13th October. Three officers stood down from the committee, with Graham Brown taking over the treasurer's post from Rod Brown, Anne Ryder taking on the management of the 200 Club from Margaret Robinson and Alastair McOran-Campbell taking over the Guild Representative's office from Chris Pack. The Branch is very grateful to the outgoing officers for their hard work and efficiency, and also to the new officers for taking on their new positions so willingly.

The Branch is hoping to augment the monthly practices with occasional half-day practices in specific methods. With the Guild's assistance and the enthusiasm of members, we hope this will provide a challenge and help less experienced ringers to progress.

Rosemary Maslen

### **North Bucks Branch**

The honours were again divided in our annual inter-branch competition against the Towcester Branch, which this year was held at Wicken. We retained the Jack Green Trophy for the overall competition, whilst Towcester held on to the George Holland Stedman Trophy.

The start of the September Quarterly meeting at Shenley was delayed because of a wedding. This is one of the more popular wedding venues in Milton Keynes, often with several weddings each week through the summer. Unfortunately the vicar went home after the wedding, so we skipped the service and had an early tea.

We regret to report the passing of Bill Yates, a member of the Guild for over 65 years. He learnt to ring at Buckingham in 1936 and was a member of the band from then until his death. Bill did much to encourage ringing throughout North Bucks and helped to build bands and encourage ringers, particularly at towers around Buckingham. He was

very active in the neighbouring Towcester Branch of the Peterborough Guild, being their branch secretary for 50 years. The church at Stowe was filled to capacity for his funeral, at which the emphasis was on thanking God for Bill's life and contribution to the community.

Helen Stanworth

### Old North Berks Branch

Around 20 members attended a Barbecue held at Buckland Village Hall on the 21st July, when the heated indoor swimming pool was available for use by members during the evening. A mini ringing outing in the Vale of White Horse Branch preceded this. It was much enjoyed by all who attended and was a very successful occasion except for an unfortunate lockout at Colehill.

A request from the vicar of Aston Tirrold for members to help ringing get under way for Sunday Services and special occasions was received. This request was circulated to all towers, and so far we have helped ring for two services. It is hoped they will eventually be able to recruit new members to train so they will be self-sufficient.

Unfortunately the August Branch Practice at Letcombe Bassett was cancelled because the tower had been declared unsafe — the church is at present trying to raise £30,000 to carry out repair work to it. As it was thought that not many members would turn up to ring for just 45 minutes at Sparsholt that half was cancelled as well. Branch Practices have been well attended; they have been held at Letcombe Regis, Aston Tirrold, Long Wittenham, East Hendred, Steventon and Harwell. Richard Loyd organised Branch Surprise Practices. Branch Learners' Practices were held over the summer and were very well attended, so much so that it was hard to fit in enough ringing for everyone who came. Both Surprise Practices and Learners Practices will be continuing. It has been suggested that the Surprise Practices could be widened a little to include Treble Bob methods and encourage those who are moving from Plain Bob/Grandsire etc. towards Surprise. Our Ringing Master hopes to organise some Saturday morning Learners' practices on themes — handling and style, striking, how call changes work, places and dodging, etc. — starting with short theory sessions before the ringing.

The Branch Striking Contest results were 1st Drayton, 2nd Abingdon, 3rd Blewbury, and 4th Sutton Courtenay. Drayton lost two of their band, who had moved away, and so were unable enter a team in the Guild six-bell contest. Tim Pett organised a Branch team for the Guild 10-bell contest, where they came third. Abingdon represented the Branch in the eight-bell contest and came fifth.

Regarding our Millennium Project — Branch Bell for Milton — the latest news is that the 7th and tenor bells were cast at Whitechapel on Friday August 24th. The remaining six bells, including the branch bell, were cast early in October. A small number of people went to see the castings. Brian White is due to start dismantling the old bells on March 4th 2002 and we hope that the bells will be ringable by the early summer. Regarding fund raising, there is still a long way to go. Milton held their own Quiz Night in October, and the Branch Autumn Social was also a Quiz Night — with all proceeds going to the Fund.

Shirley Haines



## Oxford City Branch

### *Visitors from Mars*

Many of us are connected to the Internet and are used to email messages from relatives in Australia and America. But the ringers at St. Giles' Oxford recently received an email from Mars, saying that 13 trainees were to spend two days in Oxford to undertake an exercise in team-building. Apparently the Oxford City web site's list of activities in Oxford includes ringing at St. Giles. (*The City Branch secretary passes on information about ringing to Oxford City every year, hence the information on the web.*) What could be more team building than ringing? Could the 13 learn to ring? The team of ringers at St. Giles felt that this would be an interesting challenge, though did not think that it was possible to teach tower bell ringing in the 60 minutes available.

The trainees were sent two sides of A4 to brief them on the history and practice of change-ringing for study in advance and when they arrived they were split into groups. Each group in turn went up to the bell-chamber to watch a tied bell being rung. Most trainees climbed up the steep and dusty ladder, in spite of having arrived smartly dressed.

Meanwhile the other groups learnt to ring handbells (one bell each) in rounds. Then groups of four were taught plain hunting on four. The students stood in a line and swapped places physically before ringing each row. Then they moved on to Plain Bob Minimus rung in the same way. The instructor movements during the Minimus looked more like those of an orchestral conductor than a typical conductor in a bell tower. Finally the trainees rang plain hunting on six and then eight.

They were extremely keen and those watching always applauded when the bands got back into rounds. The instructors showed off (to even louder applause) by ringing the same methods two handed.

Finally the trainees watched the start of our regular practice. As we have a number of learners the impression may not have been perfect striking! As they departed, they left a present of a bank note and some samples of the produce — two boxes of sweets. St. Giles' ringers look forward to more visitors from Mars.

Back down to earth, and the City Branch were all delighted to learn that Ringing Master, Len Porter, and Cowley tower captain, Mary Joseph, are to be married in the not too distant future — we wish them great happiness together. No doubt there will be some ringing to celebrate the event.

Kidlington Church held a special service after the events in the United States of America on 11th September; the tenor was tolled half-muffled for ten minutes during the service. Other practices were cancelled as a mark of respect for the victims.

Roy Goodwin of Iffley has been very unwell and has spent many weeks in hospital; we are happy to report that he is now at home and appears to be making a steady recovery from his debilitating illness. Some of the branch rang in a peal at Iffley at the beginning of September, which was rung for Historic Churches Sponsored Cycle Ride; it was also rung to wish Roy a full recovery.

Marston continues to arrange regular and well-attended outings. The most recent to Avebury

and Lacock gave confidence and good experience to several ringers. The equinox celebration was in progress at Avebury, with the participants in full regalia in the autumn sunshine, and caught the attention of the ringers. The Saturday morning quarter peals organised by Hugh Deam are also increasingly popular.

Katie Lane

### **Reading Branch**

The Reading six-bell striking competition was held at Englefield on their newly re-hung bells. Those who know the church will appreciate its beautiful setting, which was enhanced by the balmy warm and sunny September afternoon. The local ringers and their friends did us proud; they had arranged a BBQ along with tea. We are grateful to Ken Davenport and Tim Pett (jet lagged) for sitting in the stables for so long. I gather that the ringing was punctuated by the clip clop of horses' hoofs as riders came and went. St Mary's (Reading) Band 2 (established ringers) were the worthy winners of the Topper Trophy. We were delighted when this band went on to win the Guild six-bell competition.

Reading Branch are in the happy position of having won the Guild 6, 8 and 10-bell competitions this year. We warmly congratulate all of these ringers who worked so hard, and gave up time to practise, to achieve these successes.

The Branch Quiz Night was again most successful. Ringers and non-ringers formed tower teams of up to eight strong to pit their wits against each other in answering Steve's fiendish questions. June Saint, with a loyal band of helpers, did a magnificent job in providing supper for over 90 people. The evening raised nearly £300 for ringing projects and the raffle made £136 for the Guild Bell Fund. June and Steve are to be thanked for arranging a(nother) great evening.

Nina's fortnightly afternoon sessions continue to be popular and well supported. It is hoped that these will continue in the New Year. A basic conducting course has been arranged for November to encourage, and to teach, more people to 'call'.

I should like to use this opportunity to thank our Ringing Masters, and all those experienced ringers, who generously give up so much of their time to further ringing.

Vivien Bloundele

### **Sonning Deanery Branch**

The summer has flown and winter will soon be upon us. The organised visits to other towers within the branch during this time have not drawn many members. It is hoped that now that summer is over this will change. It is a way of meeting other members, getting more ringing practice and helping out at other towers. Both the chairman and the ringing master have made a plea for these visits to be supported. There is a great need within the branch for members to help out with learners at other towers on their practice nights and to act as tutors on training days.

The branch practice at Barkham (our only four-bell tower) provided an interesting experience for those who attended. As the ringing chamber is so small the ringing was first done from the porch but later, alternate ropes were taken up, so that two people rang in the chamber and two from the porch. This proved quite a test but was said to have been

great fun!

Only four teams entered the eight-bell striking competition that was held at Wokingham St. Paul, and Easthampstead won the competition. Many towers had difficulties finding ringers to make up a team so it was very commendable that Barkham, with only four bells, managed to muster eight ringers to make up a team for the event.

Sonning tower arranged a joint outing with Sturry tower to Kent. One of the ringers from Sonning had previously rung at Sturry. Despite the long drive each way and a heavy ringing programme a very enjoyable day was had by all.

Wokingham All Saints has just reached the half way point in raising £50,000 to re-hang the bells and improve the ringing room climate. The most recent event was a successful concert with a 'bell' theme, including Plain Bob Major by members of the Reading handbell group and an illustrated talk on music in ringing.

There has been a change of ringing times at Wokingham St. Paul. Practice night is now Tuesday 8.00 to 9.00 pm; Sunday morning 9.00 to 9.30 am. Sunday evening, however, remains the same at 5.45 to 6.15 pm.

Jill Betts

### **South Oxfordshire Branch**

Branch Practices over the summer have ranged from interesting (Lewknor), through challenging (only four and a visitor at Towersey), to busy (Aston Rowant), with a late starter and hectic finish thrown in (Great Haseley).

Our Branch Outing on 13th October was to Hampshire, where very helpful local ringers (apart from the one who forgot to let us in!) found us an excellent pub for lunch (Whistlestop at Liss) and some towers that weren't being used for their Guild Striking Competition/Meeting. We rang at Blackmoor (just ahead of the apple tasting - windfalls available); both towers in Liss; Alton and Bentworth. One of our young ringers managed to fall in a camouflaged grave; and we were entertained by a fly-killer with a mean aim. We rang call changes to Stedman Triples with some Cambridge Minor in between, and the sun shone.

Congratulations to Luke Camden who has rung his first quarter; to Gordon Smith for his first as conductor; and to Bill Simon and Glenys Gray for their first inside. In addition, quarters were rung to celebrate the 75th birthday of Cyril Lawrence; the wedding of Nicola Tchighianoff; and the Ruby Wedding of Jean and Brian Winfield.

Drayton St Leonard represented the Branch in the Guild Six-bell Competition, surprising themselves by getting through the heats, but reverting to form by coming last in the final!

Hilarie Rogers

### **Vale of the White Horse Branch**

While the focus in the Vale during 1999 and 2000 was on making our unringable towers ringable (Shellingford, Longcot and Buscot), this year we are concentrating on ourselves and our standards.

We have had special practices for three stages of competency: 1) two practices concentrating on Grandsire and Stedman Doubles and Plain Bob Minor were held at Uffington; 2) Grandsire, Plain Bob and Stedman Triples practices were held at Stanford in the Vale and Longcot, and 3) our regular third Sunday in the month surprise major practices continue to flourish, thanks to visitors from other branches. All these have been quite well attended but we would like to see more learners and more "experts" at all the events as they really do help to maintain and improve our standard of ringing and also the branch social life. So please don't be shy - we are all of us struggling with one blue line or another! Details of future special practices are available from the Branch Ringing Master, Gordon Belcher on 01367 242114.

On a personal note we congratulate Jenny Crabtree from Shrivenham on ringing her first quarter peal of Yorkshire and we are delighted to welcome Hugh and Carolyn Baxter and Elaine Bayler to the branch. Ringing at Uffington has taken on a new life since they arrived especially as one of Uffington's regular ringers, Amber Banks, is away now during term time. Good Luck in your new life at university, Amber.

The half yearly meeting was held at Buscot (a four-bell tower!), where fortunately the weather was excellent so a picnic tea in the leafy churchyard was a real pleasure, followed by some serious eight-bell ringing at Highworth.

This year's annual Branch Outing to the Chippenham area was very well attended and luckily it was another sunny day. We would like to thank Anne Jones for organising the towers and Jon Chamberlain for encouraging everyone to come.

Altogether a very busy quarter for the Vale with the opportunity for every ringer in the branch to ring something new.

Kay Chamberlain

### **Witney and Woodstock Branch**

Romance was in the Witney and Woodstock air as we celebrated two weddings and an engagement. At Woodstock on 1st September our Ringing Master, Richard White, was married to his fellow Woodstock ringer Zoe Clark, while at South Leigh on 22nd September, Emily Hurst, who learned to ring with her mother and sister at South Leigh, was married to Cambridge ringer Mungo Stacy. Much ringing took place to commemorate these happy events, notably a peal at Witney of Cambridge Surprise Major on the day before Emily's wedding, conducted by the bridegroom, in which the bride rang her first peal of Surprise inside. Meanwhile at Stonesfield it was champagne all round at practice night when David Thornton and Lindsey Cutler, both Stonesfield ringers, announced their engagement. Congratulations to all! Our younger members have also been busy, with Samantha Dore (11) ringing the treble to her first quarter peal in August.

Bampton tower and Steve Goddard organised a most successful tour of towers in the White Horse area on 20th October. The day began at Buckland and ended at Buscot, for those who stayed the course! We were most intrigued by the home-made rope-warming device at Shrivenham; for those of us who frequently have to ring on ropes like damp wood, this seemed like a brilliant idea!

Rachael Sherlaw-Johnson



## *Points from Peals*

Over the past few months it has been nice to see peals rung to observe special events and occasions. Graham and Dorothy Clifton celebrated their silver wedding anniversary on 23rd June and duly rang a peal at Steeple Aston where they were married on 19th June 1976. This was also Graham's 100th peal for the Oxford Diocesan Guild. On the same note, a peal was rung at Ashton-under-Lyne on 8th July as a compliment to Kath and Roger Baldwin on the occasion of their ruby wedding anniversary.

Peals have been rung to celebrate the birth of Tomas F. Byrne, son for Alex and Nina, born 20th June. Peter Bruce celebrated his retirement from the teaching profession by conducting a peal composed by Eric Critchley who gave him his first teaching job 32 years ago. Peals were also rung to honour the 101st birthday of HM Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother.

Meanwhile, the B&Q Discount Card holders have been very active over the past few months, not doing much DIY, I might add, but ringing a lot of peals. One of the greying bands rang a peal at Yattendon, which was the "21st tower in which the third Thursday band has scored a first peal of minor".

An ODG band of ringers had a week's peal tour in the Channel Islands and successfully scored peals at all seven towers. This proved to be a very enjoyable venue for a ringing holiday and comes highly recommended to anyone thinking of going. During the tour, Colin Turner and Tim Pett rang their 1000th peal together. This now enables Colin to ring a six-bell peal with all the people with whom he has rung over 1000 peals. I wonder if this will be achieved before the next issue of *Odd Bob*?

A few notable milestones should be commended; David Cornwall conducted his 500th peal, which was also his first of royal as conductor. Peter Bridle has now turned in a tenor on all 366 dates in a year and Richard Thumwood rang his 650th peal. The first peal was also rung on the rehung bells at Monks Risborough.

On a more solemn note, several memoriam peals have been rung during this period. The peal rung at Lichfield on 18th August was dedicated to the life of Reg Dobson, brother-in-law of Michael Till, and peals were rung for the Guild in memory of Tom Chapman. It was a fitting tribute to see a peal rung at Swallowfield in memory of Jim Allen since this was where he was tower captain for many decades and taught a great number of ringers to ring.

Additionally it should be recorded that many peals were rung in sympathy and remembering those killed or bereaved in the terrorist attacks in the USA on September 11th.

Claire Edwards, Peal Secretary

*(Claire is of course far too modest to record that, partnered by Stephanie Pattenden, she rang Exeter Cathedral tenor in September to a peal of Stedman Cinques by members of the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths - Ed.)*

## ***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

<b>Master</b>	Mr E John Wells	15 Lytham End, Tilehurst, Reading, Berks RG31 6FG (0118 941 0061)
<b>Deputy Master</b>	Mr Ken R Davenport	47 Brookside, Wokingham, Berks RG41 2ST (0118 978 6554)
<b>General Secretary</b>	Mr Nigel G P Harrison	Easter House, Taynton, Burford, Oxford OX18 4UH (01993 823149)
<b>General Treasurer</b>	Mr Brian J Gatward	Grangewood, Mill Lane, Calcot, Reading, Berks RG31 7RS (0118 941 3097)
<b>Assistant Treasurer</b>	Mr Terry Wagstaff	6 Firs Close, Whitchurch, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 4LH (01296 641755)
<b>Librarian</b>	Mr Douglas J Beaumont	184 Kidmore Road, Caversham, Reading, Berks RG4 7ND (0118 946 1714)
<b>Report Editor</b>	Mrs Heather Browning	38 Carolina Place, Finchampstead, Wokingham, Berks RG40 4PQ (0118 932 8321)
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Mr A Rex Agg	25 Wilton Road, Beaconsfield, Bucks HP9 2DE (01494 675517)
<b>Peal Secretary</b>	Miss Claire F Edwards	9 Thornbury Green, Wargrave Road, Twyford, Berks RG10 9RH (0118 934 0804)
<b>Public Relations Officer</b>	Mrs Bobbie May	4 Halfacre Close, Spencers Wood, Reading, Berks RG7 1DZ (0118 988 4172)
<b>Membership Secretary</b>	Mr John F Payne	53 Walker Road, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 2QU (01628 624490)
<b>Minute Secretary</b>	Mrs Hilarie Rogers	4 High Street, Drayton St Leonard, Wallingford, Oxon OX10 7BA (01865 890163)
<b>Website Manager</b>	Dr Timothy G Pett	20 St Amand Drive, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 5RQ (01235 526033)
<b>Guild web site</b>		<a href="http://www.parishes.oxford.anglican.org/odg/">http://www.parishes.oxford.anglican.org/odg/</a>
<b>Guild Stewards</b>	Mrs Sally Austin	16 Austins Way, Hook Norton, Oxon OX15 5LQ ( <i>Banbury, Chipping Norton, Witney &amp; Woodstock</i> )
	Mr N Jim Diserens	10 Queens Avenue, Wallingford, Oxon ( <i>Old North Berks, Reading, South Oxon</i> ) OX10 0NB (01491 824504)
	Mr Mark Walker	29 Villeboys Close, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 3XR ( <i>Bicester, Newbury, Oxford City</i> ) (01235 536159)
	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 W H</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

The White House, Plowden Park, Aston Rowant, Watlington,  
Oxon OX9 5SX (01844 352926)

Mr Ken R Davenport

(see *Guild Deputy Master*)

#### **Guild Trustees**

Mr W (Bill) Butler

(see *Central Council Representatives*)

Mr Barry W M Cowper

Avondale, 45 Longfield Drive, Amersham, Bucks HP6 5HE  
(01494 725566)

Mr Derek Fowles

10 Lynden Close, Holyport, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 2LB  
(01628 629538)

#### **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

#### **Branch Secretaries**

Banbury	Mr Graham J Clifton	Stedman Cottage, Middle Aston, Oxford OX6 3PZ (01869 347273)
Bicester	Mr Simon J Cole	83 Bristol Road, Bicester, Oxon OX26 4TH (01869 247525)
Central Bucks	Miss Ann Pedley	18 Rochester Place, Aylesbury, Bucks HP19 7QZ (01296 586316)
Chiltern	Mr Mike C J Davis	1 Rookwood Way, Great Missenden, Bucks HP16 0DF (01494 891312)
Chipping Norton	Mr Barry Andrews	26 Little Lees, Charlbury, Chipping Norton, Oxon OX7 3HB (01608 810933)
East Berks & South Bucks	Mrs Katharine J Firman	7 Laburnham Road, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 4DB (01628 636484)
Newbury	Mrs Rosemary Maslen	18 The Strouds, Beenham, Reading, Berks RG7 5NW (0118 971 3824)
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 Janet Hodgson	7 Sheerlands Road, Arborfield, Reading, Berks RG2 9ND (0118 976 0245)
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 784393)
Witney & Woodstock	Mrs Rachael Sherlaw-Johnson	Malton Croft, Woodlands Rise, Stonesfield, Nr. Witney, Oxon OX29 8PL (01993 891318)



### Education sub-committee

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)
Members	Miss Marie R Cross	6 Radley Road, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 3PQ (01235 520868)
	Mr Alan J Griffin	Rosebank, Bloxham, Banbury, Oxon (01295 720359)
	Mr John A Harrison	(see <i>Central Council Representatives</i> )
	Mrs Patricia M Newton	(see <i>Central Council Representatives</i> )
	Mrs June Wells	15 Lytham End, Tilehurst, Reading Berks RG31 6FG (0118 941 0061)
#	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 <i>Guild Master</i> )
*	Mr Nigel G P Harrison	(see <i>Guild Secretary</i> )

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

### Guild educational leaflets

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

Price: 50p per copy or £5.00 per set of 14 titles (all plus postage and packaging) from Mrs 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	Mr John C Davidge	Rowallan, Back Lane. Chalfont St Giles, Bucks HP8 4PD (01494 873325)
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 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.

### **TOWERS & BELFRIES COMMITTEE**

The Towers and Belfries Committee are happy to do Bell Maintenance Courses. These take about a day and can be arranged anywhere in the Guild.

It is hoped to do two in the near future at Dinton and Wooburn.

Anyone interested should contact John Davidge (the new Committee Chairman) or Ralph Elmes (see *Guild Directory* for contact details).

## Diary of Events for 2001 - 2002

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

### NOVEMBER

Sat 24	Guild		<b>General Committee Meeting - Chipping Norton B.</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	Downs Barn	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	Tadmarton	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

### 2002

### JANUARY

Sat 12	Central Bucks	BP	Haddenham	6.30 - 8.30
Sat 12	Reading	BP	St Giles, Reading	7.00 - 9.00
Sat 12	Witney & Woodst.	BP	North Leigh	7.30
Tues 15	Banbury	BP	Steeple Aston	7.30
Fri 18	North Bucks	BP	Calverton*	7.30
Sat 19	Sonning Deanery	BP	All Saints, Wokingham	7.30 - 9.00
Sat 26	South Oxon	BP	Thame	7.00 - 9.00

### FEBRUARY

Wed 6	Guild		<b>50th Anniversary of Queen's Accession</b>	
Sat 9	Central Bucks	AG	Linslade	
Sat 9	Reading	AG	Shinfield	
Sat 9	Witney & Woodst.	AG	Ducklington	6.00
Thur 14	Banbury	BP	Mollington	7.30
Fri 15	North Bucks	BP	Olney	7.30
Sat 16	Sonning Deanery	AG	Finchampstead	3.00
Sat 23	South Oxon	BP	Chalgrove	7.00 - 9.00

### MARCH

Sat 2	North Bucks	AG	Newport Pagnell*	3.00
Sat 9	Guild		<b>General Committee Meeting - O.N.Berks Branch</b>	
Sat 9	Central Bucks	BP	Aylesbury	6.30 - 8.30

Sat	9	Reading	BP	St Mary, Reading*	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	9	Witney & Woodst.	BP	Northmoor	7.30
Fri	15	North Bucks	BP	Simpson	7.30
Mon	18	Banbury	BP	Deddington	7.30
Sat	23	South Oxon	SC	Little Milton	7.00 - 9.00
<b>APRIL</b>					
Sat	13	<b>Guild</b>		<b>Radley Course</b>	
Sat	13	Central Bucks	BP	East Claydon	6.30 - 8.30
Sat	13	Witney & Woodst.	BP	Woodstock	7.30
Sat	20	Banbury	AG	tbc	
Sat	27	South Oxon	AG	Drayton St Leonard/Benson	2.30
<b>MAY</b>					
Mon	6	<b>Guild</b>	SC	<b>Eight-bell Striking Competition - Bicester Branch</b>	
Mon	6	<b>Guild</b>		<b>Annual Ringing Day - Bicester Branch</b>	
Sat	11	Central Bucks	BP	Steeple Claydon	6.30 - 8.30
Thur	16	Banbury	BP	Adderbury	7.30
Sat	18	<b>Guild</b>	AG	<b>Annual General Meeting - Reading Branch</b>	
Sat	25	South Oxon	BP	Dorchester	7.00 - 9.00
<b>JUNE</b>					
Mon	3	<b>Guild</b>		<b>Queen's Golden Jubilee</b>	
Sat	8	Central Bucks	SC	Wotton Underwood	
Sat	22	South Oxon	BP	Ewelme	7.00 - 9.00
<b>JULY</b>					
Sat	13	<b>Guild</b>		<b>Guild Festival</b>	
Sat	13	Central Bucks	BP	Hillesden	6.30 - 8.30
Sat	27	South Oxon	BP	Warborough	7.00 - 9.00
<b>AUGUST</b>					
Sat	24	South Oxon	BP	Berrick	7.00 - 9.00
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>					
Fri	13	<b>Guild</b>		<b>Easthampstead Course (to 15th Sept.)</b>	
Sat	28	South Oxon	BP	Great Milton	7.00 - 9.00
<b>OCTOBER</b>					
Sat	5	<b>Guild</b>	SC	<b>Six-bell Striking Competition - Witney/Woodst.</b>	
Sat	12	South Oxon		Branch outing	
Sat	26	South Oxon	HY	Brightwell Baldwin	7.00 - 9.00
<b>NOVEMBER</b>					
Sat	23	<b>Guild</b>		<b>General Committee Meeting - N. Bucks Branch</b>	
Sat	23	South Oxon	BP	Watlington	7.00 - 9.00
<b>DECEMBER</b>					
Sat	14	South Oxon	BP	Great Haseley	7.00 - 9.00

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### ***Bell Fund 'Shop'***

Guild sweatshirts, t-shirts, ties and other ringing-related merchandise are normally available at all Guild functions and meetings. Enquiries regarding availability at other times may be made to Derek and Wenda Fowles on 01628 629538 or e-mail: [derek.fowles@virgin.net](mailto:derek.fowles@virgin.net)

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