

Issue 64

ODD BOB

Newsletter of the



March 2002

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Information for Contributors

The next issue of 'Odd Bob' will be distributed at the Guild Festival on **13 July 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

not later than **17 June 2002**.

Master's Mutterings

Many members will have been saddened to learn of the death of Marie Cross in November. Marie was one of our most distinguished members and served the Guild in a variety of capacities over the 79 years of her membership. A full obituary is printed elsewhere in this newsletter but I know she will be greatly missed by all who knew her. It would seem to me that the best memorial we could create for her is to continue to work for the good of ringing in our diocese so that the Oxford Diocesan Guild continues to hold its place at the forefront of developments in ringing, a position she did so much to establish.

At the November General Committee Meeting the proposed Child Protection Policy was approved and all towers should now have copies. It is imperative for the well being of the Guild that we continue to train young people and I believe that the policy will make it possible to do so without too many restrictions. I hope that members will do their best to incorporate the guidelines as good practice. It will take time to get everything in place but if there are any queries please do not hesitate to contact the Children's Officer, Hilarie Rogers, or me.

Towards the end of the year, the diocesan web site was redesigned to include a series of 'Thought for the Day' type reflections written by various members of the Church. The Guild was invited to provide this item for Christmas Eve and I wrote a piece on the theme of the Challenge of the Bells based on Longfellow's poem, 'I heard the Bells on Christmas Day'. The fact that we were invited to do this is yet another indication that ringers are recognised as an important section of the Christian community. We are a 'Guild of Church Bell Ringers' and it is vital that this title is kept in the forefront of our minds in all we do for ringing.

By the time you read this, there will have been quite a lot of ringing for the 50th anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne. I hope that your plans for further ringing over the Jubilee holiday in June are well advanced and that they prove successful. I look forward to reading and hearing about the ringing, especially first quarter peals and peals.

As I indicated at last year's Annual General Meeting, it is my intention not to seek re-election this year. I have been Master for six years and an officer for twelve, so I feel it is time for someone else to take up the reins particularly for making plans for the Guild's 125th anniversary in 2006. Please give the choice of a new Master some serious thought and if you are not sure what is involved, I will be happy to clarify what the role entails.

The past six years have been very busy with much activity, especially the preparations for and the events of the Millennium year, and it has been a privilege to serve the Guild as Master during this exciting time. I thank every one for their support and encouragement during my time in office. The warm welcomes June and I have received on our various visits throughout the Guild have been much appreciated and we feel we have made many friends over the years. Thank you all. I am sure you will give my successor just as much support.

John Wells

Obituaries

MARIE ROSINE CROSS, MBE 1909-2001



Marie Cross learned to ring at Twyford, Berkshire. Her mother, Rosine Marie, had learned to ring during the First World War when ladies were recruited. Marie and her brother, Gordon, were thus introduced to the art. She joined the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers in 1922 and continued to ring at Twyford during her time at Reading University. Her first post was at Whitchurch, Hants, as a secondary Maths teacher. When she realized that many of the children were entering secondary education illiterate, she transferred her allegiance to the primary sector and started a one-woman crusade to educate the nation. She transferred to a primary school in High Wycombe and must have had considerable success in this area, since she became headmistress of Radley C of E Primary School in 1939, a post which she held until 1974. So persuasive was she that she persuaded the authorities to rebuild the school, which at that time had the most primitive sanitation arrangements.

During the war there was an embargo on church bell ringing and she kept the art alive in the Oxford area, with the help of others, by teaching handling on tied bells and ringing handbells. At this time she became secretary of Oxford City Branch of the ODG. Between 1936 and 1956 she gave significant help, Dr. John Spice recalls, to the Oxford University Society which, on a good day, could ring Bob Minor. During this time many handbell peals were rung at The School House, Radley, many of them conducted by Marie.

She was the Guild's first librarian and set up the library in 1954 continuing in this post, caring for and developing it, until 1956 when she took on the more onerous post of Hon. Gen. Sec. to the Guild. The Master, Canon Elliot Wigg encouraged this appointment and would

have known her as a “most able and energetic” person from his association with her in peal ringing. Also he would have had first-hand experience of her as “an expert ringer and an indefatigable teacher of young ringers” to say nothing of her “possessing just those gifts for organization and the efficient handling of business matters which fit her eminently well for this key office of the Guild”.

During her fourteen years as secretary of the Guild, Miss Cross instituted many changes and most of the events she introduced to the Guild’s calendar have become annual traditions: these included striking competitions and training programmes for the Guild. In 1958 she masterminded a revision of our Guild rules. This was also the year of the first weekend training course. Held at Big Wood, Radley, near her home, she organized this course for the benefit of new instructors, so that the number of ringers able to teach new learners would be increased. Though the formats and venues have changed since then, Marie has been involved, until recently, in most of these, with a great emphasis on firm foundations at the beginning: she always took the Plain Hunt group at the Easthampstead Course and was the organizer’s nightmare, since she insisted that she had to have all the best towers and helpers for the beginners. All these helpers were, in fact, capable of leading the group themselves, since each had sole responsibility for a student and woe betide them if they weren’t up to her exacting standards.

She once said, “Before our practice I have been having a remedial group – people who wish to improve their handling. This has proved most instructive and drives home the importance of not rushing the early stages in teaching the skills of handling and listening – particularly in the older ringer. Further there is a great need to ensure that the beginner understands what you really mean and not what he or she thinks you mean. Further there is a need for constant watch on a beginner’s handling during the early months of ringing for it is then, when a beginner is starting to ring changes etc., that many handling faults develop which are a handicap to further progress”; and much more of the same wisdom.

In this way she groomed the helpers as future trainers and tutors of her group. She adopted this particular *modus operandi* with all the posts she held and Bill Butler remembers visiting her in fear and trepidation when he was about to become her successor as Hon. Gen. Sec. She inspected him from the toes up and pronounced him to be wholesome enough for the job, since she “never trusted a man with dirty shoes”.

The teaching of youngsters was not accepted as the norm until the second half of the century and she was energetic in her encouragement of younger ringers, teaching countless young people from the local school at Radley and also boys and staff from Radley College on the light six there, which she had had rehung in 1952 and then taught a band from scratch. Daphne Pollard, a former pupil of Radley School and now Tower Captain at Radley, remembers that Miss Cross used to pick out all the likely youngsters at school who might be able enough and have the sticking qualities needed for ringing. She would then take them along to learn to ring. I can’t imagine that many dared to refuse! Her regime was very strict and she insisted on obedience at all times. The Revd Matthew Stafford, a former pupil of hers, remembers her with considerable respect, though “her methods would probably be considered politically incorrect these days”; a broom handle down the back of the neck to assure correct posture and such like. However, she moved with the times and accepted that the pressures and demands on youth were increasing and in her later years arranged for a table to be available for learners to do their homework on practice nights when they weren’t ringing. Even from the earliest times she was aware of their needs and safety. A very young

Bill Eastwell cycled over one night to Radley from Farnham Royal and she wouldn't permit him to cycle back in the dark, but put him up at the School House for the night. Her care for people engendered mutual respect and she once boasted that if ever her car broke down, anywhere in the Guild late at night, there would be some ringer within walking distance who would give her a bed for the night! During the 50s and 60s she taught youngsters from several schools in the Abingdon area so that they could ring the bells for their school services and she supported the development of ringing societies at Reading University, Cuddesdon Theological College and Culham College of Education.

Until 1944 Oxford and Cambridge were the only universities to have their own ringing societies and she was among the group of ringers who founded the Universities' Association, the aim of which was to promote ringing among university students, helping some to establish their own societies and to encourage liaison between ringers at smaller universities. She was very supportive of the societies set up at Bristol in 1944 and at London University the following year. She always adhered to her belief that the future of ringing lay with the youth at university.

Before she officially retired as Head at Radley she was seconded to the University of Oxford to assist with Overseas Teaching, in which she taught prospective overseas Head Teachers, using Radley C.E. Primary as a model. When Patricia Newton, then the Guild Master, was researching information on behalf of the Guild for the M.B.E. which Marie was later awarded, it became apparent that she might well have achieved it for services to education as well as to ringing.

When she retired as Guild Secretary in 1970, the Guild recognized her achievement by making her a Vice President, an honour bestowed upon very few of our members. At the time there were 16 Vice Presidents, nine of whom were bishops or senior clergy of the diocese. With her 'retirement' as general secretary, she could reasonably be permitted to take a back seat, but she continued to 'plug' key posts when there were not sufficient younger volunteers for the posts. Nor was she just a caretaker, but continued to develop these posts. 'Stewards' had been introduced to the Guild when a former Master, the Revd Canon Elliot Wigg was no longer well enough to fulfil all his duties to his satisfaction and he needed assistance to cover the multitude of branch meetings and activities. The Guild newsletter, *Odd Bob*, though not her idea, was made her own when she took over the job and gave the publication her own particular brand of magic. Though often out of the country for months at a time, mainly teaching ringing in America, she had a long arm and directions were left and deadlines met, all by snail-mail from across the pond! *Odd Bob* became widely read, not just by branch and guild officers who regarded it as a useful handbook, but by ordinary tower members, because Marie insisted that all their achievements were recorded and first quarter-pealers named.

From 1974 onwards, after her retirement, she spent regular spells in the States and for four or five years she spent six months a year at Houston teaching ringing. Wilf Moreton was still teaching and unable to go and his wife, Jo, suggested that Marie, now retired, might like to do this. Since then she made shorter visits to Washington, Miami, Texarkana and Little Rock, teaching new ringers and advising on the installation of the bells at Texarkana and Little Rock, and these visits often resulted in Americans coming over and joining our Guild courses. In the 60s Groton School sent ringers to the Guild Festivals and some joined the Guild! Marie often referred to them as the American branch of the ODG. Later she was given the American equivalent of the Keys of the City at Little Rock and invited by President Clinton to his Investiture.

From 1985 – 1995 she was chairman of the Guild Education Committee and even when she was hospitalized with *Myasthenia Gravis*, which was to take her in the end, the committee refused to accept her resignation.

She always had good ideas and continued to work tirelessly for the Guild, writing an education pamphlet from her hospital bed. It was her idea of investing in people for the Millennium, with an attempt to man every tower with bells in the Guild to ring out at the Millennium, which was the project that we adopted.

Marie rang her first peal when she was 15, at Warfield, Berks, inside to Grandsire Triples. Other associates in the early peals included Vera Robinson, daughter of the Guild's first Master, F. E. Robinson – the first person to ring 1000 peals; George Gilbert, famous for teaching young boys and later, when so many of them had been killed in the war, young girls. One footnote in her peal book says 'A Henry VIII peal' referring to George Gilbert, the other members of the band being women!

Her brother, Gordon, rang in many of her early peals and conducted some of them. Other notable names included Gilbert Thurlow, Elliot Wigg, Albert Lock, George Hollifield Jun., Tony Price, Alan Pink, J. Armiger Trollope, Nolan Golden, Pat Cannon and, of course, Walter Judge. Martin Turner, his grandson, kindly furnished me with a list of her peals 'with granddad' and these included silent peals of Cambridge Major and Stedman Triples, spliced Minor, in competition with a band in Leicester who were going for the record number of minor methods to a peal, and, of course, the legendary 25 Spliced Surprise Major at Dorchester in 1951, where she rang the treble, though in all previous attempts she had rung inside. She was the first lady to ring a peal in several named towers; she rang in the first peal at Inverary in 1938 and in the funeral peal for Sir Winston Churchill at Bladon.

Although she left records of her early peals, she had no particular wish for self-aggrandisement. She said that ringing a peal was like "playing a hockey match. You did it and then forgot it." It was true that she was always more interested in other people than in what she did herself. In his tribute to her at the last Guild meeting, the Master, John Wells, referred to her "impressive" peal-ringing career, but said that it got "nowhere near describing the remarkable person that she was."

For her funeral, the little church of St James in Radley was full and I don't remember being at a non-family funeral where I must have known three-quarters of the congregation. Ringers from far and wide turned up to pay their respects. The Revd Matthew Stafford gave the funeral oration, giving us great insight into the woman whom we had all come to love and respect. He said that her bark was worse than her bite. True. In her attempts to maintain the highest standards, she never forgot her humanity. Matthew, a former pupil of hers at Radley, must have been a source of inspiration to her when he decided to take Holy Orders and was able to offer her comfort in hospital when they prayed together. Everything that she did was set against her unshakeable faith in God. This is not to say that the funeral was a sombre affair: "we would all have our particular memories of Marie" though he referred to her as "Miss Cross and would never dare to call her anything else." General laughter. All his anecdotes struck a chord with someone in the congregation. She used to take him and all her students to other towers and "if you didn't believe in God when you got into the car with Miss Cross, you certainly believed in Him when you got out." We would all salute that one.

In his tribute to her John Wells said:

"She was certainly one of those special 'larger than life' characters we occasionally have the good fortune to meet. Those who had the privilege to know her will have their own special memories of someone with that rare ability to combine high intellectual ability and a passion for high standards with a manner which encouraged all and demonstrated a care for each individual she met".

This was exemplified in her brother Gordon's testimony to her when reflecting upon the days of austerity in Twyford after the first war, in which the family business had received a hammering, and later during the days of the Depression when Marie was at Reading University. She had completed two years of her course in mathematics and, though "she was brilliant and could have done anything", she chose to give up her university place so that he should have an opportunity. She insisted upon this and wouldn't have it any other way. There were insufficient funds for both of them. Even now he wonders with some regret what she might have achieved had she gone on to complete an honours degree. However, it is difficult to imagine how much more she could have packed into her life!

Peals and quarter peals were rung in her memory, the last being on January 1st this year at Radley by six of her friends. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

Bobbie May & Patricia Newton (with help from many others)

RON CORDELL

Chalfont St Peter ringers had a sad ending to 2001. One of their most enthusiastic ringers, Ron Cordell, died after a long illness. Ron kept ringing through a major operation and two courses of Chemotherapy. He loved "his bells".

He had been ringing for about eight years and was taught by David McKenzie. Ron's wife, Jill, also started ringing at the same time. Ron eventually became our Steeple Keeper and also helped with maintenance at other towers if asked. Fulmer and Iver are two towers that come to mind.

He was keen to learn new methods and how to call touches. He arranged an outing for us and was about to organise another one, jointly with Fulmer, this coming year.

He also helped in the training of two of our new ringers. He had just begun teaching a new young learner, the first attempt on his own and things were going well.

His final 'Project' (which we hope to continue with) was to have our wooden spiral staircase in the tower made safe. It is showing signs of deterioration and we had to shut the top of the tower to visitors. Ron was very keen to get it 'opened to the public' again and had persuaded the 'local' pub to donate a £1,000 to the fund from their Charity Quiz night. We hope to continue this project and get it finished in his memory.

Ron was always ready for a joke and a laugh and he is sorely missed in our tower.

Hilary Jelly (Tower Captain, Chalfont St. Peter)

BILL YATES – An Appreciation

Bill was an active ringer for more than 60 years, a member of the bands at Stowe, Buckingham, Maids Moreton and Wicken. He was Tower Captain at Stowe and Buckingham for a number of years; and Honorary Secretary and Treasurer of the Towcester Branch of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers for 50 years, from 1949 to 1999. Until quite recently Bill travelled round to the towers of the Towcester Branch to help with the training of new recruits, thus ensuring the continuation of ringing into the 21st Century. He also helped at towers in North Buckinghamshire. He helped to train a band at Tingewick and, more recently, revived a band at Stowe. Bill would travel many miles to help out with ringing, rather than think that the bells at a tower would remain silent. There is probably no ringer who has been trained locally in the last 50 years who has not been helped by Bill Yates at some time or other. Bill was also instrumental in advancing peal ringing in the area, taking part in a number of 'firsts' in the method, or for the Guild. He conducted over a third of the peals he rang in, and something like two-thirds of his peals contained a 'first' of some sort, most often a ringer's first peal.

Bill was generally a quiet unassuming man who had great enthusiasm and skill, with the ability to motivate both old and young. He could communicate at all levels and seemed to have a little bit of magic that made people want to support him. He received little formal education, yet was blessed with much commonsense. He was much respected, as was shown one evening in a pub in Buckingham one day after ringing, when an old boy from Stowe School sought him out. This was typical; a gifted, well-educated, polished young gentleman, eager to chat with him, as a result of Bill teaching the boys at Stowe to ring.

He worked on the land all his working life and was a fine hedge layer, achieving high places in county and national competitions. Bill may have had little in financial wealth, but in humanitarian wealth, he was a giant. He was always unselfish in giving, whether it was being the first to buy someone a pint or to support a worthy cause.

Bill didn't like muffled ringing, and so the bells were rung open at his funeral. The church was filled to capacity and the singing was good and strong. He would have enjoyed that. I'm sure the signposts to 'Bill's Funeral Tea' would also have amused him. It wasn't a morbid affair. In fact it was just like a ringers' tea. People you hadn't seen for ages and much reminiscing. You looked round and realised there was one person missing... We may not have been able to see him but I'm sure he didn't miss it.

Richard Stanworth

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

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 following thoughts were written for use on the Diocesan Web Site on Christmas Eve on the invitation of the Diocesan Communications Officer.

The Challenge of Christmas bells

Church bells are very much a feature of British life and it is certainly quite difficult to find somewhere in our diocese which cannot be reached by our bells. Bells are, of course, primarily part of the Church's P.R. system, ringing out to remind us that the church is there and calling us to worship. Traditionally they also reflect the mood of the nation or local communities. Joyful occasions such as the Queen Mother's 100th birthday and next year's Golden Jubilee celebrations are marked by bells as are more sombre ones such as when Princess Diana died and following the recent atrocities in America.

The emphasis at Christmas is rightly on the wonder of God's gift of His Son and the message of 'Peace on earth, goodwill to men'. This is a message proclaimed in our Christian communities in many ways at this time. The carol singers at our door, the children's nativity plays, the numerous cards we send are just a few and of course our bells pealing out bright and early on Christmas morning give the message in a very public way.

During the 19th century, Henry Longfellow wrote the poem '*I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day*'. The first two verses of this poem conjure up the familiar image of Christmas morning with church bells pealing across newly fallen snow.

*I heard the bells on Christmas day
Their old, familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet the words repeat
Of peace on earth, goodwill to men.*

*I thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along the unbroken song
Of peace on earth, goodwill to men.*

White Christmases may be a rarity these days, but the church bells of the Oxford Diocese will be sounding their Christmas message again this year. What, I sometimes wonder, is the message that the hearers receive and what is their reaction to it?

The events of September 11th shocked us all and those, with so many other unwelcome aspects of our modern world, can cause us to despair and identify with the poet when he writes in the third verse of his poem:

*And in despair I bowed my head:
"There is no peace on earth," I said,
"For hate is strong and mocks the song,
Of peace on earth, goodwill to men."*

However, he also recognized that the bells have their reply!

*Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
"God is not dead, nor doth he sleep;
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,
With peace on earth, goodwill to men."*

But there is even more than that reassurance in the bells' message. There is also a challenge

to each of us. If, as they say, and we believe, 'God is not dead, nor doth he sleep' what are we doing about this wondrous fact?

We are God's instruments and He works through us. Do we carry on the bells' message and show through what we say and do that 'God is with us'? That is the challenge in what we hear.

Longfellow's poem concludes with: -

*Till, ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day,
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime,
Of peace on earth, goodwill to men.*

My prayer is that in the coming year and thereafter our lives will continue to broadcast the 'chant sublime' that God is with us today, tomorrow and always, just as he was on that first Christmas morn.

John Wells.

Master, Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers

Shinfield Ringing Centre Course

The first venture for the Ringing Centre at Shinfield took place on Saturday January 19th 2002. This was a *Listening Seminar* run by John Harrison with his Central Council hat on. Two groups of six students, mostly Nina's Monday afternoon group, and two team leaders, Mike Till and Tim Pett, explored several aspects of the listening skills which can help to make you a better ringer.

The hardware was introduced to us by John, and then the groups split up and followed up the introductions with hands-on experience. The tasks involved listening to John Harrison's *!Strike* Program and working out which bells in a row were out of step and quite a lot of discussion was engendered here. This idea was repeated in a slightly different way when people were asked to listen to recordings of real bells with real ringers, from the easy-to-hear to downright impossible. The most popular task of the day was to listen to yourself ringing with the simulator in the tower and put your bell in the right place in rounds. Some students moved on from this, but not far!

The day was broken up with a three-course hot meal, quite welcome since the organizer hadn't quite got the hang of the heating and how to pump it up! Sorry, next time I will sort it out. More time was requested for the use of the simulator, but otherwise the day went well without a hitch. Several people have asked to book sessions to use the simulator for further practice. This is what we are here for: you have only to ask.

Bobbie May

Child Protection

All towers should now have received a copy of the Guild's policy on Child Protection, along with some forms for use (with some adaptation). If you have not received this communication, please contact me.

- Some questions have cropped up more than once, so I would like briefly to summarise the suggested procedure –
 - ❖ Each PCC has been asked to produce a policy, and as part of this to identify those working with young people (ie. under 18) in all areas of church life, which should include the ringers. These adults are then invited to fill in a Declaration Form, which their incumbent (or appointed representative) keeps.
 - ❖ The parent/guardian of each young ringer should fill in a Child Registration Record, which the Tower Captain should keep for ready use at each ringing session. There is a separate form for outings.
 - ❖ The Central Council guidelines on working with young people should be applied.
- If you have young people in your band, and have not been asked to complete a Declaration Form, it may be that your parish has forgotten to include the ringers. If however nothing has been done at all, and your incumbent has no information about such a form, let me know the name of the parish and I can arrange for information to be sent from the Diocese to the incumbent.
- If you have completed a Declaration Form, I need to add your name to the Guild's Register. A letter should be with each Tower Captain shortly explaining how to do this.
- If you don't have access to a computer and need Child Registration Record forms adapting for your tower, please get in touch with me, giving name of church and name of church insurer.
- If you regularly teach youngsters at a second tower, it would be useful to check whether the second church's PCC would like a photocopy of your Declaration Form.
- If you work with youngsters but don't have a home PCC, you should fill in a Declaration Form and send it to me to look after on behalf of the Guild.
- Finally, I have been advised that procedures may have to be revised when the Criminal Records Bureau comes on stream later this year!

Please don't hesitate to contact me at 4 High Street, Drayton St Leonard, Wallingford, Oxon, OX10 7BA (01865 890163) hilarie@Srogers.fsnet.co.uk for any information, forms, copy of Guild Policy, etc. I also have copies of the 'Better Safe Than Sorry' books, which include a Declaration Form, which I can e-mail if required.

Hilarie Rogers

Guild Handbell Day

Easter Saturday –March 30th 2002

10.00 - 17.00

St. Mary & All Saints Primary School, Coley Park, Reading

This year's Handbell Day will be organised along similar lines to last year with opportunities to ring quarter peals and/or practise new methods. If you can already ring Plain Bob Major on handbells, please come and join us.

For further details, please contact:-

June Wells, 15 Lytham End, Tilehurst, Reading, RG31 6FG

Tel. - 0118 9410061

E-mail - wellsej@waitrose.com

Librarian's Report

Firstly, to report on work on the conversion of the library catalogue: I have been trying to decide whether to keep the standard version of the catalogue as an ASCII file or as an MS Excel file. In the end, I decided an Excel file is easier from the maintenance angle. However, if I supply the catalogue for use by others, I will supply it in both formats, just in case anybody's computer system is unable to read Excel files.

The catalogue has been proof-read against the original, but I need to apply the corrections to the converted version. I will then be able to add the new books to the catalogue.

I acquired approximately 30 books from the Guild bookstall in November. I have made out a list of another 20 or so which Central Council publications supply, and will be sending an order for them in the next week or two. There are then books published by other bodies which I will start to order.

A change has taken place in the way in which bound copies of *The Ringing World* are obtained. The Ringing World Ltd used to provide bound copies up until the year 2000. For various reasons, they stopped doing so, and now you have to arrange binding of your own set. I therefore recently took a set of Ringing Worlds for 2001 to C.J.Masters, bookbinders in Reading, for this purpose. Making the order is a fairly complex process, because you have to specify the inscription to go on the spine, and the details of how the copies should be bound. I will be waiting with interest over the next few weeks to find out whether the finished product matches the previous volumes.

Doug Beaumont

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2001
GENERAL FUND

2000			2000		
£	Receipts		£	Payments	£
	Branch Subscriptions			Expenses	
514.50	Banbury	486.50	119.00	Master / Deputy Master	212.70
385.00	Bicester	280.00	37.95	Secretary / Treasurer / Stewards	116.16
784.00	Central Bucks	731.50	71.21	Other Officers	213.49
518.00	Chiltern	490.00	443.94	Stationery and Postage	171.19
350.00	Chipping Norton	364.00	479.88	Printing	486.95
1,228.50	East Berks & South Bucks	1172.50	1,151.98		1,200.49
405.50	Newbury	423.50	2.84	Library	2,703.54
815.50	North Bucks	724.50	3,092.71	Insurance	1,041.40
882.00	Old North Berks	787.50	915.00	Purchase of Guild Reports	1,109.40
449.00	Oxford City	364.00	1,583.00	Printing "Odd Bob"	1,510.20
924.00	Reading	896.00	60.00	Central Council Affiliation Fee	60.00
651.00	Sonning Deanery	623.00	135.00	Ringling World - Donation	140.00
458.50	South Oxon	462.00		Ringling World - Notices Account	
210.00	Vale of the White Horse	196.00	58.50	Hire of halls for meetings	87.50
532.00	Witney & Woodstock	542.50	-304.64	Bank Charges	-158.46
9,107.50		8,543.50	380.17	Share of administrative expenses of Bell Fund	425.35
77.00	Non-Resident Life Subscriptions	125.50	4,508.22	Millennium Project	1,513.00
66.50	Sale of Reports	118.46	6.25	Guild Festival	
90.50	Sale of Badges	61.50	236.45		
15.00	Sale of Guild History	45.00	<u>11,825.48</u>		
760.34	Peal Fees	850.70			
1,684.64	Donations	0.00	236.45	Excess of Income over expenditure	97.74
0.00	Sale of Publicity Material	0.00			
24.00	Striking Competition Fees	-14.50			
11,825.48		<u>9,730.16</u>	11,825.48		<u>9,730.16</u>

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2001

General Fund

	£	£	£
Balance brought forward 1 January 2001	8508.33		
Excess of income over expenses	<u>97.74</u>		
			8606.07

Education Committee

Balance brought forward 1 January 2001		5472.25	
Easthampstead Course Fees	5673.00		
Less expenses	<u>5430.70</u>		
		242.30	
Youth Training Day	0.00		
Less expenses	<u>0.00</u>		
		0.00	
Radley Course Fees	493.00		
Less expenses	<u>468.25</u>		
		24.75	
Other Courses - Fees	0.00		
Less expenses	<u>0.00</u>		
		0.00	
Leaflet Sales	93.00		
Less Printing	<u>0.00</u>		
		93.00	
Balance as at 31 December 2001			5832.30

Guild Book Stall

Accrued surplus at 1 January 2001		384.33	
Stock at cost at 31 December 2000	685.46		
Stock at cost at 31 December 2001	<u>562.96</u>		
		-122.50	
<i>Sale price valuation £724.05</i>			
Sales	1050.28		
less purchases	693.80		
less expenses	<u>2.85</u>		
		353.63	
Accrued surplus as at 31 December 2001			<u>615.46</u>
			<u>15053.83</u>

Represented by

Cash at bank	14490.87		
Cash in hand	0.00		
Stock of books at cost	<u>562.96</u>		
			<u>15053.83</u>

B.J.Gatward CPFA, MBCS
Honorary Treasurer
28 January 2002

Comments on the key points from the 2001 Accounts

Subscriptions and other income – All branches appear to have made payments for all active members. The overall decrease in branch subscriptions reflects a reduction in the number of resident members following the peak of the Millennium. There are significant increases in non-resident life subscriptions, sales of reports, badges and the Guild History and in peal fees.

Expenses – The expenses incurred by 'Officers' have risen. This partly reflects the agreement of more formal arrangements to reimburse travel expenses, together with the increase in the number (6) of Central Council representatives. 'Stationery and Postage' costs have reduced, while 'Printing' costs are almost unchanged.

Library – The significant increase was forecast last year and is due to the purchase costs of shelving and storage units to house the library appropriately. This is part of a regular ongoing programme of expenditure agreed by the General Committee.

Insurance – The reduction in insurance premium results from transferring the group personal accident cover to another insurer. The new policy offers Guild members improved levels of cover at a substantially lower cost. Some increase in future premium level is likely as the Guild's assets, in particular the library, are re-valued.

Guild Reports and 'Odd Bob' – During the year, the costs of printing the Guild Reports and 'Odd Bob' were reviewed. A 20% reduction in the costs for printing 'Odd Bob' is reflected in these accounts.

Ringling World – No invoices for printing Guild notices were issued during the year.

Bank Charges – Despite the further lowering of interest rates during the year, once again the bank charges have been more than offset by the interest earned on the current account, leaving a net credit position.

Millennium Project – The balance of costs for this project for printing the formal record of Guild activities was paid as anticipated.

Education Committee – Although training events are costed to break even, an accrued surplus of £5,472.25 existed at the start of the year. The fee for the Easthampstead Course remained competitive but a reduction in the budgeted course costs resulted in a surplus from this event. Fewer events than customary were organised during the year, but those which took place were well supported and profitable. Sales of leaflets used existing stocks and thus no further printing was necessary during the year. At the end of the year, the accrued surplus had increased to £5,832.30.

Guild Book Stall – This is the fifth year that this item has been shown in the accounts. The maximum stock level of £1,000, set by the General Committee, was exceeded for a short period in order to benefit from attractive purchasing arrangements. Total annual sales rose to £1,050.28 (compared with £552.67 for the previous year). The accrued surplus almost doubled to £615.46 and will be used for the benefit of Guild members.

Summary - The Guild remains financially sound with an operational surplus of £97.74 for the year. At the end of the year the total assets were £15,053.83. The General Fund account has been fully maintained by Terry Wagstaff (Assistant General Treasurer) and our thanks are due to him for this work.

Brian J Gatward – Honorary Treasurer

Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers Restoration Fund

(Registered Charity No. 284053)

Report of the Managing Trustees for the year ending 31 December 2001

Fund Raising

The level of fund raising during the year is lower than for the previous year but has included donations from two tower funds and two PCCs. Both South Oxon and Oxford City Branches have made donations from fund raising activities. Other amounts received included a donation of £25 from the Handbell Day. A new item of income (totalling £2920) is an anonymous monthly donation received from the Charities Aid Foundation representing donations through the G.A.Y.E. scheme. The Managing Trustees are pleased to note this form of financial support to the Fund and commend its greater use.

Grants

Three grants (Chilton - £1,000, Faringdon - £50 and Weston Turville - £325) were paid following the satisfactory completion of projects. With reference to the work on Faringdon bells, the level of support matched that from the Vale of the White Horse Branch and the Managing Trustees wish to emphasise that this support should not be taken as setting a precedent for future applications. On completion of work, members of the Towers and Belfries Committee carry out an inspection, and the Managing Trustees wish to record their thanks for this service.

The provisional grant offers made during 2001 continue to be based on the formula agreed in 1999 (a variable percentage of the approved augmentation costs depending upon the number of bells resulting from the works: for up to 6 bells - 15%, for 6 to 8 bells - 7.5% and for more than 8 bells - 5%). Provisional grant offers were made to Aston Clinton (£500) and to Milton (£815). Both these schemes are scheduled for completion and payment in 2002.

Investments

Investment income during the year increased to £263.07, as the consequence of the transfer of funds from the bank to the Central Board of Finance Deposit Fund. The Trustees will continue to follow an investment policy to maximise income whilst maintaining funds that are readily available to pay grants as they become due. The value of the undated stock remained less than the face value. However, when the overall reduction in interest rates is taken into account, these stocks have provided a more attractive return than for many years.

Future Grants

There are no outstanding applications at the end of the year. Grant application forms are available from the Honorary Treasurer and should be returned to him when completed. The Trustees wish to emphasise the importance of significant levels of future fund raising to allow them to continue to meet the targets for grants that were set in 1999.

Managing Trustees: William Butler, Barry Cowper, Derek Fowles, Brian J Gatward.

RESTORATION FUND - Registered Charity No. 284053
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2001

2000 £			2001 £
	Balance Brought Forward 1 January 2001		
5928.95	Investments	6276.39	
<u>568.45</u>	Loan - Reserve Fund	<u>568.45</u>	
6497.40			6844.84
10.00	P.C.C. Donations	35.00	
70.00	Donations	54.20	
55.00	Tower Donations	90.00	
200.00	Estate of W Ivings (dec'd)		
83.10	Oxford City Branch Donations	56.00	
96.16	South Oxon Branch Donations	20.25	
144.78	Witney Concert - share of proceeds		
<u>73.64</u>	Guild AGM Service Collection		
732.68			255.45
	Interest on Investments		
7.16	£205.00 3.5% War Loan	7.16	
22.58	£564.97 4% Consols	22.58	
1.56	T.S.B. Savings Account	0.28	
<u>208.46</u>	Central Board of Finance Deposit	<u>233.05</u>	
239.76		263.07	
7469.84			7363.36
	Grants		
150.00	Cuddington		
475.00	Buscot		
	Chilton	1000.00	
	Faringdon	50.00	
	Weston Turville	325.00	
		<u>1375.00</u>	
<u>6844.84</u>	Balance Carried Forward 31 December 2001		<u>5988.36</u>
6276.39	Investments		5419.91
<u>568.45</u>	Loan - Reserve Fund		<u>568.45</u>
6844.84			5988.36
	Represented by:	Market Value	
205.58	£205.00 3.5% War Loan	£142.74	205.58
500.73	£564.97 4% Consols	£432.31	500.73
299.31	£350.00 Treasury Stock		299.31
2429.54	Lloyds T.S.B. Savings Account		315.01
<u>3409.68</u>	Central Board of Finance Deposit		<u>4667.73</u>
6844.84			5988.36

B J Gatward CPFA, MBCS
Honorary Treasurer
18 January 2002

Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund

(Registered Charity No. 268390)

Report of the Managing Trustees for the year ending 31st December 2001

Grants

Five grants totalling £9,900 have been paid during the year to: Brightwell Baldwin £2,900, Brightwalton £750, Chilton £4,750, Farnham Royal £1300 and Weston Turville £200. The grant to Weston Turville was reduced from the original allocation by the return of part of the payment. During the year grants were provisionally allocated as follows: Englefield £5,475 and Rousham £2,600.

In accordance with the Trustees' continuing policy of requiring an independent assessment of satisfactory completion of the work before payment of a grant, an inspection is carried out on the Fund's behalf by members of the Towers and Belfries Committee. The Managing Trustees wish to record their gratitude for this service.

The Managing Trustees have maintained grant allocations of 15% of the estimated costs of eligible work. If the final cost is materially different from the indicated cost at the time of application, the grant is reviewed and may be revised. The level of grant allocated depends on the number of applications and the income available for distribution and may vary from year to year.

Future Grants

Two further applications for grants were received during the year. Because of the uncertainty in the financial world at the time of the Managing Trustees' meeting in mid-September, consideration of these grants was deferred until the next meeting in February 2002. Four other enquiries have been received which may result in grants.

Fund Raising

New money raised in 2001 amounted to £8212. This included a legacy of £500 from the late George Edmans. Regular fund raising included £1451 from the Guild Draw, £4084 from Branch donations and £748 from the Ringing Day. Gift Aid donations, which have replaced the previous covenant scheme, amounted to £257. The low uptake of this type of scheme, whereby a 28% increase in donation can be realised from Inland Revenue refund, remains a disappointment to the Trustees.

The Managing Trustees again wish to express their thanks to: the organisers of the Guild Draw, June Saint and Stephen Rossiter; to all those who helped to arrange the Ringing Day; and to all those who have contributed to the continued success of the Fund.

Investments

Investment income for the year was £15,193 (2000: £16,208). This reduction again reflects the overall financial situation of falling interest rates. The total capital subscribed to the fund at the end of the year was £204,617. The investment transactions are made on behalf of the Fund by the Diocesan authorities and, with the appointment of professional Diocesan Financial Advisors, the Trustees will be seeking their advice to maximise the potential of the investments.

Other Business

Two new Managing Trustees, Barry Cowper and Jim Diserens, were elected during the year, replacing Geoff Holden and Bernard Stone. Both Geoff and Bernard had been Managing Trustees for a number of years and their experience will be missed.

In November, the Governors of the fund resolved to hold an extraordinary meeting to review the management of the Fund. This meeting is to take place in January 2002.

The Managing Trustees held further discussions on fundraising. These discussions led to a proposal to the Guild General Committee to consider the possibility of part of members' annual subscriptions to the Guild being allocated to the Bell Fund and Restoration Fund. A decision on this is expected during 2002.

Ken Davenport

Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2001

Reserve Fund

2000		2001
	Balance brought forward 1 January 2000	
£568.45	Loan – Bell Restoration Fund	
	Balance carried forward 31 December 2001	£568.45
<u>£568.45</u>		<u>£568.45</u>

Steeple Aston Course

The Guild has for a number of years run a one-day course based at Radley. This year, in addition to the Radley course, a one-day course is being held based at Steeple Aston. The format of the course will be broadly the same as the Radley course with morning theory sessions followed by practical ringing, with an evening meal and evening options sessions.

The course will cater for Plain Hunt up to Plain Bob Major.

The date of the Steeple Aston course will be Saturday, 2 November 2002. The course will start at around 9.30am and finish at approximately 8.30pm.

The course organisers are Graham Clifton and Simon Cole.

Further details will be available at the Guild Annual General Meeting in May, together with details of how to apply for a place.

Simon Cole

News from the Branches

Banbury Branch

In November Rousham bells were re-hung after retuning and now sound much sweeter. Building continues on Banbury Church but ringing has resumed on Wednesday evenings.

A new venture for the Banbury Branch took place in early January, a quiz evening. This was held in Church House, Bodicote; the quiz-master for the evening was local Doctor of Campanology Ian Rodrick. About 90 people packed the room and, after a very close contest, the result was a tie between Great Tew and Steeple Aston. After another round of questions Great Tew won by one question. The proceeds of the evening were donated to Rousham bells appeal and Bodicote church. Part of the success of the evening was the wonderful refreshments arranged by the Branch social committee and Rousham ringers.

A Saturday morning Bob Doubles course was held at Tadmerton and was fully subscribed. Another training day is planned in March for Grandsire Doubles and Stedman Triples.

Steeple Aston handbell ringers again were busy ringing up to Christmas around the village. This year £780 was raised for their church restoration appeal.

Surprise Major practices are now held once a month as well as the general Branch practice each month.

Great Tew have just acquired two new peal boards for their tower, one in memory of Harold Pratt (former tower member) and the other for a peal to mark the 100th birthday of ringer Roger Stranks' father.

The next event in the Branch will be the annual dinner.

Graham Clifton

Bicester Branch

Due to an error on my part, which meant that there was no Bicester Branch Report for the last *Odd Bob*, there is a double helping for the March edition.

The Branch hosted the Guild Festival on 14th July 2001. The weather was kind to us with bright sunshine for most of the day. Ringing in the afternoon was followed by an excellent service led by Revd Mike Stokes. A splendid buffet was laid on in the village hall. The day was rounded off with a most enjoyable Celidh. Many thanks for all those who helped in the organisation – especially Mike and Eleanor Shakespeare who did the majority of the work. In recognition of the work that they both put into the Festival, a framed print was presented to them at the Branch half-yearly meeting on 4th October 2001.

A half-day outing was enjoyed on Saturday 20th October 2001 with ringing at Leigh End (Wheatley), Great Haseley, Little Milton, Chalgrove and Brightwell Baldwin, followed by a meal at The Leather Bottle at Lewknor. Many thanks to the towers concerned and the church authorities for allowing us to use the bells.

The 8-bell frame at Bicester was repainted over the fortnight commencing 28th October 2001. The bells were back in action for Remembrance Sunday. Many thanks to Steve Walker and Anthony Cole for undertaking the bulk of the work. Also thanks to Simon Cole, Sarah Cole, Mike Shakespeare and Jeremy Adams for their assistance. Whilst the work was being undertaken, the Bicester ringers joined the ringers at Aylesbury for practice on 30th October 2001. Many thanks to the Aylesbury ringers for accommodating us.

The Branch Christmas dinner was held at the Oxford Arms, Kirtlington on 7th December. It was a very enjoyable evening and we extend grateful thanks to Eleanor Shakespeare for making the arrangements.

Branch Practices for January and February were held at Islip and Charlton-on-Otmoor respectively. The Branch holds its AGM on 23rd February 2002 at Launton.

The Branch is hosting the Guild Ringing Day and 8-bell Striking Competition on 6th May 2002 and looks forward to welcoming ringers from the other branches of the Guild and from outside of the Guild.

Simon Cole

Central Bucks Branch

Branch practices have been held at Winslow, Bierton and Thame. All were fairly well attended and we even managed a course of Cambridge Minor at Winslow. The practice at Bierton in December was followed by a Christmas social at a local pub for dinner. The event was a great success and a good time was had by all. Terry Wagstaff was delighted with the cuddly Santa he won in the raffle.

Two very good training sessions have been run by our training officer Phil Dunn – one for Stedman Doubles and one From Bob Calling to Conducting. Both were very useful and the participants learnt a lot. We look forward to more of the same later in the year.

The Branch AGM was held at Linslade on 9th February. It was preceded by a very good service conducted by the curate, Wynn Jones. All Branch officers remain in their posts and we thank them all for their hard work in the last 12 months. In addition Mrs Greeba Cochrane from Soulbury was elected as our third Branch Representative.

Ann Pedley

Chiltern Branch

The year 2001 ended with the usual 100 Club draw at Aston Clinton, followed by the busy round of Christmas and New Year ringing.

The New Year bounced off to a good start with a very well attended meeting at Monks Risborough and the launch of our new Branch newsletter.

'Quarter Turn' was conceived, produced and launched by Alan Bentley of Aston Clinton in response to popular demand within the Branch. It is beautifully produced in A5 size and the first edition is packed with news, articles, Branch programme, exhortations, etc. We hope it will go a long way to help our ringers feel more 'at home' as members of the Branch.

At our last training morning at Bledlow, only one of the four students turned up. Never mind, we thought; she had the benefit of solid one-to-one tuition and the rest of us took the opportunity to stretch ourselves a bit, too. With a stab or two at Yorkshire, *et al*, it occurred to us that our training mornings could be as much value to the helpers as to the 'official' students. What a bright idea! How original! Why did we not think of it before?

Thanks to Colin Walter the Branch has started a series of Branch Quarters, chiefly for the benefit of those who have limited opportunities within their own environments. Three were held in December. The first, by way of a warm-up, was Plain Bob Minor at Little Missenden with quite a skilled band drawn from three towers.

Our second attempt, Cambridge Minor, will *not* go into the Branch annals as one of our most glorious victories. We had three goes at it but we all got into a muddle; only the treble ringer (who did wonder about that 'bob' being called during a 3-4 down) kept to the track. Shortly after, six ringers were to be seen sneaking away, *incognito*, from St. Dunstan's, Monks Risborough. (What's this '5th's place bell', anyway?)

Never mind! Redemption was at hand with the third at Stoke Mandeville. This was Grandsire Doubles and it was the first quarter for Rebecca Asling (Stoke Mandeville) and the first as conductor for Jeanette Lord (Aston Clinton). Congratulations to them both!

Finally, Ellesborough are gearing themselves up for a thorough restoration – a big task for a very small parish.

Mike Davis

Chipping Norton Branch

On the 30th November some members of the branch rang a quarter peal of Grandsire Triples at Hook Norton in Thanksgiving for the life of Marie Cross, who had visited the branch on numerous occasions over the years. She will be missed throughout the Guild.

In November Martin Kirk and his wife moved to North Yorkshire. Martin will be missed in the branch, but let's hope that he will be seen in the area now and again! I will take this opportunity of wishing them both a long and happy retirement.

We have also said goodbye to our Branch Secretary, Barry Andrews, and his wife Marian. Marian has taken up a headship post at a Primary school near Nantwich. Good luck to them both and no doubt they will be seen in towers near their new home. Thanks must go to Barry for the work that he has done in the branch during the time that he was Secretary. It is a lot easier having things on disc as well as paper!

Unfortunately the quarter at Burford on 20th December, for Christmas, came to grief, but the shoppers in Burford were reminded that the bells are there and should be heard.

Spelsbury has gained three young recruits and all are doing well; let's hope that they carry on, as I know only too well how other pastimes (school work included!) can take precedence!

Congratulations must go to Oscar Hemmings of Hook Norton who rang his 65th New Year in this time. Well-done Oscar! [see page 39 – Ed.]

The first branch practice of the year was held at Chadlington, in the morning as had been requested, but it did not seem to attract a lot more people, or different ones. Feelings were mixed about having another practice in the morning; the practices for the rest of the year have been arranged for the evening of the first Saturday in the month.

Plans are going ahead for ringing for the Queen's Jubilee; a peal is planned for 9th February at Hook Norton. I know that it is intended that Spelsbury and Chadlington bells should be rung on the evening of 6th February. It is hoped that we can ring in all ringable towers in the branch between February and June.

Towers are being booked for the branch outing on 20th April, to the Andover area. Let us hope that the weather is kind to us and that we have a good turn out of branch members and friends. All are welcome to join us.

Claire Tarrant (acting Branch Secretary)

East Berks and South Bucks Branch

These are the main events that have taken place in our branch over the last few weeks:

- A social evening in the form of a bell drive was organized by the High Wycombe ringers. If you are wondering what that could possibly be, just think of a beetle drive and substitute spokes for legs, headstock for head and so on! It turned out to be great fun and the aggressive competitiveness displayed went way beyond anything we manage to conjure in our ringing competitions!
- To shake off those post-Christmas blues our Ringing Master, Angela Darvill, organized an outing in the St Albans area, with ringing at three ten-bell towers.
- The High Wycombe local band rang a peal of Plain Bob Triples to mark the 250th anniversary to the day of the first peal on the bells. *[see page 29 – Ed.]*
- Branch practices have been continuing on a twice-monthly basis, including the opportunity to try out the recently refurbished bells at Farnham Royal in January.

Katharine Firman

Newbury Branch

The Branch is delighted to welcome Geoff Dodd back to Newbury, where he is now resident. He has started attending Newbury practices regularly. He attended the first Branch meeting in 1945 at Chieveley, where the long draught of the treble defeated him, but he was eager to try and had then to walk home through five miles of snow to Highclere. In 1951 he conducted the first Newbury Branch Band peal of Kent Treble Bob Royal – the first Newbury peal of Royal and the first 10-bell peal. Many further Branch peals followed and, 55 years on, he is still active as ever in the exercise.

We hope to set up special 'one-off' practices in specific methods and skills. The first, on Raising and Lowering, was run at Kintbury on 2nd February and gave everyone there a good opportunity to practise. We are very grateful to the Guild for their assistance with this.

Graham Brown, our new treasurer, has been doing a gallant job collecting subscriptions – obviously he has telepathic powers since East Garston paid without even being asked! More generally, the Branch receives good support from its members, so much so that in March we should have a coachful of people enjoying a day's ringing in Bath. This will be the first

outing for quite a while when we have been able to fill a coach and shows the level of friendship and enthusiasm now seen within the Branch.

Rosemary Maslen

North Bucks Branch

Recent branch practices have been reasonably well attended with the special methods proving popular. We joined the Luton District for a joint surprise practice at Woburn in November. We could have done with a few more attending but it proved worthwhile for those who did. A touch of eight spliced was rung but attempts at methods beyond this proved a problem as we found four ringers who could ring Belfast and five who could ring Glasgow. Next time we will need to agree beforehand what method to ring.

Some late changes had to be made to the arrangements for meetings, as work on the bells at Newport Pagnell was not finished in time for the December meeting. This was switched to Downs Barn and the AGM will be at Newport in March.

Helen Stanworth

Old North Berks Branch

Regarding our Branch Millennium Project, while progress has been made there is still a long way to go. We currently have raised over £1,300 towards the £4,000 needed to buy a bell for Milton. Brian White is due to start dismantling the old bells on March 4th 2002 and we hope the bells will be ringable by the early summer.

A fund-raising Quiz Night with Supper was held at Blewbury on 17th November. This was very well attended by ringers and Blewbury villagers. The Blewbury ringers provided a truly delicious supper.

Our Branch Practices each month have been well attended, apart from the usual drop in numbers due to bad weather, holidays, etc. We have restarted Surprise Practices, and these are held at a different eight-bell tower every two months. Our Ringing Master also held several Learners' Practices on various Saturdays throughout last year - and these were very well attended. The practices this year have taken on a slightly different format, with there being a theory session as well as ringing. The first practice of the year was very well attended, and a lot achieved.

Sadly 2001 ended on a sad note with the passing of Marie Cross MBE - one of the Branch and Guild's most distinguished members. There have been many tributes to this remarkable lady, and we were truly privileged that she was one of our members.

Over the Christmas period we were saddened to hear of the sudden and untimely death of David Woodward, a ringer at Appleton for many years. David was only 62, and was ringing the night before he died. Our Branch will sadly miss him.

The year 2002 started with our traditional ringing at a tower within the Branch on 1st January. This year Milton was our host. Many members came along to ring, and some even enjoyed a ride on the steam engine which Michael Cannon kindly brought along. After ringing we held an Extraordinary Meeting to elect a new Branch Representative as Peter Butler had to retire from his post due to work commitments abroad. Nicola Turner was

elected to serve until our next AGM. After the Meeting we retired to the home of Dawn Smith, where delicious home-made soup, sandwiches and cakes were provided - all proceeds going to the Branch Millennium Project. It was a very pleasant (and profitable) way to start our New Year.

Shirley Haines

Oxford City Branch

In recent weeks the City Branch has mourned the passing of two ringers. David Woodward died suddenly shortly before Christmas. He was not currently a member of the branch but had rung for many, many years at his local tower, St. Nicholas, Marston, and at other towers within the city. David became a member at St. Nicholas in the early 1950's and rang his first quarter peal in 1954. His full obituary appeared in *The Ringing World* (2002, p.176); members of the City Branch will remember him with great affection and respect.

In January Laurence Busby of Iffley died; he was in his late eighties. Laurie was made a member in 1932; he learnt to ring at Tackley and continued his ringing at Bladon. He was instrumental in bringing method ringing to St. Mary the Virgin, Iffley, where his name appears on many of the boards in the ringing room.

Marston ringers continue to turn out quarter peals; a total of 46 were rung in the tower in 2001. There have been several 'firsts' in the branch - Anthony Hughes conducted his first quarter, three methods, in December and Sue Reynolds rang the treble to her first quarter in November. Both Christine Taylor and Paul Morley conducted their first quarter peals at Cowley in November and December respectively.

Christmas ringing at Kidlington was again very well supported; all eight bells rang for 10 festive occasions over Christmas and the New Year. There are three new recruits who should increase the strength of the band for the future. The Reverend Anthony Ellis, St. Mary Kidlington's vicar, arranged a successful clerical peal late in the year with seven of his clergy colleagues. A quarter was rung at St. Aldate in January, by the Sunday Service Band, as a farewell compliment to the Reverend David MacInnes after fifteen years as vicar of St. Aldate's.

The bells were rung half-muffled at our Branch Practice at St Mary's Kidlington on Saturday 9th February in respect for HRH the Princess Margaret who died earlier in the day.

Katie Lane

Reading Branch

Things have been relatively quiet in the Branch over this winter period.

The Novice Striking Competition that we have held in November for the last three years was abandoned when it attracted only one entry. It was disappointing to have to cancel this event for novice ringers. This only reflects the fact that the Millennium learners are beginning to enter the main 6-bell striking competition. Most towers now have only one or two real 'beginners'. As yet the Branch has not been able to devise an alternative competition to encourage the development of good striking amongst this group.

Our annual Carol Service was again well attended. Purley were our hosts this year. It was a most enjoyable evening for ringers and their friends and families.

The 1st and 3rd Monday afternoon practices continue to be extremely well supported. A number of ringers who never venture out on dark winter evenings to ring, especially the non-drivers in scattered villages, happily come along. They, in their turn, persuade other ringers to join them.

I still have no definite news about the future of the bells at Ufton Nervet (4). I am assured that the intention is still to have them made available for ringing.

Vivien Bloundele

Sonning Deanery

The very sad news is that Dr Andrew Hodgson died on 18th January. A former Master of the Zimbabwe Guild, he was well known in the branch for his enthusiasm and dedication to all matters pertaining to ringing. He was responsible for encouraging many people to take up ringing and spent much time teaching them. As the Branch Chairman, Sue Davenport, said: "He will be remembered for his tireless work which resulted in the re-hanging of Barkham bells and the recruiting and training of a band of ringers for that tower". He will be greatly missed at Arborfield and Barkham where he rang regularly for many years.

At All Saints, Wokingham, Julie Goodchild was elected as tower secretary and her husband Jonathan as treasurer. Early in February the annual dinner was held at the Wheelwright Arms in Hurst where good food and company was enjoyed by all.

Plans are going ahead for the re-hanging of the bells at St James, Finchampstead. There is a scheme in place and funds are being sought. Applications for grants are being prepared.

At Sonning, the bell frame was repainted by Tony Evans of Twyford. (He also did the frames at Hurst and Arborfield.) Safety inspectors decreed that no one was to climb up to wind the church clock as they considered that access via a ladder and a hinged platform was dangerous and that if an accident happened the church would be liable.

Waltham St. Lawrence ringers enjoyed an outing to Syston, just north of Leicester, to ring in several towers in the area and to visit the previous vicar from the parish who is now in the Leicester area. The tower lost five members last year due to people moving on but three beginners have been enlisted who are now up to the standard required for Sunday service ringing. This has been achieved with the regular help of Mike Dane and Rob Needham, as well as Brian Wetherall (before he moved) and David and Carol Court.

Jill Betts

South Oxfordshire Branch

Branch Practices have taken place at Brightwell Baldwin in November, where we enjoyed the newly refurbished bells; Benson in December, with seasonal refreshments; and Thame in January, where a number of new members were elected. Great Milton ringers were glad to welcome back their bells in November after an absence of four months.

Members of the Branch rang quarters at Chinnor, Brightwell Baldwin, Berrick Salome and Dorchester in thanksgiving for the life of Marie Cross, who was a great help and encouragement to many of our towers.

Chalgrove band rang an all-local quarter for Remembrance Day, the first such for many years.

Finally, congratulations to Raymond Fergusson of Little Milton who rang his first quarter on 31st December – it was also first on treble for Ken Dyer, and first since suffering damage to her balance in 1994 for Hilarie Rogers.

Hilarie Rogers

Witney and Woodstock Branch

Our monthly 8-bell practices, at each of our 8-bell towers, have been mostly well-attended and very helpful, especially for our Grandsire Triples novices, while at Bladon, on a rainy, windy Saturday morning in January, a group of intrepid learners and their noble helpers turned up for a Stedman tutorial. This proved to be useful and enjoyable; I hope Sir Winston and his relations, lying only a few feet away in the windswept graveyard, were suitably impressed. Thanks to Richard White and the excellent helpers.

Stonesfield ringers had a busy time over Christmas and New Year, ringing for six services in the village church. At the village "Carols by Candlelight" service, Demelza Smale, aged 9, rang her first quarter peal, ringing the Treble to Plain Bob Doubles, with proud Mum Lorna conducting. Congratulations Demelza!

In January one of the Branch's most talented young ringers, Oliver Chaloner, departed for Nepal where he will be teaching English for five months. A quarter peal of St. Clements Bob Minor was rung at Church Hanborough to wish him a safe journey and happy time in Nepal.

Rachael Sherlaw-Johnson

A peal of Plain Bob Trebles rung at High Wycombe on 28 December 1751 was the first peal in the county. The 250th anniversary was marked with a peal of Plain Bob Triples on 28 December 2001. The local band (from L to R) comprised Meryl Kennedy (1), Pat Newton (3C), Robert Newton 4, Sheila Bruce 2, John Hearn 6, Charles Botting 5, Peter Bruce 7, George Whiteside 8.



Pull or Push in Training

Something that people in business agonise over from time to time is the difference between 'supplier led' and 'demand led' activity. In case you have not come across this jargon before, let me explain. Demand led means that companies provide goods and services in response to what the customers need. If they are smart, they can predict this and get things into the shops beforehand, for example seasonal goods. This might seem such an obvious way of doing things as not to be worth giving a name to it, but much of modern commerce is in fact supplier led. The companies that produce goods decide what they want to sell and then set about persuading the rest of us to buy it. You can probably think of many examples.

What does this have to do with ringing? The thoughts came to me during a recent meeting of the Guild's Education Sub-Committee. We were discussing the desirability for training, and courses in particular, to be organised at branch level. The benefits of doing so are obvious. The branches better understand the needs of people in their local towers, people don't have to travel so far, and it does not depend on a single central body to organise things. With the ability to call on a central pool of Guild know-how as well, it is a very attractive way of doing things, as some branches have already discovered.

My mind went beyond that, to speculate on a different way training might be organised in the future. Currently, the people who decide what courses ought to be organised, and then organise them are 'providers', whether at guild or branch level, but can we envisage a situation where the consumers rather than the providers decide what courses to run and then organise them themselves? My own branch has taken half a step in that direction, by inviting individuals to list what they want and then arranging courses around the availability of the names requesting each topic. That has worked well, but the organisation is still central. How might it work to take the next step?

A group of people would decide that they need some extra training - something they cannot provide for themselves in their normal practices. Perhaps one or two of them had the idea and advertised it locally to find anyone with similar needs. Having decided what they need, they contact a training provider. This might be the ringing master, the guild education committee or someone they know has run courses. They say what they want and ask for (a) some advice on the practical aspects of organising it and (b) a suitable tutor(s). They contact the tutor, agree a date and place and set about the practical organisation, obtaining towers, helpers, refreshments, and any training aids required, in accordance with the guidance given them.

Is this vision too far fetched? We would need to change the way we think about training, and develop a culture where ringers expect to take responsibility for developing their own skills, and expect the ringing community to provide support to help them do so. We are seeing some of that already, as more people take the initiative to apply for the big public courses. Getting people to take the initiative might be easier than it would have been a few decades ago. Many people now enter ringing at the height of their professional careers, when they already have the life skills they need to make things happen. We would need to help them by making it easier to understand what can be done and how.

Providing the support ought not to be too difficult either. We would build on the latent capability that already exists, but we would need more explicit guidance on reasonable goals, lists of available tutors, self help material and so on.

John Harrison

Points from Peals

There have been some notable personal achievements over the past few months. Alan Ainsworth rang his 1000th peal for the Guild on 17th October 2001 at Chilcompton. On the same tour, Tim Pett rang his 2000th peal at Braunton, Devon, and Diana Bridle rang her 700th peal at Great Torrington, Devon. Also in October, Malcolm Hooton celebrated the 50th anniversary of his first peal by returning to the same tower, Cheddington, and repeating the performance, ringing the same bell and methods. The peal at Sunningwell on 8th November was significant in a different sense in that Colin Turner had rung 1000 peals with each member of the band.

On 28th December 2001 a peal of Plain Bob Triples was rung on the back eight at High Wycombe by a local band to commemorate the 250th Anniversary of the first peal there. The first peal was also the first peal in Buckinghamshire. Furthermore, this peal marked the centenary of the first peal by a local band, which, of course, was rung to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the first peal on the bells!

The last few months have also seen several ringers reach significant round numbers in terms of age. Jim Diserens conducted a peal at St. Mary, Reading on 23rd December to celebrate his 70th birthday. A 60th birthday compliment to John Manley was rung at Chelmsford Cathedral on 3rd November; the peal contained a new method named after John, Manley Alliance Maximus! Similarly the peal at Warborough on 27th October was rung as a compliment to Peter Butler for his 50th birthday.

Other noteworthy peals to celebrate happy and joyous occasions include a peal at Great Tew on 25th September 2001, which marked the birth of Robert Douglas Kidd, second grandson to Janet and David Livingston. The peal at Reading, St Mary Virgin on 9th December 2001 was rung as a belated wedding compliment to Chris and Sarah Barrett. Also congratulations to Gwenda Smith, ringer at Kintbury, and Peter Charman on their engagement. A peal was rung at Hungerford on 15th November whilst the ringers at Kintbury were celebrating this occasion.

The Guild has suffered from a number of losses of members over the past few months. Marie Cross MBE passed away at the age of 92 on 18th November 2001. She had been a much-loved member of the Guild since 1922 and a number of peals were specially arranged and rung as a tribute to her memory. These included a peal at Radley, where she had spent most of her life, rung by six of her close friends, and peals were also rung to her memory at Longcot, East Ilsley, Great Barrington, Hughenden, Witney and Headington.

Peals were also rung as a thanksgiving for the life of David C Woodward of Marston, Oxford, who died on 22nd December 2001. David was also a well-known figure and will be sadly missed. Other memoriam peals included ringing at Thatcham and Bucklebury in memory of Gillian Herter Lewingdon who learnt to ring at Thatcham and died on 17th December 2001. A peal was rung at Midgham on 27th December 2001 as a tribute to Ken Till, father of Michael Till, who died on Boxing Day.

Highclere lost two members of their Sunday Service band, Trevor Harding and Ian Grayburn, and a peal rung on 20th December 2001 was dedicated to their memory. Also at Highclere a peal was specially arranged and rung in memory of Lord Carnarvon, Seventh Earl, who died on 11th September, a good friend of the Highclere band of ringers.

Claire Edwards, Peal Secretary

Guild Directory and Information

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

- (a) the encouragement of the attendance of its members both at service ringing and at public worship;
- (b) the recognition of the position of ringers as Church workers;
- (c) the recruitment and training of new ringers, so that there may be regular service ringing in all the towers within the Diocese where the bells are ringable;
- (d) the promotion of interest in the care of all the bells within the Diocese; and
- (e) the promotion of the art of change ringing.

In order to help carry out these objects the Guild provides a variety of services as follows:

Education

In addition to the Easthampstead ringing course held in September, ringing courses will be arranged both at branch and tower level. These can be one-day courses or a series of evening sessions. Help or advice is also offered on recruitment or teaching bell handling. Contact Mr Mike C J Davis (*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, Oxon 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, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 4LH (01296 641755)
Librarian	Mr Douglas J Beaumont	184 Kidmore Road, Caversham, Reading, Berks RG4 7ND (0118 946 1714)
Report Editor	Mrs Heather Browning	38 Carolina Place, Finchampstead, Wokingham, Berks RG40 4PQ (0118 932 8321)
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)
Website Manager	Dr Timothy G Pett	20 St Amand Drive, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 5RQ (01235 526033)
Guild web site		http://www.parishes.oxford.anglican.org/odg/
Children's Officer	Mrs Hilarie Rogers	4 High Street, Drayton St Leonard, Wallingford, Oxon OX10 7BA (01865 890163)
Guild Stewards	Mrs Sally Austin (Banbury, Chipping Norton, Witney & Woodstock)	16 Austins Way, Hook Norton, Oxon OX15 5LQ
	Mr N Jim Diserens (Old North Berks, Reading, South Oxon)	10 Queens Avenue, Wallingford, Oxon OX10 0NB (01491 824504)
	Mr Mark Walker (Bicester, Newbury, Oxford City)	29 Villeboys Close, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 3XR (01235 536159)
	Mr David M Joyce (North Bucks, Central Bucks, Chiltern)	4 Woad Lane, Great Linford Village, Milton Keynes, Bucks MK14 5HE (01908 667025)
	Mr Colin Fowles (EBSB, Sonning, V of the WH)	127 Meadfield Road, Langley, Slough, Berks 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 OX49 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	35p per person per peal (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	Mrs Claire Tarrant - <i>Acting Secretary</i>	6 Marlborough Place, Charlbury, Oxon OX7 3HB (1608 811290)
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 Jill Betts	Silbury, Avebury Square, Reading, Berks RG1 5JH (0118 926 8551)
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	<i>Vacant</i>	
Secretary	Mr Mike C J Davis	1 Rookwood Way, Great Missenden, Bucks HP16 0DF (01494 891312)
Members	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) | | |
| 12. Surprise Minor: Cambridge to London, Part 2 (Building on Cambridge) and Part 3 (London) | | |
| - Parts 2 & 3 form a single leaflet | | |
| 13. Plain, Little and Double Bob Minor and Plain Bob Major | | |

Price: 50p per copy (plus postage and packaging) from Mrs Patricia M Newton, The White House, Plowden Park, Aston Rowant, Watlington, Oxon OX49 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 <i>Guild Master</i>)
*	Mr Nigel G P Harrison	(see <i>Guild Secretary</i>)
*	Mr Brian J Gatward	(see <i>General Treasurer</i>)
	* denotes <i>ex-officio</i> member.	

Diary of Events for 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

MARCH

Sat 9	Guild		General Committee Meeting - O.N.Berks Branch	
Sat 9	Central Bucks	BP	Aylesbury	6.30 - 8.30
Sat 9	EBSB	SP	Lane End	7.00 - 9.00
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
Sat 16	Chiltern	BP	Mentmore	7.00 - 9.00
Sat 16	Old North Berks	AG	East Hagbourne (with 6-bell SC)	tba
Mon 18	Banbury	BP	Deddington	7.30
Sat 23	EBSB	BP	Slough	7.00 - 9.00
Sat 23	Newbury		Branch outing to Bath	
Sat 23	South Oxon	SC	Little Milton	7.00 - 9.00

APRIL

Wed 3	Chiltern	AP	Great Missenden	8.00
Fri 5	Bicester	BP	Ludgershall	
Fri 5	Newbury	BP	Shaw	
Fri 5	North Bucks	SC	Lavendon (beginners SC)	7.30
Sat 6	Bicester		Branch outing (Warwickshire)	
Mon 8	Old North Berks	BP	Little Wittenham	7.30 - 9.00
Sat 13	Guild		Radley Course	
Sat 13	Central Bucks	BP	East Claydon	6.30 - 8.30
Sat 13	EBSB	SP	West Wycombe*	7.00 - 9.00
Sat 13	Oxford City	BP	St Helen, Abingdon	7.00 - 8.30
Sat 13	Reading	BP	Bradfield	7.00 - 9.00
Sat 13	Witney & Woodst.	BP	Woodstock	7.30
Fri 19	North Bucks	BP	Tyringham*	7.30
Sat 20	Banbury	AG	Duns Tew	

Sat	20	Chiltern	AG	Aston Clinton	
Sat	20	Oxford City	SM	Headington	2.00
Sat	27	EBSB	AG	Burnham	
Sat	27	South Oxon	AG	Drayton St Leonard/Benson	2.30
MAY					
Fri	3	Newbury	BP	Beenham	
Mon	6	Guild	SC	Eight-bell Striking Competition - Bicester Branch	
Mon	6	Guild		Annual Ringing Day - Bicester Branch	
Tues	7	Chiltern	AP	Stoke Mandeville	7.30
Wed	8	Old North Berks	BP	Cholsey	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	11	Central Bucks	BP	Steeple Claydon	6.30 - 8.30
Sat	11	EBSB	SP	Dorney	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	11	Oxford City	HY	Iffley	
Sat	11	Reading	BP	Checkendon	7.00 - 9.00
Mon	13	Bicester	BP	Bicester	
Thur	16	Banbury	BP	Adderbury	7.30
Fri	17	Bicester	SC	tba	
Fri	17	North Bucks	AP	Northampton?* (ten-bell practice)	7.30
Sat	18	Guild	AG	Annual General Meeting - Reading Branch	
Sat	18	Chiltern	BP	Ivinghoe	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	25	EBSB	BP	Chalfont St Giles	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	25	South Oxon	BP	Dorchester	7.00 - 9.00
JUNE					
Mon	3	Guild		Queen's Golden Jubilee (also Tues 4th)	
Fri	7	Chiltern	AP	Aston Clinton	7.30
Fri	7	Newbury	BP	Shaw	
Sat	8	Central Bucks	SC	Wotton Underwood	2.30
Sat	8	EBSB	BP	Hambleton (with six-bell SC)	
Sat	8	North Bucks	QM	Maids Moreton* (with SC)	4.00
Sat	8	Oxford City	SC	Bletchington (six-bell competition)	
Tues	11	Bicester	BP	Souldern	
Tues	11	Old North Berks	BP	West Hendred	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	15	Chiltern	BP	Little Missenden (with six-bell SC)	7.00 - 9.00
Fri	21	North Bucks	BP	Buckingham*	7.30
Sat	22	EBSB	BP	Amersham	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	22	South Oxon	BP	Ewelme	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	29	Oxford City	SC	Horspath (Under-18 competition)	
JULY					
Mon	1	Chiltern	AP	Bledlow	7.30
Wed	3	Bicester	BP	Middleton Stoney	
Sat	6	EBSB	SP	Wraybury	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	6	Newbury	SC	Lambourn	
Sat	6	Oxford City	BP	St Thomas, Oxford	7.00 - 8.30
Sat	6	Reading	BP	Whitchurch	7.00 - 9.00
Mon	8	Old North Berks	BP	North Moreton	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	13	Guild		Guild Festival	
Sat	13	Central Bucks	BP	Hillesden	6.30 - 8.30
Sat	20	Chiltern	BP	Great Kimble	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	20	Oxford City	BP	St Giles, Oxford	7.00 - 8.30
Sat	27	EBSB	BP	Langley	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	27	South Oxon	BP	Warborough	7.00 - 9.00
AUGUST					
Thur	1	Bicester	BP	Stratton Audley	
Wed	7	Chiltern	AP	Great Missenden	8.00
Sat	10	EBSB	SP	Stoke Poges	7.00 - 9.00

Sat	10	Oxford City	BP	North Hinksey	7.00 - 8.30
Sat	10	Reading	BP	Shiplake	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	17	Chiltern	BP	Marsworth	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	24	EBSB	BP	Chalfont St Peter	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	24	South Oxon	BP	Berrick	7.00 - 9.00

SEPTEMBER

Tues	3	Chiltern	AP	Stoke Mandeville	7.30
Fri	6	Bicester	BP	Kirtlington	
Sat	7	Reading	HY	Nettlebed (with six-bell SC)	
Fri	13	Guild		Easthampstead Course (to 15th Sept.)	
Sat	14	EBSB	SP	Hitcham	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	21	Chiltern	BP	Ellesborough	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	21	Old North Berks	HY	Childrey	tba
Sat	21	Oxford City	BP	Wheatley	7.00 - 8.30
Sat	28	EBSB	BP	Cookham	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	28	South Oxon	BP	Great Milton	7.00 - 9.00

OCTOBER

Thur	3	Bicester	HY	tba	
Fri	4	Chiltern	AP	Aston Clinton	7.30
Sat	5	Guild	SC	Six-bell Striking Competition - Witney/Woodstock	
Mon	7	Bicester	BP	Brill	
Fri	11	Old North Berks	BP	Blewbury	8.00 - 9.30
Sat	12	Guild		Cambridge Major Course	
Sat	12	EBSB	HY	Winkfield (with Lorna Newton SC final)	
Sat	12	Oxford City		Branch outing	
Sat	12	Reading	BP	Reading, St Laurence	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	12	South Oxon		Branch outing	
Sat	19	Banbury	HY	Rousham	
Sat	19	Bicester		Branch outing - half-day, tba	
Sat	19	Chiltern	HY	Weston Turville (with Orchard Cup SC)	
Sat	26	EBSB	BP	High Wycombe	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	26	South Oxon	HY	Brightwell Baldwin	7.00 - 9.00

NOVEMBER

Sat	2	Guild		Steeple Aston course	
Mon	4	Chiltern	AP	Bledlow	7.30
Tues	5	Bicester	BP	Islip	
Sat	9	EBSB	SP	Bray	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	9	Reading	BP	Streatley	7.00 - 9.00
Thur	14	Old North Berks	BP	Radley	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	16	Chiltern	BP	Cheddington	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	16	Oxford City	AG	Cowley	
Sat	23	Guild	SC	Ten-bell Striking Competition	a.m.
Sat	23	Guild		General Committee Meeting - N. Bucks Branch	
Sat	23	EBSB	BP	Penn	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	23	South Oxon	BP	Watlington	7.00 - 9.00

DECEMBER

Wed	4	Bicester	BP	Charlton-on-Otmoor	
Wed	4	Chiltern	AP	Great Missenden	8.00
Wed	11	Old North Berks	BP	West Hanney	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	14	Chiltern	BP	Great Missenden	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	14	EBSB	BP	Beaconsfield (with Christmas social)	7.00 - 9.00
Sat	14	Oxford City	BP	St Aldate, Oxford	7.00 - 8.30
Sat	14	Reading		Carol service, Henley	6.00 - 9.00
Sat	14	South Oxon	BP	Great Haseley	7.00 - 9.00
Fri	27	EBSB		Post-Christmas outing	



Arthur Newton (Hughenden) celebrated his 90th birthday, and 70 years' membership of Hughenden tower, by ringing a quarter peal of one of his favourite methods ('Double Norwich CB Major') with family and friends on Boxing Day.

Printer and Photocopier Cartridge Recycling

Last year the EBSB Fund Raising Committee raised £126.45 for the OD Bell Fund by collecting ink cartridges and selling them to a recycling firm. The cartridges have come from a fairly small number of people, so if you are still throwing your empties in the bin, please don't. Save them and give them to your branch secretary or one of your branch representatives to take to a Guild meeting where they can pass them onto one of the Fund Raising Committee members – we're the people selling sweatshirts, etc. at Guild functions. Ask your friends and work colleagues if they have any as well – why waste them when we can get good money for them?

A list of collectable items appeared in the March 2001 edition of *Odd Bob*, but we have been paid for several models that were not listed. Even cartridges that have been recycled already have some value now. So please keep collecting.

Pat Newton

65 New Years

There must be very many bell ringers in the large area around Hook Norton (and beyond) who have at some time had occasion to meet and ring with Oscar Hemmings and it has been thought worth recording that 1st January 2002 was the 65th time that he had rung in the New Year.

Oscar trained and rang at his home village of Bloxham before moving to Hook Norton where he worked for the local brewery so that he was not only able to follow the main occupation of bell ringing on a beautiful ring of eight but was also able to indulge occasionally in the subsidiary occupation associated with bell ringers. Many of you will know Oscar and will have happy memories of meeting him. You will be pleased to learn that he still rings on a regular basis at Hook Norton and in surrounding churches.

Frank Faulkner (Hook Norton)

EASTHAMPSTEAD

2002

3-DAY RESIDENTIAL RINGING COURSE

**FRIDAY 13th - SUNDAY 15th SEPTEMBER
2002**

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

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

Cost £140

Full details and application forms are now available.

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

**John and June Wells
15 Lytham End, Tilehurst, Reading, Berkshire, RG31 6FG
(0118 9410061)**

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