

Issue 66

## ODD BOB

Newsletter of the



November 2002

## Contents

Master's Mutterings .....	3
Obituary: Gordon William Limmer .....	3
Charity Status for the Guild General Fund .....	5
Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund .....	6
From the Children's Officer .....	8
Thame Lace Day .....	8
Guild Six-bell Striking Competition .....	9
Guild Six-bell Striking Competition - A Conductor's View! .....	10
Librarian's Report .....	12
Letter to the Editor .....	12
The Reading Branch Striking Competition 2002 .....	13
News from the Branches .....	14
Banbury Branch .....	14
Bicester Branch .....	15
Central Bucks Branch .....	15
Chiltern Branch .....	16
Chipping Norton Branch .....	16
East Berks and South Bucks Branch .....	17
Newbury Branch .....	17
North Bucks Branch .....	18
Old North Berks Branch .....	18
Oxford City Branch .....	19
Reading Branch .....	20
Sonning Deanery Branch .....	21
South Oxfordshire Branch .....	22
Vale of White Horse Branch .....	22
Witney and Woodstock Branch .....	23
Points from Peals .....	24
Group Personal Accident Insurance .....	25
Ink Cartridges .....	25
Guild Directory and Information .....	26
Guild Officers for 2002 – 2003 .....	27
Diary of Events for 2002 – 2003 .....	30
Easthampstead Course .....	32

### **Information for Contributors**

The next issue of '*Odd Bob*' will be distributed at the Guild Committee Meeting on  
**8th March 2003.**

Contributions should be sent to the Newsletter Editor:  
Mr A Rex Agg, 25 Wilton Road, Beaconsfield, Bucks HP9 2DE  
e-mail: [rex.agg@ukgateway.net](mailto:rex.agg@ukgateway.net)

not later than **10th February 2003.**

## ***Master's Mutterings***

Taking over as Guild Master in May is a bit like the phoney war. All is quiet at the start with only the occasional branch practice to attend. Then the Guild Festival comes along which I only had to attend, all the arrangements having been made by others.

When the autumn arrives things really start to get busy with all the branch half-yearly meetings, sub-committee meetings and ringing courses etc. This autumn I have been able to attend meetings in the following Branches: Old North Berks, Chipping Norton, Banbury and the Vale of White Horse.

The attendance at the Festival service was very disappointing with only 33 present. A lot of effort had been put into the service and those who made the arrangements must have felt let down. The evening Barn Dance was a different matter: the hall was packed and, with an excellent band leading us, a very enjoyable evening was had by all. Our thanks go to the Old North Berks Branch for hosting the event.

The Guild needs to think long and hard about future Festivals. Do we continue to hold a Festival, and is July the best time? I did receive comments that it was the wrong type of communion service, but I suspect whatever service we have it will not be right for someone.

At the Branch meetings I have attended there has been a lot of discussion about Child Protection. Please contact your incumbent and fill in the necessary forms to get approval to work with young people. If in any doubt you can contact the Guild Children's Officer (Hilarie Rogers) or Diocesan Church House.

The other talking point has been Guild Subscriptions and the possibility of part of the subscription going to the Bell Fund and/or Restoration Fund. There have been many ideas coming from branches on this, and also about the future of the Bell Fund Draw.

The one thing the Guild members seem to want more of is ringing courses. The Education Committee has arranged a meeting with all branches to find out what type of courses are required and to try and encourage them to elect their own training officers.

Graham Clifton

## ***Obituary***

### **GORDON WILLIAM LIMMER 1909 – 2002**

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Gordon Limmer was held at St Peter's Church, Burnham, on 16th September 2002. A large number of family and friends attended, including many ringers from towers around the EBSB Branch. Speaking about Gordon's 75 years as a ringer at St Peter's, Cliff Blundell drew on memories from many of George Gilbert's war-time band of girls, several of whom attended the service, and from Mary Haskell's admirable history of St Peter's Society of Change Ringers.

Gordon joined the ringers in 1925, when his voice started to break and, like many before and after him, he was encouraged to go on to higher things. Gordon's parents, together with his two younger brothers and sister, moved to Burnham from Wandsworth when he was nine years of age. After education at St Peter's School, Gordon joined the Civil Service, where he spent his whole career, ending up as a Tax Inspector. Typically he was always sensitive about what he did and, when asked, would usually say he was a campanologist, hoping that no-one would know what the word meant. Following his marriage to Dinah in 1932 three children were born, at five-yearly intervals.

Also in 1932 Gordon was elected to be the first tower captain of the St Peter's Society which was formed in that year. He continued in that position until 1974, a clear example of both his willingness to help and his reliability. As well as being tower captain for 42 years, Gordon was also tower secretary and treasurer between 1941 and 1960. From 1932 to 1997 he had only 11 years out of office, returning as secretary and treasurer from 1978 to 1980, as treasurer again from 1982 to 1984 and 1989 to 1997. His hand-written accounts, in his distinctive script, are still a pleasure to read.

Like many other ringers, Gordon did not keep accurate records of all the peals and quarter peals which he rang but, as any of George Gilbert's learners will recall, George wrote up all his hand's records. From these notes of Gordon's first 70 peals and, from his own notes and Ringing World reports, Mary has been able to identify 132 peals from his first peal on 9th April 1932, when he rang the treble to Grandsire Triples at Burnham, to his last listed peal, Grandsire Caters at Slough on 28th May 1979, when he again rang the treble. Between these dates he circled the tower to peals at Burnham.

His first as conductor, jointly with brother George, was at Hitcham on 21st June 1934. This was the first rung by an all St Peter's band and included three Taylor brothers, Ronald (12), John (13) and James (14). In November of that year, these three, together with Patrick Cashman, William Cyster and Norman Bristow, became the youngest band to ring a peal. Their average age was 14 years 7 months. When it is remembered that, until 1931, St Peter's had been a 'stoneyn' band, ringing call changes only, these were remarkable achievements.

Gordon rang quarter peals at Burnham for the Coronations in both 1937 and 1953 and also on VE Day, 8th May 1945. Fifty years later, Joyce Cooper and Freda Belson, who had both rung in the quarter peal in 1945, joined Gordon in a touch in the same method, Bob Major.

Between 1st June 1997, when he rang the treble to a quarter peal of Grandsire Doubles, until 1st January 2000, Gordon continued to ring with us, although not quite so frequently. It was a great pleasure that he was able to ring with us on Millennium Day.

All of us at St Peter's have good reason to feel proud of our association with Gordon. We give thanks for the service which he gave to his parish church for more than 75 years, both as ringer and chorister. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Cliff Blundell

**Burnham, Bucks.** St Peter. 16 Sep. 2002. 1260 Grandsire Triples: B Matthews 1, Mrs B M Farren 2, H E Wells 3, Mrs A M Darvill 4, Mrs J Cooper 5, V Mitchell (C) 6, C Blundell 7, N Belson 8. Rung after the funeral and thanksgiving service for Gordon Limmer, a ringer at this church from 1925 to 2001.

*[Abridged version of the Obituary published in The Ringing World (2002, p.1076); permission to reproduce is acknowledged]*



## ***Charity Status for the Guild General Fund***

Earlier this year, the Finance and General Purposes Committee considered the possibility of seeking charitable status for the Guild General Fund. It was realised that such a move would have major impacts on the working of the Guild and in particular would impose major changes onto the Branches. The financial benefits could not be estimated without some considerable effort. The recommendation to the General Committee was that, on balance, this change of status was unlikely to be beneficial to the Guild and should not be progressed. The General Committee accepted the recommendation.

The Finance and General Purposes Committee, in arriving at their recommendation, made use of a SWOT analysis. I was asked to provide the list to allow members to see the range of items that were taken into account in arriving at the recommendation.

I must stress that the list does not necessarily contain every possible item and is not in any order of priority and of course there could be alternative views about the classification of individual points.

### **STRENGTHS**

- *Tax recovery on members subscriptions (estimated, if 50% of membership taxpayers, at £1,500 per annum currently)*
- *Members can donate using gift aid to benefit from tax recovery (no financial estimate is available for this item)*
- *Guild becomes a better legal entity (a Charity is legally clearer than a members club which is in effect the current legal status of the Guild) - benefit mainly arises if the Guild were to cease to exist and owed money to creditors*

### **WEAKNESSES**

- *Lack of detail in membership records means that no accurate financial estimate of tax benefits is possible*
- *Administrative effort to determine members who pay tax likely to be considerable*
- *Members subscriptions paid for them by PCCs or tower funds will not benefit from recovery of tax*
- *Separate accounting likely to be required for some Guild activities (e.g. Education and Book Stall viewed as trading) - Charity status could be restrictive and likely to create other less formal committees to continue the Guild's aims and objectives*
- *If the Guild's level of income exceeds £10,000 per annum as a charity will require the annual independent examination (with a fee say £200 per year) and must deposit the accounts with Charity Commissioners.*
- *There will be the initial and ongoing costs and administrative effort necessary to set up the Guild as a charity.*
- *Branch finances are likely to become part of the Charity.*
- *All Guild documentation will have to change to show the charity number.*

## **OPPORTUNITIES**

- *Other associations have successfully made the change and obtained benefits (but they tend to be smaller than ODG)*
- *Options to open up other sources of funding may become available, possibly in training area (limited experience of this from Bell Fund and Restoration Fund charities)*

## **THREATS**

- *The transition in status will be a fundamental change for the Guild, both officers at all levels as well as members, and the likely outcomes must be carefully considered in advance*
- *Position with Branches, in particular their freedom of operation and degree of autonomy, is likely to be restricted and in the medium to long-term this may not be beneficial*

## **SUMMARY**

*The attractive but as yet unquantified financial benefits from charitable status must be balanced against the legal constraints of operating within the charitable arena. Options are either to undertake further research to evaluate the benefits and disadvantages, or to agree to take no further action with this proposal.*

As stated in the initial paragraph, the recommendation to the General Committee was that, on balance, this change of status was unlikely to be beneficial to the Guild and should not be progressed. The General Committee accepted the recommendation.

Brian Gatward - *Honorary General Treasurer*

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

The Trustees met most recently in September and I reported that new money raised to 15 September 2002 amounted to £5352.10. The main elements of this are: donations received from Branches of £1,597.72, donations from six PCCs totalling £106.00, and six tower funds have contributed £271.68. The final proceeds from the Ringing Day were £505.70. The Draw realised a profit of £1330.40 and the Managing Trustees wish to thank the organisers, Steve and June Rossiter, and all those who supported the Draw in any way. A generous donation of £1500.00 has been received from Abel Sim Ltd. This represents profits from the sales of the Abel Ringing Simulator, which I understand are donated to various ringing charities.

The Trustees discussed the future of the Draw. I provided an analysis of the results for the past five years. These show that 2001 was the best ever year with a profit of £1451. Two years were comparable, namely 1999 (£1418.10) and 2000 (£1411.60). Of the five years analysed, 1998 was the year with the lowest profit of £1294. The Trustees are aware of comments suggesting that the Annual Draw in its traditional format is no longer appropriate. However, the Trustees are mindful that this event raises a significant amount annually and until a comparable alternative level of income is identified, then the Annual Draw should

continue for 2003. The Trustees will be asking for a new organiser as Steve and June Rossiter have indicated that they are no longer able to act.

This year, these projects have been completed, duly inspected and grants paid: Great Milton (£4,000), Englefield (£5,475) and Rousham (£2,600), bringing the total grants paid for the year to £12,075. There remain six provisional grants that have been allocated at previous meetings and these are scheduled for payment in 2002 (£5,660) and in 2003 (£16,250).

Investments are regularly reviewed and, in accordance with the advice received from the professional advisors, further adjustments have been made to the investment portfolio and I calculate that this has given rise to a capital appreciation of some £7,000. I reported that the total investment income for the year to date amounted to £7,799.41 and accordingly that the annual amount was forecast to be in the region of £15,500, assuming that the market and interest rates remain at current levels. I reported from a commentary on recent equity market falls, which I had received from CCLA Investment Management Ltd (which manages investments for churches, charities and local authorities). This document states *'The severity of the recent falls in equity markets has not been experienced for nearly 30 years and will be of considerable concern for investors..... Investor confidence in equity investment has been shaken by the revelation of accounting scandals in the USA and daily movements are currently being driven more by short-term sentiment factors rather than long-term fundamental ones. In these circumstances, it is not possible to provide convincing reassurance as to how equity markets might behave in the short-term.'* This is the situation in which the Bell Fund has to operate and the impacts of adjustments in the financial markets are unavoidable.

The Trustees considered three new applications. A request from Ascott-under-Wychwood was deemed to be routine servicing of the bells and thus outside the terms of reference and not able to be supported. Further clarification of the precise nature of the works to be undertaken was requested from Drayton Parslow. A provisional grant to Wooburn was agreed and scheduled for payment during 2004. Once again, the Managing Trustees would like to thank all those who continue to support the Fund.

Brian J Gatward, *Honorary Treasurer*

### **List of prize-winners from the Annual Draw 2002**

<b>Prize</b>	<b>Ticket No.</b>	<b>Name of winner</b>
1st	6351	R.Noorduyn, 2 West End, Cholsey
2nd	2927	Dave Enducote, Wantage
3rd	4501	Steve Howie, 31 Harlestons Rd, Cottanham, Cambridge
4th	3057	R.Parry, The Old Plough, Aylesbury Rd, Chearsley
5th	0306	R.P.Richards, Chalfont St Giles
6th	4317	A.Lambert, 8 Clarence Rd, Stony Stratford
7th	0802	John Simmons, High Wycombe
8th	5596	R.J.Hine, 14 White Road, East Hendred
9th	11452	J.Beale, Birchdale, Church Lane, Upper Wolvercote



## ***From the Children's Officer***

To date, I have received forms from 53 towers listing the ringers approved to work with young people. I guess that there are still a number of towers that have not yet set up their Child Protection system, and I strongly urge all towers with young members to do so without delay. Even if your tower has no young people at the moment, it is still worth making sure that a minimum of two adults are approved by your PCC, so that you are ready should any youngsters wish to learn.

Now that the Guild has a protection system, towers should look to the positive side and seek to attract and support youngsters – no matter that they may do it for a time and then move on, if the skills have been learnt they can be picked up in later life. Many towers now benefit from ringers who learnt as teenagers. The best “attraction” is another young person in the band, and a welcoming tower. At a tower I ring in each week, there are five young teenagers, who have their own corner, with pens and paper, and can amuse themselves between rings with their mobile phones (quietly!) and other gadgets. We have a break halfway through the practice for a drink, and generally have a happy time.

With sufficient preparation, and suitably approved helpers, it should now be possible for towers or branches to run a day course, maybe in the holidays or as part of a programme run by the local Sports Centre. I am working on suitable forms for parental permission for such events. It may be possible for towers to make contact with schools in the area and recruit that way. What we need to guard against is fear of accepting young people into our band because of the paperwork and other processes involved. Ringing is one of the few activities where people can work together irrespective of age, and we will all benefit from the addition of youngsters to our band.

My contact details are elsewhere in this issue (*see Guild Directory and Information – Guild Officers*) – please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Hilarie Rogers

### ***Thame Lace Day***

***Saturday, 22nd February 2003***

***10.00 am – 4.00 pm***

***Ringling at 11.30 am and 2.00 pm***

***Everyone is welcome to watch the lacemakers and join in the ringling***

***Entrance free***

***Tea and coffee available***



## *The Guild Six-bell Striking Competition*

... which was not won by Reading ... was held in the Witney and Woodstock Branch. There were tower bands from 13 of the 15 branches entered in this year's competition, although one was forced to withdraw. The heats took place at Wootton and Church Hanborough, where the bells were much enjoyed.

After the heats, teams assembled at Stonesfield where a splendid tea was provided and the results of the heats were announced: from the Church Hanborough heat, teams from Appleton, High Wycombe and Thatcham progressed to the final; those selected from the teams ringing at Wootton were Aston Clinton, Drayton St. Leonard, and St Mary and St Laurence, Reading.

The final at Stonesfield produced some excellent ringing, with all teams except Reading ringing doubles. The judges for the final, Eric Edmondson (Harpenden) and Mike Chester (Coventry), announced the result to be as follows: 1st. High Wycombe (35 faults); 2nd. St Mary and St Laurence, Reading (44 faults); 3rd. Aston Clinton (46 faults).

Nigel Harrison



*The winning High Wycombe band: (l-r)  
George Whiteside (4),  
Sheila Bruce (1),  
Ann Davies (2),  
Peter Bruce (6),  
Patricia Newton (3),  
Robert Newton (5)*



*Robert Newton receiving the trophy from Eric Edmondson and Mike Chester*

## ***Guild Six-bell Striking Competition – A Conductor's View!***

Forget *Midsomer Murders*. Forget double-handed. This is one tower's story about the Guild Six-bell Striking Competition 2002.

Countdown began in March, when Drayton St Leonard won the South Oxon Branch Striking Competition, although the Guild competition was largely forgotten over the summer as we struggled to control our wayward bells. As the tower dries out, some bells stick and need much more pull to keep them up. Any attempt to strike perfectly is bound to hit problems, and I must admit that it is heartening when competent visitors are seen to struggle.

We decided on the band – Charlotte would treble, John, Hilarie and Christopher would ring inside, David or Dave would cover, and we would “borrow” Kay from Great Haseley as we ring together most weeks. Judging by the look on her face when we asked her, Kay had other ideas and had she been able to speak, would have let us know!

Our first proper practice was in early August, ringing for service at Great Haseley, when we agreed to ring Grandsire (makes it easier for judging if we all ring the same!), and decided on the touch. I would call it from the third – simple. So what went wrong? A quarter of the way through, everyone took an aversion to being in the hunt, and we limped to a halt. Extremely unnerving, leading to thoughts of what if...? I realised there may be more to this lark than just sweetly dropping Bob or Single into the conversation! However, going apologetically into the service that morning, John was greeted with “Lovely ringing today – sounded really good.” Confidence partially restored.

Holidays meant that it was well into September before we were all together again, but still unable to have any worthwhile striking practice at our own tower due to the dry spell. We arranged to take over the last half-hour of Great Haseley practice one Monday, got through the touch, and laid our fears to rest. I had worked out which bells were in the hunt when, and hoped that would be enough in case of disaster! A final practice at Little Milton a few days before the competition, in which we were rather sluggish, may have been a mistake.....

We had been drawn to ring at Wootton at 2.30 – with the competition due to start at 2.00, we had planned to arrive in time to hear the bells and work out any oddness in advance. We were taking two supporters with us – Dave's wife, Kath (a ringer – in case of crisis – but don't let on!), and Daniel, our secret weapon for a few years' time. Six of us travelled in our car, together with my leaning-on box; and Dave and Kath travelled separately, equipped with grid reference, timetable and other threats! We picked up John and Kay to prevent desertion! I'm afraid the children had beans on toast for lunch and I managed a dry crust.

Arriving at a very deserted Wootton just before 2pm, I had a very cold feeling. Have we gone to the wrong place? Why is it so quiet? Sat on a bench and tried to work out if after all it was better to be in the wrong place, only to hear the rest of the band in conversation with two strangers, who had come to judge (“Do you want the money now?”). Steward then arrived, informed us that it was due to start at 2.30 which meant we were the first team. Oh dear. No chance to listen then. Judges wanted a ring on the bells; so some of us went to ring up (didn't give us much advantage, as I was elected to lead up, so couldn't even practise on my competition bell). Pause whilst judges were installed in Village Hall, then we were on. Treble rope short, so put Charlotte on a box. Floor very sloping, so my leaning box was wedged with

jackets under two corners. Arranged what time signals I would like, and there we were. Two minutes' practice to work out how the bells went – noisily – and not easy to ring evenly. Our Team Talk identified three problems (treble, 5 and tenor. Lucky I was on the 3!).

Still didn't seem real – everyone else was so normal and relaxed, yet we daren't look at each other in case we gave too much away. Anyhow, the signal was given and we were off to a slightly hesitant start. Settled into the rounds, then the Grandsire – the first 120 took so long that I had a momentary panic that we'd done both 120s, but we carried on. Had to SHOUT to be heard – no gentle Bob calling here. "This is all." "Stand." And we took our leg-shaking, arm-twitching bodies out into the daylight and looked with sympathy at the others still to ring. Having rung first, we could claim that we were in the lead for all of ten minutes!

Listened to the other teams – Reading's Bob Minor was awe-inspiring – and winced on others' behalf with every hesitation or clip. Hardly dared to hope that we wouldn't come last, but quietly thought we weren't the worst.

To Stonesfield for tea – and what a tea! Relaxed for the first time, but it was short-lived as we saw our judges walk in. The other heat was still going on, so they gave our results first. My heart sank when they commented that we were steady, pleasant and made good Sunday Service ringing. Were we not up to competition standard then? Oh dear. Then the faults, starting with the team in 6th place, then 5th place (still not us). When we weren't 4th either, a cold fear seized me once more and I really wished I hadn't had the chocolate cake. Yes – we were 3rd with 14 faults, behind Aston Clinton on 7½ and Reading on 4, and would have to ring again. No early bath for us then.

The result of the second heat gave us our remaining opponents – Thatcham, High Wycombe and Appleton. We were drawn to ring third, which gave me time for a quiet snooze whilst listening to the first team; and a quiet panic under a holly bush listening to the next team, who seemed to take ages to come out, the reverse limbo dance under the door lintel not helping. The cosy ringing chamber even had a perfectly shaped wall behind the third for me to lean on – and, rather worryingly, the nerves seem to have been left under the holly bush! Our practice was grim – started quickly (unusual), slowed down through the Grandsire, and finished with surprisingly comfortable rounds. Dave's rope occasionally whacked the roller on the girder, which was disconcerting at first. So, nothing to lose, and we were off again – crisp pace, evenly spaced rounds (one of the spectators thought it was High Wycombe!), and I actually began to enjoy it. But please can someone tell me how to make a call without affecting my rhythm? Signed visitors' book on request (yes, we can usually write!), and bent our way out of the tower. Phew. A welcome cuppa, listen to the other teams, and reflect on an excellent evening's ringing by all teams. The sound in the darkening churchyard was magical, a superb example of all that is good about ringing.

We had no hopes of finishing anything but last, but were thrilled at the encouraging comments from the experienced competitors, and quietly satisfied that, on the night, we weren't far out of their league. Final result was High Wycombe first on 35 faults (where on earth did they find those?), Reading second with 44; then Aston Clinton (46), Appleton (50), Thatcham (51) and Drayton St Leonard (60). Shattered but happy, we rounded off the day by taking the wrong turning out of Stonesfield!

Hilarie Rogers



## Librarian's Report

The library catalogue is now available on the Guild web site. It is as yet only up to date up until 1997. I hope to have a new web site edition of the catalogue early in 2003. I am currently in the process of adding Newsletters from various branches to the source version.

A number of publications have been acquired since the last *Odd Bob* report, including *The History of the Ladies Guild*, *John Day's Recollections of Belfry Life in Birmingham* and *The Church Bells of Breconshire*.

The *Odd Bob* Newsletters for 1995 – 1999 and Guild Reports for 1994 – 1998 have now been bound.

When a book is placed in the library, a label is attached to it to mark it as property of the Guild, and if appropriate, who presented it. The supply of labels had been almost exhausted, so I arranged for a set of 500 labels to be printed.

Various enquiries have been received during the last few months, mainly relating to specific towers or people, with one enquiry relating to wooden bell-frames.

One of the next tasks I hope to undertake in the next few months is to arrange for a valuation of the books in the library.

Doug Beaumont

## Letter to the Editor

Sir

I note with alarm the following in a branch newsletter:

*"Unfortunately the Branch cannot accept applications for the Outing from those under 18 unless accompanied by a responsible adult."*

In the first place, it carries the bizarre implication that adult bell ringers tend to be irresponsible. More seriously, if it is meant to Protect the Child then I am not impressed. It is no more than Adult 'Umbrellaship', expressed in a manner to put young people off.

If I was a 17-year old, I would have felt insulted to the point of giving up bell ringing.

Yours faithfully

Mike Davis  
(Great Missenden)  
07 August 2002

## *The Reading Branch Striking Competition 2002*

...took place at Nettlebed on September 7th with nine teams entering. Competition was close and there were several tied places.

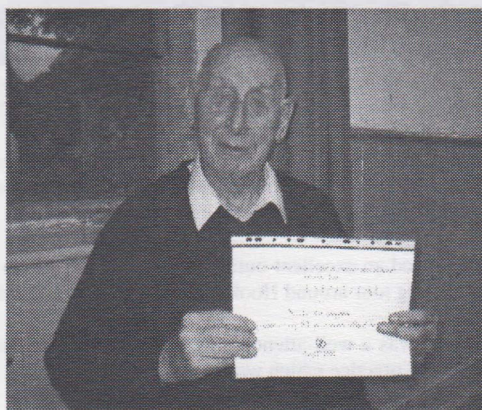
First place was awarded to St. Mary with St. Laurence (Couples) with 21 faults; 2nd: Tilehurst (25); joint 3rd: St. Mary with St. Laurence (Singles) and Purley (37); joint 5th: Nettlebed and Goring (48); 7th: Whitchurch (65); 8th: Shinfield (89) and 9th: Henley (105). Alex Byrne received the **Topper Trophy** from Simon Feather, Chief judge, who was assisted by Aidan Hopkins, Sonning Deanery branch Ringing Master.



*Alex Byrne with the judges*

There was an excellent running buffet provided by the Nettlebed ringers and others, and a short business meeting followed chaired by June Wells in the absence of the Secretary. Honorary Membership was conferred on John Wells, Helen Diserens, Jim Diserens and Doreen Burgess, although the latter was not present to receive her honour. A long service certificate was presented to Don Drayton (50 years) by John Wells; Gus Gray, who was not present, received his certificate (51 years) at the Quiz evening.

Bobbie May



*Don Drayton with his certificate*

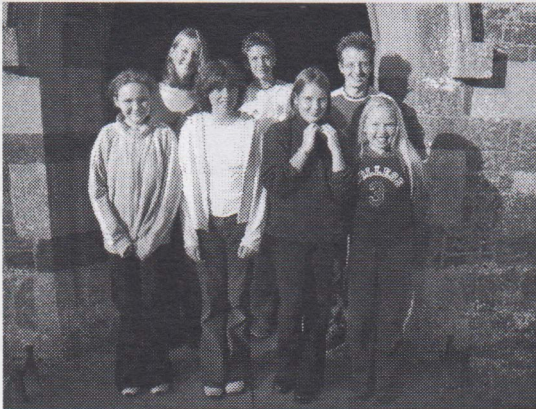
## News from the Branches

### Banbury Branch

The summer months can often be somewhat quiet but not this year!

First of all, we are very pleased that we now have our Branch Website up and running, thanks to Rose Todd. This will be a valuable resource for both members and visitors and we hope you will visit us on [Banbury-bells.org.uk](http://Banbury-bells.org.uk)

One sunny day in August seven rather apprehensive young ringers and several not-so-young ringers met together for our first Youth Day. After ringing at Lower Heyford, we went to Steeple Aston where there was more ringing and a picnic and swim in Patsy Norris' garden. By the end of the day everyone was getting on very well together and helpers were either having to retreat from their relaxed positions on sun-loungers around the pool or risk getting soaked as the swimmers strategically placed their goal mouth right in front of them. An excellent day was had by all and we have now had two follow-up sessions: more are planned!



*Rousham's 'Young Ringers' Group: (L-R) Emma Blencawe, Charlotte Powell, Naomi Harris, Matthew Bennett, Camilla Durnin, Ben Cowper and Catherine Cooper*

Tadmarton hosted our Striking Competition in June at which everyone was delighted when the Tadmarton team won. We were then treated to a Barbeque Banquet at Doug Smith's whose vegetable garden remains in the memory of many a ringer.

Mary Rose Goodwin organised an excellent outing in the Turville area in August, and Roger Stranks arranged an interesting tour around Hook Norton Brewery in October.

On the learning front, there was a well-attended Stedman Doubles course, and Alan Griffin led a 'Ringing Up and Down' practice which was so successful a repeat is planned.

As I write, we have just had our Half-yearly meeting hosted, impeccably as ever, by Rousham. I note that it will soon be the Guild Course at Steeple Aston; we then have an



outing to St Albans later in the month, and Banbury are hosting the 10-bell Striking Competition. So it is not going to get any quieter!

Joan Warren

### **Bicester Branch**

The half-yearly meeting was held in Bletchington on 3rd October – the minutes are now available on the Bicester Branch website (<http://www.grandsire.fsnet.co.uk/>), kindly maintained by Anthony Cole, as is the fuller description of our 19th October outing through the Severn Valley by rail on a golden autumn day.

We started by ringing at Belbroughton (coinciding with a tree planting ceremony and another village event) and then drove to Kidderminster where the party of 29 (19 ringers) plus one puppy took over one of the 3rd class compartments to arrive an hour later to ring in Bridgnorth. On the return trip we stopped off in Arley to ring at Upper Arley before arriving back in Kidderminster just after 6pm where a diminishing number enjoyed the Piddle pints at £1 each in the station restaurant. The day was enjoyed immensely and the thanks of all go to Simon Cole for organising it.

Cliff East, Tower Captain at Ludgershall and an honorary member of the Bicester Branch, celebrated his 80th birthday on 19th August – we all wish him many happy returns.

Islip represented the Branch at the Guild 6-bell striking competition on 5th October but failed to reach the final. We were delighted, however, to come fourth in our heat!

Many ringers from the Branch will be taking part at the Steeple Aston course on 2nd November, either as helpers or learners. We are also experimenting with two additional branch practices on Saturday evenings (2nd November and 7th December at Charlton and Islip respectively) to see whether this encourages more ringers to come to an additional practice.

Kathryn Grant

### **Central Bucks Branch**

In July we held our Striking Competition at Wotton Underwood. It was a lovely sunny day so we enjoyed a lovely tea in the beautiful churchyard. Four towers entered and Berton won the competition, taking the trophy away from Aylesbury who have won it for the last six years. Well done to them. Unfortunately they were unable to get a team together for the Guild striking competition.

In September we went on our annual branch outing. This year we went to the Southend area, ringing in towers at Eastwood, Great Waking, Thorpe Bay, Leigh-on-Sea and South Benfleet. We ended the day eating fish and chips with our fingers on the sea front in Southend. Our thanks go to Peter Fay and Mike Dodd for organising the successful day and we are already looking forward to next year's.

In October it was the Chiltern Branch's turn to host the Orchard Cup that was held at Weston Turville. Well done to all the teams that entered and congratulations to Aston Clinton who won the cup again.

The Guild Education Committee organised a Cambridge Major course in October. One of the towers used was Cuddington and I understand that it was a very informative and worthwhile morning. Many thanks to Pat and Robert Newton and all their helpers for their hard work; it was very much appreciated.

Our practice in November is to be held in Twyford who joined our branch from the North Bucks branch earlier this year. In December we are holding our practice in Wing, earlier in the evening than usual as it is to be followed by our branch dinner.

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

Ann Pedley

### **Chiltern Branch**

Our training mornings have become rather more flexible affairs. Although the focus has been on basic stuff there is ample opportunity for helpers to extend their skills. The one student booked in at Little Missenden on 6th June failed to appear so plenty of Cambridge was rung instead. Similar opportunities were taken at Bledlow on 12th October. A mix of Doubles, Minor and Triples meant that both the two 'students' and two or three helpers all moved on a bit.

Six teams entered the Orchard Cup on 19th October, two from Central Bucks and four from Chiltern. Most of the participants seemed to be ringing for more than one team, making it a slightly bizarre event. Aston Clinton retained the cup.

The Branch Half-yearly Meeting was held on the same day as the Orchard Cup; during the meeting Don Wheeler and Arthur White were given honorary life memberships.

One more training quarter was added to the list on 17th August when the only six to turn up for the monthly meeting at Aston Clinton took advantage of the opportunity. Congratulations to Christine Loran on gaining her first quarter – and at no notice!

Sadly, we say goodbye to a loyal Branch member: Tim Randall of Little Missenden, and also Branch treasurer, leaves us for Wolverhampton. It has been good to know you, Tim, and we all wish you the best of good fortune and happy ringing.

Mike Davis

### **Chipping Norton Branch**

Not a lot has happened in the branch over the summer months; in fact it has been very quiet. Thanks must go to Nigel and Helen Harrison, who, after the branch practice at Taynton in July, hosted a barbeque, a very enjoyable evening.

Congratulations go to Annie Holden, who rang her first quarter peal in July, at Burford; it was just too late to make the last issue of *Odd Bob*.

Easthampstead was attended by a couple of branch members who hopefully had a good time and learnt a lot! Both Ken Wakefield and Nigel Harrison went as helpers on the Doubles and Minor course.

The autumn meeting was held at Spelsbury, again not very well attended; are people worried that they might get a job to do? It would be good to see a few fresh faces in various posts. The few members present decided to go ahead with the branch web site and to ask Les Waller to pursue the matter. Arnout Arntz from Leafield was elected to the Guild: let us hope that he continues to make progress.

It was also decided that for the months of January, February and December, branch practices would be in the afternoon of the first Saturday. A letter is to go out to all towers asking for their members' opinions on various matters, including whether they would like specialised practices now and again, which took place a few years ago.

Well done to Hook Norton, who entered the Guild Six-bell Striking Competition, and by all accounts had stiff opposition!

There was no branch dinner this year, although one had been planned, due to lack of support. The usual hostelry has changed hands, and it is not easy to find a venue that will hold approximately 40 people sitting in one room.

Claire Tarrant

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

Seven teams took part in the final of our Lorna Newton knock-out striking competition held at Winkfield in October. Our judges – Claire Edwards and Ian Roulstone – gave some really constructive comments before announcing the results – first place: Beaconsfield, followed closely by Lane End. At the ensuing Half-yearly Meeting we discussed what the Branch might be able to do both to encourage more entries for this competition and also generally to help the seemingly growing number of towers who are having difficulty in recruiting and maintaining their numbers. This is clearly a big challenge, and the possibility of a Training Officer will be considered.

The bells at Wooburn are in the process of a major restoration project, after being declared unsafe earlier in the year. The Ringing Master, John Walton, has shown relentless energy in initiating publicity and fund-raising events, whilst also managing the difficult task of maintaining and recruiting ringers whilst the bells are out of action.

We were sorry to hear of the death of Gordon Limmer in September (*obituary on p.3*). He had rung at Burnham for a total of 75 years, a level of commitment that is an incredible achievement by any standards. We also record the death in May of a former Beaconsfield ringer, Albert Bridges; aged 87, he had been active in ringing before the war and up to the mid-1960s.

We were very pleased that High Wycombe, representing the EBSB Branch, won this year's Guild Six Bell Striking Competition against some stiff competition.

Katharine Firman

### **Newbury Branch**

Held at Lambourn, our six-bell striking contest was very successful, with eight teams taking part. Tim Pett and Bobbie May judged the contest. Thatcham won the competition, with Lambourn gaining the Marshall shield and also providing an excellent tea.



Thirty-five members representing 11 towers attended the Branch AGM, held on 12th October at Thatcham. We welcomed our new Guild Steward, Anthony Cole, and Bobbie May to the meeting.

Silence was kept for members who had died during the past year – Roy Goodwin, Margaret Roberts, Alan Edens, Susan Vince, Freda Wilcox, Gill Lewington and Clifford Carter.

Our monthly practices have continued – the September branch practice at Farnborough was notable in that it should help to build up closer contact with the tower. A special training session in Grandsire Doubles will be held for East Garston ringers on 26th October.

All serving officers were re-elected, with the addition of Mark Robins as our second Guild representative due to the increased membership from 110 to 129 during the year. Two new members were elected at the AGM – Claire Joubert from Bucklebury, and Allan Wheatley from Beenham. Following the successful AGM, we look forward to continued progress next year.

Rosemary Maslen

### **North Bucks Branch**

We have held two training sessions for branch members this year, one for Cambridge Minor and the other for Grandsire Doubles. The students attending all made progress during the sessions and considered them worthwhile. These were organised by our new Training Officer, Christine Ryan. Thank you to her and to all the helpers. She has more sessions planned for next year.

Our annual competition against the Towcester Branch was postponed from its usual July date and took place at the end of September. We were lucky with the weather, being more like July than September. We had a good turnout for this with 20 ringers taking part out of a maximum possible of 22. Paul Mason from the Kettering branch of the Peterborough Guild judged the event. Unusually for this competition, one side – the Towcester Branch – won all three sections. All honours go to Towcester Branch this year – the George Holland Stedman trophy and the Inter-branch trophy. This broke our run of wins in the overall competition, although we still lack form in the Stedman.

Helen Stanworth

### **Old North Berks Branch**

The Guild Festival was held in the Branch on Saturday, 13th July. Thank you particularly to Nick Clarke for organising the service and Barn Dance, to Barbara Payne for organising the towers, and to Brenda Thomas, Daphne Pollard and Anne Belcher for organising the catering at the Barn Dance. About 100 people attended the Barn Dance, but disappointingly only about 35 had attended the service. The Barn Dance at the Guild Festival raised a surplus of £195 for the Guild.

It is with great sadness that I report the death of Jill Bradshaw (Lady Bradshaw of Wallingford) on 22nd July. Jill learnt to ring in the 1960s at Cholsey. After living in Bradford-on-Avon for a while, she and Bill moved to Aston Tirrold and finally in 1976 to Wallingford. Jill was a loyal member of the Wallingford band and had been tower correspondent for many years. She rang her last quarter peal on 4th June for the Golden

Jubilee celebrations. She will be sadly missed by the branch and especially by the Wallingford ringers.

We had a very successful Barbeque at Milton in August. Thanks to the Milton Ringers for organising this event and to Nick Clarke and the Loyd family for doing most of the cooking. It was nice for branch members to have an early opportunity to enjoy the new bells at Milton, the food was very good and the event very well supported. The bells are wonderful and very easy to handle.

On Sunday, 20th October the dedication service for the new bells was held at Milton. A packed church listened to an excellent sermon by Canon Robert Wright of Westminster Abbey and Chaplain to the Speaker of the House of Commons. Westminster Abbey is one of the patrons of the living at Milton. The rounds in the service were rung by an entirely Milton band; congratulations particularly to the three young people who rang, two of whom only started ringing in July so ringing with an audience of 140 people must have been quite daunting. The full story of the Milton project appeared as the feature article in *The Ringing World* on 18th October.

Nicola Turner

### **Oxford City Branch**

The last issue of *Odd Bob* contained no report from The City Branch because copy submitted was used as an obituary for Roy Goodwin. Roy was instrumental in forming the bedrock of many of the Branch bands and he was able to ring on the Marston spring outing and impart how pleased he was at the level of solidarity that had been achieved by ringers from so many Branch towers. He left a wonderful legacy and we continue to miss his wise council very much; the Branch is certainly impoverished by his passing.

Our outing took place in October and was a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon, although poorly supported by Branch members. We enjoyed the company and expertise of two blind ringers, our own Bernard Masterman and his twin brother Roger, who came without his guide dog and had to rely on the rest of us to deliver him safely. Taking two very independent and accomplished blind ringers on an outing gives an insight into the world of the disabled. Long draughts are a challenge for the average sighted ringer but for Bernard and Roger they can make ringing impossible. As Bernard remarked at a particularly difficult venue: why, when bells are re-hung, are not draughts shortened or guides put in? Indeed, someone out there must be able to design a portable rope guide that would allow the bells to be rung with greater safety and confidence.

In April a half-muffled quarter peal was rung at St. Mary's, Kidlington in memory of the Queen Mother. Ringing was carried out for the Golden Jubilee celebrations and the Union flag was flown from the tower. The tower at Kidlington was opened to visitors for the Christian Aid Flower Festival in July. There were many visitors and much interest in the workings of the tower and the bells. Unfortunately there were no recruits. The St. Mary's bell ringers ran the usual stall at the church fête in the Rectory Garden and raised £350 for the Spire Fund. The spire is in need of extensive repairs to the stonework and the Kidlington ringers are hoping that this will not affect or stop the ringing when work is being carried out. The Kidlington ringers tolled a bell before a minute's silence on 11th September.

Marston and Iffley have jointly held four outings this year, plus one with Wolvercote, which has become extremely enthusiastic, especially on the social side, enabling the arrangement of ten-pin bowling and punting, due in great part to the efforts of John and Jonathan Beale.

The weekend outings and quarter peal mornings have continued to increase in popularity and number thanks to the participation of other ringers from the Branch. Romsey, Stow, Compton Chamberlayne and Dorchester are some of the memorable fifty or so towers visited since January. As well as helping ringers hone new methods, several quarters were rung over the Jubilee weekend for towers that would have otherwise been unable to mark the event. The following accomplishments are noted: first quarter - Leon Thompson and June Steele, first as conductor - Nick Hartley and Richard Verall, first inside - Clare Tucker and Peter Lloyd and first inside - Susan King and Janice Knowles.

At St. Aldate's we welcomed the new Rector, Charlie St. George Cleverly, with a peal of Stedman Doubles before his induction in September. A quarter peal of All Saints Doubles was rung to mark the Priesting of Reverend Sister Margaret Ann of All Saints Sisters of the Poor.

From time to time it is more effective to allow our members to contribute to *Odd Bob* in their own words. John Lonsbrough is very active in many of our towers, but has been uncomfortably incapacitated over recent weeks, as his account relates:

"I say a big thank you to all my friends in the City Branch and elsewhere for their help and sympathy - including get-well cards - after my accident in early September. For anybody who doesn't know but would like to, here are the details!

During a visit to Sussex I was at Brighton Station where a line of luggage trolleys is towed by a little electric tractor. We don't have this type of hazard in Oxford. I did not appreciate that this thing was crossing my path and so walked into the side of it. This action was not advisable as I resulted in a broken foot and a cracked rib, with general inconvenience and a prohibition on tower-bell ringing for at least six weeks. At my age recovery is slow, but hopefully I shall be back in normal service by the time you read this. Again many thanks and a happy Christmas to you!"

Katie Lane

### **Reading Branch**

Our Six-bell Striking Competition and Half-yearly Meeting were held this year at Nettlebed. Nettlebed bells have recently been re-hung and are now a pleasant, easy-going, light six. The Branch was grateful to Simon Feather and Aidan Hopkins for judging even though their task was complicated by the arrival of a wasp in the car! Nine bands entered and the competition for the top places was stiff. St Mary & St Laurence(2) just pipped Tilehurst for the Topper Trophy, with St Mary & St Laurence(1) and Purley tying for third place. St Mary & St Laurence went on to represent the Branch in the Guild 6-bell competition where they came a close second to EBSB.

During the Half-yearly Meeting we were very pleased to elect Doreen Burgess (Burghfield), Helen Diserens (St Mary & St Laurence), Jim Diserens (St Mary & St Laurence) and John Wells to Honorary Guild Membership. John Wells presented Don Drayton (Tilehurst) with his (50 years) Long Service Certificate. The other recipient, W.A.K (Gus) Gray (St Giles), was unable to be present so his certificate for 51 years was presented at the Quiz Night.



The Quiz Night again proved hugely popular with an attendance of nearly 100. Steve Rossiter compered the evening and produced his usual selection of testing questions. Simon Meeds again devised the table quiz. Very many thanks must go to June Saint and her helpers for again organising the food. We do appreciate the hard work that goes into this vital part of the evening. The profit from the evening of £345 will go to The Duchess of Kent House in memory of Cathy Martin. A donation was also made to the Guild bell funds.

I am delighted to report that the Branch has now another 8-bell tower. Englefield church is in a stunning setting on the Benyon estate. Sir William and Lady Benyon have made a gift of two bells to mark the Millennium. These two trebles were installed in the summer and dedicated on 28th September. They carry no inscription but the date. Englefield bells are now a lovely, easy-going, light eight.

Branch Practices have continued in the same pattern as set earlier in the year. The attendance at the Monday afternoon sessions is often as high as 24 with sometimes only just over half of this number at the Saturday evening sessions. The Committee is looking at ways to boost these Saturday numbers.

Vivien Bloundele

### **Sonning Deanery Branch**

For some reason this report, intended for the July *Odd Bob*, never reached the editor; so here it is now with a few updates.

- The Branch 6-bell striking competition was held on Saturday, 20th April at Shottesbrooke. The bells are pleasant to ring since "air conditioning" has been installed in the tower. It was a very close contest between five teams with Sandhurst being the winners. The proceeds of the tea and coffee stall (£12) went to the Guild Bell Fund. Only two teams entered the 8-bell striking competition, which was held at Twyford on Saturday, 21st September. The winners were a joint Sonning/Twyford team who rang Plain Bob Triples. The runners-up were Wokingham, All Saints and they rang Grandsire Triples.
- Sonning tower reports that they have 13 members and continue to ring for morning and evening services on Sundays. There was a very enjoyable tower visit to the Droitwich area in September organised by Brian Wetherall who moved to that area earlier in the year. The three 8-bell towers and two 6-bell towers were close together and a good day's ringing was had by all. The installation of a new flue liner in the boiler chimney caused a good deal of disruption in the belfry and the ringing chamber. The bell ringers did two cleaning sessions before all was in order again. Money has become available from a local trust to pay for the electrification of the clock winding mechanism.
- Arborfield tower had a very successful outing to the Vale of the White Horse, where they teamed up with three ringers from Wendover plus Hugh Baxter who now rings at Uffington. Hilary Pollock arranged the day and everyone enjoyed an excellent tea afterwards at the Baxters' house.
- All Saints, Wokingham continue with fund raising for the restoration of their bells and over half the estimated target has been reached. An annual dinner was held earlier in the year at the Wheelwrights Arms in Hurst where good food and company was enjoyed.
- Waltham St Lawrence hosted eight members of the Berkshire County Blind Society, plus their helpers. The visitors tried their hand at bell ringing and managed a number

of pulls at both hand and backstrokes. Well done! A convivial supper was enjoyed afterwards at The Bell.

- Efforts are continuing in the branch to recruit new ringers who are badly needed in many of the towers as the regulars get older and move away from the area. It is becoming more difficult to get bands together for quarter peals. In order to encourage interest in ringing, an Open Day was held on 2nd June in Sonning tower. Around 100 visitors came to view the ringing chamber, look at the displays and receive handouts. They were also able to look into the belfry. The bells were down for safety. Since then three new learners have appeared which is good news. Arborfield tower have produced a leaflet that, it is hoped, will encourage others to try their hand at ringing. At Wargrave, a father and his two sons have started learning, which will help keep the ringing going.

Jill Betts

### **South Oxfordshire Branch**

I write this having just returned from a quarter of Plain Bob Triples at Great Milton, the first on the bells since rehanging, and by a branch band with representatives from eight different towers. Things are looking up! The midweek quarters at Chinnor continue to give the opportunity to try new things and to include new people. Sarah Jones from Little Milton and Kathy Hewitt from Drayton St Leonard rang their first quarters recently; and David Parker from Dorchester rang his first peal back in June for the Golden Jubilee and kept quiet about it!

Our branch outing to the Milton Keynes area on 12th October produced some very enjoyable ringing, and was expertly organised by our new Ringing Master, Andrew Davis, with superb directions to each tower.

Drayton St Leonard, representing this branch, made it to the final six of the Guild Six-bell Competition at Stonesfield.

We are setting up a branch 100 Club to raise funds for the Bell Fund and Restoration Fund.

Hilarie Rogers

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

The last quarter has been fairly quiet for the Branch. The monthly meeting in Faringdon at the end of August was well attended and there was some excellent ringing. The half-yearly meeting was held at Shrivenham at the end of September and we were very pleased to have Graham Clifton, the Guild Master, join us; our secretary glided in just in time to take the minutes!

At the Guild Six-bell Striking Competition, Faringdon represented the Vale but unfortunately did not get beyond the heat at Church Hanborough. It was nevertheless an enjoyable event with an excellent tea at Stonesfield which continued throughout the afternoon giving everyone plenty of time to catch up with old friends and make new ones.

The Branch Outing was well attended with 32 ringers taking part and probably with an average age well below the national norm for such events! Providing we can keep these

young people interested, the art of ringing does not look likely to die in the Vale for quite a while. Our thanks to Ann Jones for organising an enjoyable day.

Vale ringers please note that Friday, January 17th is the date for the Annual Dinner, to be held at The Fox at Denchworth.

All ringers are welcome to our Branch Surprise Major practices rung for evensong on the third Sunday of each month starting at 5.15pm.

Kay Chamberlain

### **Witney and Woodstock Branch**

On a sunny day in July, Stonesfield ringers Lindsey Cutler and David Thornton were married in Stonesfield church. Bride and groom both took part in a quarter peal of St Clement's College Bob Minor on the evening before the wedding, and a week later a quarter peal of Reverse Canterbury was rung to celebrate the event, both at Stonesfield. Congratulations go to our Ringing Master, Richard White, and his wife Zoe on the birth of Joseph Edward, who listens happily to method ringing but isn't so keen on call changes.

Attendances at our regular eight-bell practices have been somewhat patchy of late, partly due to holidays. On a happier note, Bampton ringers have been busy coming to grips with Oxford Bob Triples, and went on a most successful outing to the beautiful area around Stow-on-the-Wold in October.

On October 5th, our branch hosted the Guild Six-bell Striking Competition, with heats at Wootton and Church Hanborough and the final at Stonesfield. It was inspiring to hear such good ringing on our bells, and to see many of the ringers enjoying the warm late afternoon in the churchyard. Stonesfield's tenor bell celebrates its 400th birthday this year and we plan to ring a quarter peal in honour of this special anniversary.

Rachael Sherlaw-Johnson



*Life members John Wells, Jim and Helen Diserens*



## Points from Peals

The Oxford Diocesan Guild packed lots of activities into the Jubilee weekend. A total of 20 peals were rung to mark the Golden Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II. These included peals of Jubilee Surprise Maximus at High Wycombe, and Jubilee Surprise Major at Goring-on-Thames. It was nice to see many local tower bands arrange peals to mark this event. Well done to those ringers who rang their first peals: they were Rosa Bardwell, Siegfried B G Bonhomme, Christine Cable, Brian C Cope, Matthew Hall, Emma L Hibbert and Guy Matthews.

In August, Colin Turner became the first person to ring 4000 peals all on tower bells. Colin's 4000th was rung on the new bells at St. Blaise, Milton, which was significant in that both Colin and his wife Nicola were the driving force behind the restoration project. Nicola's original motivation for instigating the project came from her experiences following the Paddington rail crash and it was poignant that they were also able to ring a peal at Milton, on the third anniversary of the crash, in remembrance of those whose lives were affected by the disaster.

Congratulations to Bernard Groves who conducted his 2000th peal. Bernard has now also rung peals in 1000 different towers. Bernard's daughter, Ruth, recently became a member of the Royal College of Surgeons and a peal was rung to celebrate her achievement. Bernard also rang a new method, Valerie Delight Major, as a birthday compliment to his wife.

Since the last issue of *Odd Bob*, several other ringers have also reached noteworthy numbers in terms of peal totals. Congratulations to John Wells who rang his 500th peal, Pat Newton who rang her 700th tower bell peal and David Livingston who has now rung 300 peals for the Guild. Mary and Robin Allum also rang their 750th peal together.

Peals have also been arranged and rung to celebrate other special events; the peal at Great Horwood was rung as an 85th birthday compliment to Maurice Jamieson who for many years was ringer and tower captain there. Although he no longer rings, it was a kind gesture that he was taken out to listen to the peal. A peal at Yattendon on 4th October was specially arranged and rung for the 90th birthday of Ivy Crook, Yattendon resident and wife of Reg Crook, who was tower captain there until his death in 1989.

Peals have also been rung as wedding compliments to Katie and Josh Eldridge, and to Adam Holloway and Lucy Bryn-Davies. A peal was rung at High Wycombe as a retirement compliment to Gill Gibby. Gill rang in this peal and it was her first peal of Grandsire and of triples.

Claire Edwards, *Peal Secretary*

[Readers of *The Ringing World* will have noted that Claire rang her 1000th peal, which she also conducted, at Amersham in September – see p.1112 for details – Ed.]

---

## The Ringing World 1975-2002

**Copies (unbound) for disposal in aid of the Restoration Fund.  
Offers to the Editor: Rex Agg (01494 675517 or e-mail – see p.2)**

## **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***

<i>Age Range (years)</i>	<i>Temporary Total Disablement</i>	<i>Permanent Disablement or Permanent Partial Disablement</i>	<i>Death</i>
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.

## **INK CARTRIDGES**

### ***Are you still throwing your used ink cartridges in the bin?***

*If so, please don't. Save them and give them to Patricia Newton at a Guild meeting. We can get them recycled and claim good money for them in aid of the Bell Fund. Over £250 has been raised so far, and we could get much more if more people recycled their ink and laser cartridges in this way.*

## **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*).

### **Bell Fund Shop**

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



### Guild Officers for 2002 - 2003

<b>Master</b>	Mr Graham J Clifton	Stedman Cottage, Middle Aston, Bicester, Oxon OX25 5PZ (01869 347273)
<b>Deputy Master</b>	Mr Jon Chamberlain	24 Nursery View, Faringdon, Oxon SN7 8SJ (01367 242647)
<b>General Secretary</b>	Mr Nigel G P Harrison	Easter House, Taynton, Burford, Oxon OX18 4UH (01993 823149)
<b>General Treasurer</b>	Mr Brian J Gatward	Grangewood, Mill Lane, Calcot, Reading, Berks RG31 7RS (0118 941 3097)
<b>Assistant Treasurer</b>	Mr Terry Wagstaff	6 Firs Close, Whitchurch, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 4LH (01296 641755)
<b>Librarian</b>	Mr Douglas J Beaumont	184 Kidmore Road, Caversham, Reading, Berks RG4 7ND (0118 946 1714)
<b>Report Editor</b>	Mrs Heather Browning	38 Carolina Place, Finchampstead, Wokingham, Berks RG40 4PQ (0118 932 8321)
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Mr A Rex Agg	25 Wilton Road, Beaconsfield, Bucks HP9 2DE (01494 675517)
<b>Peal Secretary</b>	Miss Claire F Edwards	9 Thornbury Green, Wargrave Road, Twyford, Berks RG10 9RH (0118 934 0804)
<b>Public Relations Officer</b>	Mrs Bobbie May	4 Halfacre Close, Spencers Wood, Reading, Berks RG7 1DZ (0118 988 4172)
<b>Membership Secretary</b>	Mr John F Payne	53 Walker Road, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 2QU (01628 624490)
<b>Minute Secretary</b>	Mrs Hilarie Rogers	4 High Street, Drayton St Leonard, Wallingford, Oxon OX10 7BA (01865 890163)
<b>Website Manager</b>	Dr Timothy G Pett	20 St Amand Drive, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 5RQ (01235 526033)
<b>Guild web site</b>		<a href="http://www.oxford.anglican.org/odg/">http://www.oxford.anglican.org/odg/</a>
<b>Children's Officer</b>	Mrs Hilarie Rogers	4 High Street, Drayton St Leonard, Wallingford, Oxon OX10 7BA (01865 890163)
<b>Guild Stewards</b>	Mrs Sally Austin ( <i>Banbury, Chipping Norton, Witney &amp; Woodstock</i> ) Mr N Jim Diserens ( <i>Old North Berks, Reading, South Oxon</i> ) Mr Anthony Cole ( <i>Bicester, Newbury, Oxford City</i> ) Mr David M Joyce ( <i>North Bucks, Central Bucks, Chiltern</i> ) Mr Colin Fowles ( <i>EBSB, Sonning, V of the WH</i> )	16 Austins Way, Hook Norton, Oxon OX15 5LQ 10 Queens Avenue, Wallingford, Oxon OX10 0NB (01491 824504) 6 Isis Avenue, Bicester, Oxfordshire OX26 2GS (01869 243236) 4 Woad Lane, Great Linford Village, Milton Keynes, Bucks MK14 5HE (01908 667025) 127 Meadfield Road, Langley, Slough, Berks SL3 8HY (01753 671507)

#### Six General Committee members

Mr Simon Cole	Mr A (Tony) Crabtree	Mrs Wenda Fowles
Mr W (Willy) Haynes	Mr David Lane	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	47 Brookside, Wokingham, Berks RG41 2ST (0118 978 6554)

### 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

<b>Subscriptions</b>	Resident members	£5.50 per annum
	Non-resident life members	£5.50
<b>Peal fees</b>	35p per person per peal (from 1st January 2002)	
<b>Annual report</b>	£2.50 + 50p packing and postage	
<b>Badges</b>	£1.50 each	
<b>Guild History</b>	£3.00 per copy	

### Branch Secretaries

Banbury	Mrs Joan Warren	Grove House, Little Tew, Chipping Norton OX7 4JB (01608 683643)
Bicester	Miss Kathryn Grant	Church Key Cottage, The Walk, Islip, Oxon OX5 2SD (01865 373972)
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	6 Marlborough Place, Charlbury, Oxon OX7 3HB (01608 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 Nicola Turner	Puddleduck Cottage, 35 High Street, Milton, Abingdon OX14 4ER (01235 833938)
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	Mr Rob Needham	15 Bodmin Road, Woodley, Reading, Berks RG5 3RZ (0118 926 7724)
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 E John 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 Graham J Clifton	(see <i>Guild Master</i> )	
*	Mr Nigel G P Harrison	(see <i>Guild Secretary</i> )	
	# denotes co-opted member; * denotes <i>ex officio</i> member		

#### **Guild educational leaflets**

- |   |                             |                              |
|---|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Rope splicing  | 2. Bibliography             | 3. Plain Hunt to Bob Doubles |
| 4. Maintenance  | 5. Running a one-day course | 6. Sound control             |
| 7. Stedman  | 8. Grandsire                | 9. Bob calling for beginners |
| 10. Handbell ringing  | 11. Eight Doubles methods   |                              |
| 12. Surprise Minor: Cambridge to London, Part 1 (Cambridge)                                 |                             |                              |
| 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 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 MK 14 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 OX 14 3XR (01235 536159)
*	Mr Graham J Clifton	(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 – 2003

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

#### NOVEMBER

Sat 23	Guild	SC	Ten-bell Striking Competition - Banbury 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
Tues 26	Witney & Woodst.	AP	Witney	7.30
Fri 29	Newbury	BP	Shaw	

#### DECEMBER

Wed 4	Bicester	BP	Charlton-on-Otmoor	
Wed 4	Chiltern	AP	Great Missenden	8.00
Sat 7	North Bucks	QM	Fenny Stratford	3.00
Wed 11	Old North Berks	BP	West Hanney	7.30 - 9.00
Sat 14	Central Bucks	BP	Wing (with Christmas social)	5.30 - 7.00
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
Sat 14	Witney & Woodst.	BP	Witney	7.30
Mon 16	Banbury	BP	Great Tew	7.30
Fri 20	North Bucks	BP	Newton Longville*	7.30
Sat 21	Sonning Deanery	BP	Hurst	10.00am
Thur 26	Banbury	BP	Deddington	10.30-noon
Fri 27	EBSB		Post-Christmas outing	

#### 2003

#### JANUARY

Fri 3	Newbury	BP	Compton	
Sat 4	Chipping Norton	BP	Little Compton*	2.30 - 4.00
Tue 7	Chiltern	AP	Stoke Mandeville	
Sat 11	Central Bucks	BP	Bicester	6.30 - 8.30
Sat 11	Reading	BP	Pangbourne	7.00 - 9.00
Sat 11	Witney & Woodst.	BP	Tackley	7.30

Fri	17	Banbury	BP	Tadmarton	7.30
Fri	17	North Bucks	BP	Bletchley*	7.30
Sat	18	Chiltern	BP	Monks Risborough	
Sat	18	Sonning Deanery	BP	Sandhurst (RC)	7.30
Wed	22	Witney & Woodst.	AP	Clanfield	7.30
Sat	25	South Oxon	BP	Ewelme*	7.00 - 9.00
<b>FEBRUARY</b>					
Sat	1	Chipping Norton	BP	Leafield	2.30 - 4.00
Fri	7	Chiltern	AP	Aston Clinton (subject to availability)	
Fri	7	Newbury	BP	Thatcham	
Sat	8	Central Bucks	AG	Bierton	2.30
Sat	8	Reading	AG	Caversham	
Sat	8	Witney & Woodst.	AG	Clanfield	7.30
Sat	15	Chiltern	BP	Little Missenden	
Sat	15	Sonning Deanery	AG	Arborfield	3.00 onwards
Thur	20	Banbury	BP	Somerton	7.30
Fri	21	North Bucks	BP	Great Linford*	7.30
Sat	22	South Oxon	BP	Aston Rowant	7.00 - 9.00
Thurs	27	Witney & Woodst.	AP	Woodstock	7.30
<b>MARCH</b>					
Sat	1	Chipping Norton	BP	Shipton under Wychwood	7.30 - 9.00
Sat	1	North Bucks	AG	Emberton*/Olney*	3.00
Mon	3	Chiltern	AP	Bledlow	
Fri	7	Newbury	BP	East Ilsley	
<b>Sat</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Guild</b>		<b>General Committee Meeting – Benson</b>	
Sat	8	Central Bucks	BP	Long Crendon	6.30 - 8.30
Sat	8	Reading	BP	South Stoke*	
Sat	8	Witney & Woodst.	BP	Stanton Harcourt	7.30
Sat	15	Chiltern	BP	Mentmore	
Thur	20	Banbury	BP	Adderbury	7.30
Fri	21	North Bucks	BP	Whaddon*	7.30
Sat	22	Newbury		Branch outing	
Sat	22	South Oxon	SC	Brightwell Baldwin	7.00 - 9.00
Wed	26	Witney & Woodst.	AP	South Leigh	7.30
<b>Sat</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>Guild</b>		<b>Radley Course</b>	
<b>APRIL</b>					
Wed	2	Chiltern	AP	Great Missenden	
Fri	4	Newbury	BP	Shaw	
Sat	5	Chipping Norton	AG	Charlbury	6.00
Sat	12	Central Bucks	BP	Waddesdon	6.30 - 8.30
Sat	12	Reading	BP	Englefield*	
Sat	12	Witney & Woodst.	BP	Yarnton	7.30
Sat	19	Banbury	AG	venue tba	
Sat	19	Chiltern	AG	Great Missenden	
Sat	26	South Oxon	AG	Great Milton/Great Haseley	2.30
Sat	26	Witney & Woodst.	AP	Bampton	7.30
<b>MAY</b>					
Fri	2	Newbury	BP	Aldermaston	
<b>Mon</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Guild</b>		<b>Ringling Day + 8-bell SC – Sonning Deanery</b>	
Tue	6	Chiltern	AP	Stoke Mandeville	
Sat	10	Central Bucks	BP	Hardwick	6.30 - 8.30
<b>Sat</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>Guild</b>	<b>AG</b>	<b>Annual General Meeting – Banbury Branch</b>	
Sat	17	Chiltern	BP	Ivinghoe	
Thur	22	Banbury	BP	Mollington	7.30
Sat	24	South Oxon	BP	Lewknor	7.00 - 9.00

# **EASTHAMPSTEAD 2003**

## **PRELIMINARY NOTICE**

### **3-DAY RESIDENTIAL RINGING COURSE**

**FRIDAY 12th - SUNDAY 14th SEPTEMBER  
2003**

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 to be confirmed**

***Book the dates now***

***Full details and application forms will be available from early February 2003***

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