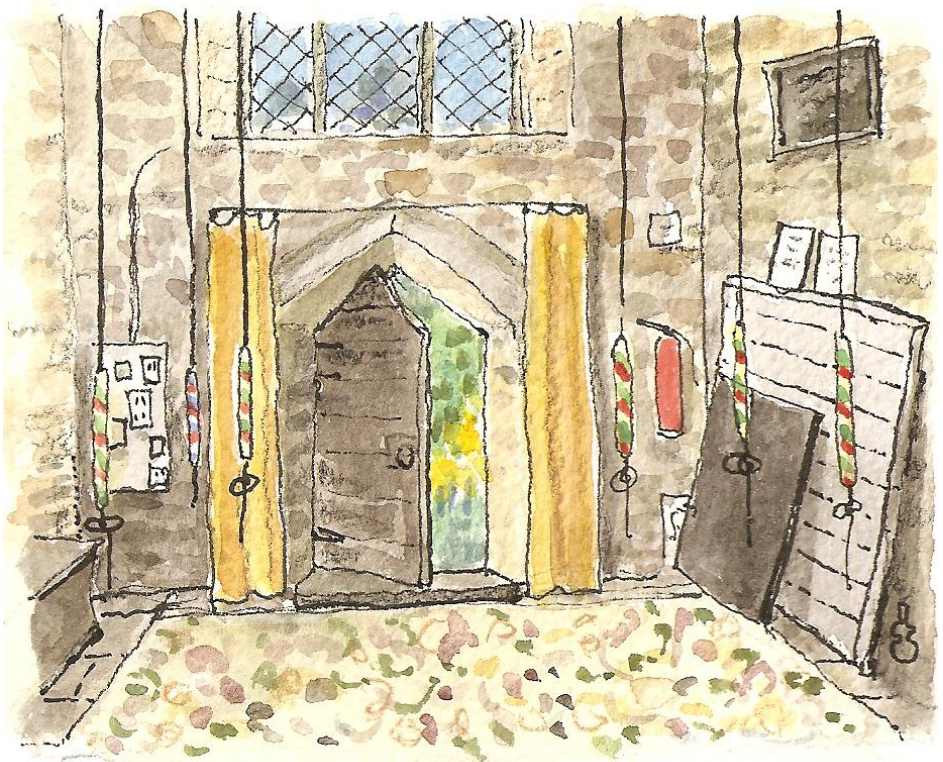


ODD BOB



Newsletter of the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers

<http://www.parishes.oxford.anglican.org/odg/>



Contents

Scraps from the Master's Table.....	3
Communication within the Guild.....	4
Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund Report.....	5
Ten Bell Striking Competition.....	5
Tower Maintenance Award Scheme.....	6
Guild Master left in the dark!.....	8
Librarian's Report.....	8
ODG Group Personal Accident Insurance.....	9
Guild Personal Accident Insurance notes.....	10
Walter A. 'Dick' Lee, 21.1.1917 to 11.1.2008.....	10
Who were the Chimers?.....	13
Cycling from London to Paris.....	13
News from the Branches.....	14
Banbury.....	14
Bicester.....	15
Central Bucks.....	16
Chiltern.....	16
Chipping Norton.....	18
East Berks and South Bucks.....	18
Newbury.....	19
North Bucks.....	20
Old North Berks.....	20
Oxford City.....	21
Reading.....	22
Sonning Deanery.....	22
South Oxon.....	23
Vale of the White Horse.....	23
Witney and Woodstock.....	24
Points from Peals.....	25
Guild Officers for 2007.....	26
Branch Secretaries.....	27
Diary of Events for 2007/08.....	28

From your Editor...

The cover picture is another of Rachael Sherlaw-Johnson's watercolours that she has kindly provided for the front cover of *Odd Bob*. I am most grateful for these paintings, and my thanks are extended to all the other contributors; I hope you, the reader, find your *Odd Bob* interesting.

Don't forget to check regularly the Guild website at www.parishes.oxford.anglican.org/odg/ and the many branch websites.

In particular the EBSB Fund Raising website address is:

www.bellfund.org.uk

Contributions for the next issue, please, by the end of October 2008 at the latest.

Rob Needham

Data Protection Act 1998

As members should expect, a record of their membership is maintained on a combination of paper and computer systems. These records are used solely for the administration of the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers and for notification of future events to members. They are not made available to anyone for commercial purposes. If any member wishes to inspect the records held, please contact the Guild Secretary.

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Scraps from the Master's Table

I have been very interested in the discussions in the *Ringling World* on the subject of attendance at the singing and praying part of a service by the bell ringers. I would be happy if there was a similar suggestion that the singers and prayers attend the ringing part of the service, and this would solve our recruitment problem. However you look at this matter, involving our clergy in tower activities seems a vital first step.

It has been suggested that with an aging population the current criteria for Honorary Ringing Members need to be reconsidered if we are not to overburden the shrinking proportion of under 65s with the whole financial responsibility of the Guild. A paper for discussion is included with the AGM papers sent to every tower. If you have strong feelings (perhaps you're 64 !) please read it and come to the meeting.

Have striking competitions had their day? The entry has been reduced over the past few years and several branches struggle to run one at all. Where they are held they very definitely encourage new bands to progress and disturb the complacency of the experts. Let's discuss with non competing bands what can be done to get them in. Do we relax the rules to encourage beginners or tighten them to make winning more worthwhile ? Should the event be less formal or do we make it more of an occasion ? The answers may vary but I'm sure it's worth the effort of trying.

I shall be standing down at the EGM in May. I have enjoyed my terms as Deputy and as Master and I should like to thank you all for welcoming me to your meetings, and in particular those who have occupied positions of responsibility, for supporting me and making the Guild run so smoothly and effectively. I wish my successor a happy and fulfilling term of office.

Jon Chamberlain

Communication within the Guild

This is a brief update on what has happened since the start of the year!

A new *server* has been set up and we are grateful to Aidan Hopkins for continuing to work on the technical side, and to Keith Anderson who has begun to share some of the work. This server now acts as an email forwarder for *generic email addresses*, and will eventually hold the *membership database*. It links to the current Guild website and will eventually host it; it is also available to branches should they wish their branch website to be hosted by it.

Generic email addresses for Guild officers have been set up and publicised on the Guild website, in the current Annual Report and in this issue of Odd Bob. A list has been circulated to branches, and their use is to be encouraged. Mail is automatically forwarded to officers at their home email address, and some officers have now configured their email so that what they send appears as from their generic address.

We are now in the process of extending generic addresses to branches. Many branches already have their own generic addresses run by their own server, and we're looking at ways to use these while maintaining a consistent style for Guild generic addresses (to make them easier to work out for someone who doesn't have a list). Branches who don't already have generic addresses have been offered ones.

Work on the *database* was put on hold whilst the server was being set up and until the bulk of the work with generic addresses is complete. Technical aspects of the database are being agreed and discussions have already taken place with Branch Secretaries and the Membership Secretary. Suggestions for how the setting up and maintenance of the database might work have been made, and when we are ready to follow these up I will be in touch with branches.

After the AGM we will look at *websites* (branch and guild), and have planned a meeting for branch website managers. Our aim is to get Guild and branch websites to work together, and complement each other.

Finally, to recognise the importance of this work, and to keep it under Guild control, we felt it would be sensible to suggest two new posts to which people could be elected. These are *Server Manager*, to manage the server that provides the Guild's internet services; and *Assistant Server Manager*. It is envisaged that both the Membership Secretary and Website Manager will work closely with the Server Manager. The General Committee approved the creation of these posts, to which people can be elected at the AGM.

Hilarie Rogers on behalf of herself, Jon Chamberlain and John Harrison

Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund Report

The amount of new money raised this year is £5,424.98 which is a very good start for the year. The largest single income source is from the Sponsored Ringing amounting to £3,445.70. The tax to be reclaimed from Gift Aided donations will enhance this figure to over £4,000 in due course. There may be some further donations still to be forwarded to me. This total is not as great as the previous event in 2004 but is still a good result. The shield will be awarded at the AGM in May to the Branch that raised the most money per member.

The other main items include:

- donations from branches totalling £1702.28
- donations from 4 towers totalling £132
- donations from 3 PCCs totalling £95
- individual donations totalling £50.

A total of £154.57 was received from the funeral service of Walter (Dick) Lee, the much-respected President of the Central Bucks Branch. Dick started his ringing career at Wendover when he joined the Guild, rang his first peal around 1936, moved to Quainton in 1962, and became tower captain there in 1972.

No grants have been made yet this year, but I am aware that several projects are nearing completion.

At their last meeting in February, the Trustees approved provisional grant allocations to Clewer (£4720), Little Missenden (£1670), Olney (£6000), Wendover (£300) and Whitchurch (£300).

The Trustees are following professional advice to adjust some of the investments holding in order to maximise the income available to pay grants, and it is expected that the results of this will be evident later this year. The investment income received for the quarter ended 31 March 2008 was £4899.24.

The Trustees remain most grateful to everyone for their financial support of the Bell Fund in so many ways.

Brian Gatward, Hon. Treasurer, ODG

Ten Bell Striking Competition

This competition took place on Saturday 24th November and was held for the first time on the delightful ten at Aston Clinton. Six bands had entered to do battle with the set touch of three short courses of Stedman Caters. The judges, Sarah-Louise Ward and Stephen Stanford, listened from a car in Church Lane. No doubt their judgement was enhanced by the familiar and not unpleasant aroma from the adjacent farm even more than the ringing was.

Not all was destined to run smoothly, however. The church heating system had been playing up for some time but the engineer chose today to come and fix it, so we were not that cosy for much of the competition. Then it became apparent, during the first test piece, that the band drawn second was conspicuous by its absence. Later we learned that the band knew their entry had been withdrawn but nobody thought to tell the organiser!

After an embarrassing gap in the proceedings, the final four bands duly completed their test pieces, with the exception of the local branch, which suffered a terminal trip at the end of the second course. When this sort of thing happens in a competition it is always a disappointment, even for the other competitors, but at their final practice Chiltern had rung the test piece very well indeed, which makes it all the more upsetting. Mental note for next year: don't peak too soon.

The judges commented that the better bands rang with a consistent rhythm, even leading and strong back bells. They picked a pace that led neither to rushing nor hesitancy.

Position	Rang	Peal speed	Score
1 st	5 th	3h11 East Berks & South Bucks	82%
2 nd	1 st	3h11 Reading	80%
3 rd	4 th	3h03 Vale of the White Horse	62%
4 th	2 nd	3h16 Old North Berks	51%
Disqualified	3 rd	3h17 Chiltern	estimated at 56%

So, for the first time in this Millennium, Reading Branch has failed to win the Guild Ten Bell Competition. I wonder how many years have passed since they last held none of the three Guild striking competition trophies. Mind you, they were a very strong second in all the 2007 contests.

Our thanks to the judges; to Aston Clinton and the Chiltern Branch for their hospitality; and especially to Janet Styles and her helpers for the delicious and sustaining refreshments.

Robert Newton

Tower Maintenance Award Scheme

Since the last ODD BOB report in November, five awards have been made under the Tower Maintenance Award Scheme. Tadmarton has renewed a Bronze award, and Chalfont St Giles and Purley have renewed Gold awards for the third time (the former has yet to lose a point – despite the best efforts of the judge!). Chalfont St Peter are to be congratulated on replacing an expired Silver award with a Gold, and Thame are also to be congratulated on obtaining a Gold award at the first attempt. This means that there are twelve towers with current awards – the highest number so far. The number of towers participating or expressing an interest remains at fifty-four and there have now been forty-four inspections (of which fourteen were preliminaries), resulting in twenty-six awards (eleven Gold, eight Silver, and seven Bronze).

Seven awards have expired (at the end of their two year period) and the towers concerned are listed at the end of this report.

The main features of the award scheme are as follows:

- There are three award grades (Gold, Silver, and Bronze) based on the results of an inspection using a marking sheet that is made available, in advance, to participating towers to enable them to prepare for the inspection.

- The grades will be based on the percentage of the "perfect" mark (currently 235), as follows:

Gold	85% +
Silver	70 - 84%
Bronze	55 - 69%
- The award takes the form of a certificate that is current for two years from the date of inspection (rather like an MOT) and can be displayed in the tower
- Towers holding current awards are listed in *Odd Bob* and the *Guild Report*
- Each inspection is carried out by judges from the Towers & Belfries committee and the detailed results of the inspection are made available to the tower
- Inspections can be requested at any time, via the Secretary or the Chairman of the Towers & Belfries committee (addresses elsewhere in the Guild report), irrespective of whether the request is for an initial inspection or to try and improve an existing grade.

If you haven't already started, why not consider taking part? We will provide you with all the details of how you will be marked so that you can plan what has to be done to get an award; if asked, we will even do a preliminary inspection, before you start, to help the process. If you do gain an award you can be confident that your tower and bells are in a good, safe condition and, whether or not an award is gained, you will be given useful information on how they can be improved.

The award to Thame means that the South Oxon branch now joins the branches represented in the following list of current awards, but still only seven out of the fifteen branches are there – how about trying to get your branch included?

Current Tower Maintenance Scheme Awards

Gold Award

Ellesborough(SS Peter & Paul)	Chiltern Branch	Expires 31.02.09
Wokingham (All Saints)	Sonning Deanery	Expires 30.04.09
Chalfont St Peter	EBSB Branch	Expires 30.11.09
Chalfont St Giles	EBSB Branch	Expires 31.01.10
Purley (St Mary V.)	Reading Branch	Expires 31.01.10
Thame (St Mary V.)	South Oxon Branch	Expires 31.01.10

Silver Award

Linslade (St Barnabas)	North Bucks Branch	Expires 30.04.08
Easthampstead (St Michael)	Sonning Deanery	Expires 31.12.08
Winkfield (St Mary)	EBSB Branch	Expires 31.05.09
Cookham (Holy Trinity)	EBSB Branch	Expires 30.09.09

Bronze Grade

South Stoke(St Andrew)	Reading Branch	Expires 30.06.08
Tadmarton (St Nicholas)	Banbury Branch	Expires 31.01.10

Expired Awards

Sonning (St Andrew)	Sonning Deanery	Expired 30.11.04
Dorchester (SS Peter & Paul)	South Oxon Branch	Expired 30.09.05
Bray (St Michael)	EBSB Branch	Expired 31.07.06
Deddington (SS Peter & Paul)	Banbury Branch	Expired 30.04.06
Finchhampstead (St James)	Sonning Deanery	Expired 31.07.07
Stoke Mandeville (St Mary V.)	Chiltern Branch	Expired 31.12.07
Warborough (St Laurence)	South Oxon	Expired 31.12.07

John Davidge

Guild Master left in the dark!

Here follows a true story (with only minor embellishment):

Your esteemed Guild Ringing Master and seven trusty colleagues set out one evening to ring a quarter peal at a nearby tower. They set off into changes and all was going well. They looked forward to scoring a really good quarter peal. The thought of the celebration pint at the village local was already tantalising. Then disaster struck!

The power failed and the ringing room was plunged into complete darkness. One by one, the ringers managed to set their bells and luckily, before too long, all the bells were safely set with no injuries. The ringers breathed a sigh of relief and were able to move once more and get safely out of the tower. Luckily, the only damage was to their quarter peal totals!

If only the local Tower Captain had visited the *Guild web site* and downloaded the *Towers & Belfries Committee technical paper TBC01* concerning emergency lighting in towers. The lighting could have been installed for a capital cost of around £100 and they would not have been exposed to such a terrifying situation. They might even have been able to carry on and score their quarter. They still went for a pint at the local but the talk was not of their quarter peal (or even next week's attempt), but whether their own towers had emergency lights installed!

Tony Crabtree. Member, ODG Towers & Belfries Committee

Librarian's Report

There was a mild upturn in the amount of library enquiries early this year, with four up to early March, though none since then. The enquiries concerned:

- election details re member in Chipping Norton branch
- information about Braywood (EBSB tower demolished in 1962)
- three peals at Wokingham St Paul
- information re members at Thatcham from some early Guild reports.

I have been able to continue with sorting the miscellaneous material, concentrating on the copy sets of Guild Committee meetings and Annual General meetings. These are near completion, there now being no unsorted minutes. There is however plenty more material to go through...

A new version of the library catalogue for the Guild website is currently being prepared and should go on within the next couple of weeks.

The usual reminder, if you would like some information, or would like to visit the library, or borrow a book, you are very welcome to, just let me know.

Doug Beaumont

ODG Group Personal Accident Insurance

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 practice 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

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
7 – 15	Nil	£2,500	£2,500
71 – 75	Nil	£2,500	£2,500
76 – 85	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 should be directed in the first instance to:

The Honorary General Treasurer
Mr.B.J.Gatward
Grangemead
Bath Road
Devizes, SN10 1PH (01380 721009)

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.

Guild Personal Accident Insurance notes

From time to time I am asked to clarify the scope of coverage provided by the Guild Personal Accident Insurance and accordingly I hope these comments will help.

- a. The personal accident insurance cover applies to Guild members.
- b. Ringers who fail to pay their subscription are not considered to be Guild members and so will not be covered by the personal accident insurance. (I advise prompt payment of Guild subscriptions in order to avoid any doubt about whether or not an individual is a Guild member).
- c. There is no requirement to be a member of the Guild in order to ring at any church either for practices or for Sunday services or to help with training learners.
- d. I advise that ringers in the Diocese should be Guild members in order to benefit from the personal accident insurance cover.
- e. If a non-Guild member suffers personal injury then provided the church insures with Ecclesiastical Insurance, personal accident cover may be provided under the 'voluntary workers' section of the policy. However please note these two issues:

First, the church may have decided not to take up this option in order to reduce the premium costs.

Second, even if the cover is available, the standard level of benefits provided for 'voluntary workers' is lower than under the terms of the Guild personal accident policy.

- f. A non-ringer is included within the Guild personal accident cover whilst learning to ring, provided the instructor is a Guild member. This is because to be a Guild member, an individual must achieve a basic level of competence and on the basis of this then be duly elected to membership.

In the event of a claim (or a possible claim) please contact me as soon as possible. I liaise with the Guild's insurers and inform the individual of progress with claim settlement.

Brian Gatward

Walter A. 'Dick' Lee, 21.1.1917 to 11.1.2008

Dick was born in Brisbane and came to England with his father and his sister when he was about 18 months old. They stayed with an aunt in London on arrival, and Dick's first memory is the undertaker's horse and carriage below the premises. They eventually settled in Wendover, Buckinghamshire.

Dick was educated at the local school and on leaving school at fourteen he was employed as an improver carpenter and joiner with a building company. Although they wouldn't offer him a proper apprenticeship he turned out to be a craftsman of the highest quality and remained with that same company for many years. During the war years he was seconded to various large building companies in London on bomb damage work, and also to work on buildings at Bletchley Park. In later years, when he had moved from Wendover, he worked

for a joinery company, his speciality being one-off quality staircases for which he enjoyed the challenge.

He learned to ring at Wendover in 1934 and quickly made progress. He would cycle to other towers with Harry Jones to gain experience, and this resulted in him ringing his first peal in 1936. Soon after the peal he was made foreman of the tower and remained so until 1962. During this time he was a member of the East Berks and South Bucks branch of the ODG, holding office of Deputy Ringing Master in 1956 and Ringing Master in 1957.

In 1955 his wife to be, Mary Hobbs, came to Bucks to take an appointment as Adviser in Horticulture at the Bucks County Farm. An accomplished ringer, she joined Wendover tower and this resulted in a courtship with Dick. They were married in 1962 and moved to Quainton, where they had designed and built their new home completely by themselves, the only thing not undertaken being the electrical installation.

Soon after this move they joined the Quainton ringers, a call change band with good striking. Dick was appointed Tower Captain a few years later and had remained so ever since. When in the early eighties the ring of five bells (which fell in the order 1-3-2-5-4) became more and more difficult to ring, Dick and Mary were instrumental in their re-hanging and augmentation, first to six and, after a generous donation of one new treble by Mary, to eight in 1985. Dick undertook the building work in connection with the project, which included the construction of a concrete ring beam as a foundation for the new frame. This was achieved with the help of local ringers and there is now a pleasant clockwise 17 cwt. octave; Dick conducted the first peal on them on February 22nd 1986.

Dick and Mary transferred their membership of the ODG to the Central Bucks Branch when they moved to Quainton. Dick has had a couple of spells as branch Ringing Master and at his death was branch President.

Dick's involvement in the church has always been most important. He attended the 8 o'clock Communion Service every Sunday without fail and would toll the bell for this service in whichever church in the benefice it was held.

Dick and Mary were friends with the late Frederick Sharpe and were for many years staunch members of the Launton Handbell Ringers. Both ringing four in hand, they and the team gave many concerts for charity.

The nearby five Caversfield tower bells were often rung by this trio, with Dick and Fred ringing two each and Mary either hunting the treble to Grandsire Doubles or ringing behind to minimus.

One of Dick's great number of pupils, Anthony K. Fortin, writes the following: "Years before meeting him I remember the meticulously maintained vegetable garden and the goats at Hampden Cottage where he lived. It seemed idyllic to me, situated next to the pond, and although it lacked what would be termed modern facilities, Dick was uncomplaining and was rather pleased when the council provided an electric street light quite close by. He said to me at the time how glad he was that he no longer had to light the oil lamp to get to bed.

I first met Dick when as a young choirboy I went up into the tower on Sunday morning and asked if I might learn to ring. He agreed that I could, on the express condition that I would be duty bound to ring twice on Sundays for half an hour before each service. He then gave me my first pull on the backstroke of the fifth bell to rounds.

Practice was on Wednesday night and various RAF apprentices such as Mike Stracey and I would be patiently waiting. Dick would appear striding down the lane as *The Archers* finished, which was at 7 o'clock in those days. When we reached the ringing room he would climb the ladder to the bell chamber to fix a clapper stay on the third and oil all the other bells. They were on plain bearings but went very well at that time due to his care.

He was meticulous in attention to detail with our rope handling, balance and later our striking. I remember on one occasion being told in no uncertain terms that if I didn't get all my fingers round the sally 'down those steps you will go' (that cured the problem). He was fond of saying, 'Can't is not spelt W-O-N-T'.

His bark was much worse than his bite; I recollect him giving me his old OS map of the Chilterns (which I still have) to encourage us to get on our bikes and explore other towers. When Dick helped defray the cost of my first ever ringing outing (to Bedford) I met a kind man named "uncle" Tom Fowler from Cookham who gave me a Guild badge. On appearing in the belfry proudly wearing my badge like the others, Dick said, 'You can't wear that, you are not a member,' whereupon I took it off feeling rather sad when I didn't get elected to the ODG for another three years."

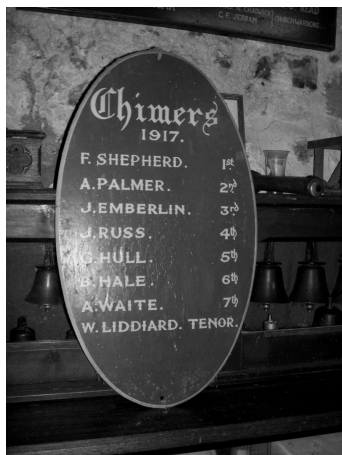
Dick lived a full life and could converse on many subjects. For many years since his retirement he had been involved in the restoration of the Quanton windmill. His understanding of making, assembling and the erection of large timber structures proved vital. He organised the completion of the head frame and fantail, and the construction of the sails. Dick and Mary spent many holidays in Germany and on their way home would visit mills in Belgium to research their construction and workings.

Dick enjoyed a good peal. Although he kept no precise records it is thought he rang between four and five hundred. He rang 74 peals at Hughenden and over 60 at Windsor, and his peal ringing career lasted a few days short of 68 years, his first being on 20th February 1936 and his last on 8th February 2004. He did hope to ring a peal for his 90th birthday but poor circulation in his legs prevented this. Sadly he passed away ten days before his 91st birthday.

The church was full at his funeral service with over 40 ringers present, including the Oxford Diocesan Guild Master and Deputy Master together with many parishioners and members of the Windmill Society. Physically a very strong man in his prime, may he rest in peace.

L. Roy Woodruff

Who were the Chimers?



On a recent ringing outing to the Marlborough/Hungerford area we rang at the church of St. Michael, Aldbourne, Wilts. In the ringing chamber I noticed an intriguing plaque and took this photograph. Who were the Chimers, what did they do, how did they ring the bells?

As you can see, the plaque is dated during the first world war, so maybe too many of the usual ringers were away fighting for the band to ring changes. The plaque does not specify a method, nor number of rows, nor a duration of ringing, nor a conductor – maybe they rang tunes on bells that were down?

I would be most grateful if any readers can shed any light on the history of this group.

Rob Needham, St. Andrew's, Sonning

Cycling from London to Paris

As some of you probably know I will be cycling from London to Paris in June in aid of Thames Hospicecare, the local hospice to Bracknell.

I shall be setting off from Greenwich with 129 other mad people at 7am on 11th June and we will arrive at the Eiffel Tower at 4pm on 14th June.

Training is going well and I'm feeling quite confident about it – especially now I've found out that Jelly Babies are the things to eat for a sugar burst.

The original target for the fundraising was £1100 but I have now raised about £1300. It would be good to reach £2000 if possible. I have already made Christmas Cakes to order and organised some cake sales at work. I shall also be doing a car boot sale sometime later in June.

You have already guessed that I am asking you to sponsor me. Please don't feel obliged to but it would be great if you could. For those who have already sponsored me – thank you very much.

It's very easy to sponsor, just go to www.justgiving.com/rachelmoss

Thank you.

Rachel Moss, Chairman, Sonning Deanery Branch

News from the Branches

Banbury

On 30th September Sue Burchell, Tower Captain of Great Tew, was ordained as a Deacon at Christchurch Cathedral, Oxford,. A quarter peal of Stedman Triples was rung at Great Tew, remembering Abbott Conway but also to celebrate Sue's ordination that day.

The Half Yearly Meeting took place at Tadmarton on 20th October following a service and an excellent tea. Graham invited those present to stand for a short period of silence as a mark of respect for our late Chairman, Abbott Conway. In addition to the usual business, eight new members were elected into the branch – including six from Cropredy. Jon Chamberlain presented the Striking Competition certificates.

Quarter peals were rung at Banbury, Bodicote, Mollington and Steeple Aston to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Wedding Anniversary. In addition the bells were also rung at Shenington, Wroxton and Wardington.

The Branch Advent Carol Service took place on 1st December and was hosted by Adderbury ringers. This annual service is organised by the host tower, so that each year it is slightly different. Readings were taken from other sources besides the bible, and ringers from other towers as well as Adderbury did the readings. The hymns chosen gave everyone the opportunity to exercise their voices. Afterwards mince pies and wine were provided and for those who still had the energy, further ringing had been arranged.

The year started with what has now become something of a tradition, a branch practice at Banbury on New Year's Day. There was a good turnout at the start of what will be a busy year within the branch.



During January the branch has usually held a quiz night, but this year a Sponsored Ringing Day and Social took place on 2nd February. At Banbury, Bloxham, Bodicote, Mollington and Steeple Aston six quarters were attempted and five were successful. The band at Cropredy had a general ringing session for

which sponsorship was given. In addition, the previous week a quarter was rung at Bodicote. In the evening 50 ringers, family and friends gathered in Tadmarton Village Hall for a jacket potato supper organised by Lindsey Smith and her band of helpers. A photographic picture show of past events (using previously unseen photos!) was run on a continuous loop. After the meal, certificates were awarded to those who had achieved a first and prizes were given for a 'Guess the Tower' picture competition and guess the weight of the cake competition. The total money raised was £758.50. Of this £446 was gift aided, which meant another £124.88 could be claimed back from the tax man

making the final total £883.38. The picture above shows Ann Cubitt receiving her "firsts" certificate.

February 17th was a very happy occasion when just over 100 people attended the re-dedication of the bells in Cropredy. There were a good number of visiting ringers and a very fine service touch of Stedman Triples was rung.

Towards the end of the service the Cropredy ringers moved to the tower where The Right Reverend John Pritchard, Bishop of Oxford, carried out the re-dedication ceremony. Andries Bosland, the Tower Captain, rang the fourth in acknowledgement of the re-dedication and Beryl Lascelles, a ringer and churchwarden, read the Bell Ringers' prayer. Following this the Bishop presented Les Underdown with a certificate from the church for 65 years of Service Ringing in Cropredy. Finally the Cropredy ringers rang a few minutes of rounds and call changes.

After the service everyone enjoyed a glass or two of bubbly with canapes and a celebratory cake made by another of the ringers, Verna Wass.



During the course of this year the bells at Hanwell are being augmented to six. This picture, taken on the afternoon of 14th March at Whitechapel Foundry, is of the new "Beecroft Bell" in its cast cooling off. A film crew from Channel 5 had been filming at the foundry to document the bell making process. The Beecroft Bell was briefly featured in the programme entitled "*How do They Do It?*", which was shown on 31st March.

An enjoyable evening was spent at the Horse & Groom, Milcombe, where our Annual Dinner, organised by Alison Varney and Lindsey Smith, was held on 15th March. After a delicious meal we were introduced to a new version of the Bible, an extract of which was read by Jon Chamberlain, our after dinner speaker. It was an amusing interpretation, but probably not one we are likely to hear in church on a regular basis! There was a good selection of prizes for the raffle which raised £76, half of which will be donated to a nominated charity.

Heather Hughes

Bicester

We held our AGM on 23 February with an experiment – a morning meeting and service followed by a pub lunch at Souldern. Although still mostly attended by die-hards it did mean that no one had to make tea and sandwiches and we all still enjoyed a sociable occasion combined with the usual formalities. Our service was taken by the Reverend Paul Hunt with an address by Mrs Penny Wood, LLM, and accompanied by the resident Souldern organist.

Five new members have now been elected this year (two others have transferred between branches) and the officers are unchanged.

Brill report that they are now managing to ring Grandsire Doubles and Plain Bob with help from ringing colleagues from Long Crendon. Practices continue on Mondays when all are welcome.

Our branch outing was a great success this year. We went by coach on 26th April to Wiltshire and rang at five towers Lacock, Melksham, Devizes, Avebury and Preshute, near Marlborough. All the bells went well and the weather was kind. We are indebted to the incumbents and those who met us to let us in, as well as to Sally Wale and Teresa Carter for arranging it all so competently and to everyone's enjoyment. Simon Cole drove over from Lincolnshire to give us ringing and social support – we much appreciated both types!

A quarter peal was rung on 19 January at Charlton-on-Otmoor to celebrate the 70th birthday of our President, Willie Haynes. Details of the quarter are:

1260 Grandsire Doubles

1	Sally Wale	4	Louise Brown
2	Michael Journeaux	5	Keith Thomas (c)
3	Peter Nicholas	6	Stephen Cameron

The Branch, and all his friends, extend their congratulations to Willie on this milestone, as well as their condolences on the death of his wife, Bet, on 8th March.

Kathryn Grant

Central Bucks

As the new chairman of the Central Bucks branch I find it very disappointing that the branch practices are so poorly attended. Does this just happen to the Central Bucks branch or is this the case with most of the branches within the ODG; and if so why? Should we be re-thinking the whole structure of this event; do we make ringers of all standards feel welcome? More to the point, do the ringers that have in the past made effort to attend feel that they are not advanced enough or that they are too good to attend.

One of my main objectives within the Central Bucks branch is to make all our branch practices less of a daunting experience for all.

Kind regards to you all.

Andrzej Puchalski

Chiltern

There is god news and bad news from Chiltern Branch!

On the positive side, is the progress with the Wendover augmentation. In April Graham Clifton of Whites of Appleton led a team of local ringers and removed all six bells, moved the frame across the tower to the north side and installed the frame pieces for the new trebles on the south side – all in about 2½ days! A truly superb effort, perhaps made easier by the unusual configuration at Wendover, in which the metal bell-frame is mounted on a separate 'grillage' made of RSJs; it is only this which is set into the masonry of the tower. The bell frame, once released from its securing bolts, is therefore free to move. It was a great relief that the tenor cleared the church's new glass front doors – albeit with only millimeters to spare!

The local media were invited. ITV news (Thames Valley) came and interviewed some of the ringers and did a very good piece on the bells and their history. BBC 3 Counties radio did telephone interviews, and they want to do a follow up with all eight bells ringing live.

The back six have now joined the two new trebles at Whitechapel, where they await tuning by Nigel Taylor. When this has been done the bells will have new clappers fitted, and the headstocks machined and repainted at Whites, before all eight return to Wendover, hopefully during May.

The next few weeks will be occupied with drilling the new rope holes, having a general tidy up, painting the frame and tower walls, and also installing better belfry lighting.

In the meantime, Wendover practices are being held at Bledlow, Tuesdays 7.30 to 9pm.

Ellesborough report that a computer system based on the Abel system has now been installed. Already the system is proving a valuable aid to improving striking!

The bad news relates to Great Kimble where yet again lead has been stolen from the church roof, with damage to the parapets and gravestones. The most significant amount was stolen from the north aisle and this allowed the water to gush into the church causing damage to the floor and walls; fortunately, there was no damage to the bells.

Local TV news teams took up the story, and when the article was televised it significantly raised the profile of the plight of our church – and of all the others that have suffered the same fate. The church has been very fortunate that local tradesmen have donated materials to make the roof relatively water tight while awaiting permanent repair.

The security in and around the church has been stepped up and the village is on high alert. This became very obvious one practice night when the Tower Captain received a call from one of the ringers' spouses warning us that there was a large van outside the church with ladders on it. It was thought that the thieves were being very cheeky and stealing lead under cover of the noise of the bells. Were the ringers in with a chance of catching the thieves? Alas no – it was one of the ringers who had come to the practice in his work's van! It turns out there had been several phone calls around the village reporting the same thing, so it proves that people are on their guard.

It is distressing to see the church full of buckets and all manner of other vessels to catch the water in an attempt to minimise the damage, not to mention the noise whilst attending a service in the rain. It is difficult to imagine the mentality of the culprits and one hopes that they will be brought to justice. In the meantime the church (and bell ringing) is functioning as normal but with an extra vigilant congregation.

Brian Robson

Chipping Norton

Monthly practices continue and the Sponsored Ringing Week was well-supported. Just over £800 was raised by the Branch members for the Diocesan Bell Fund.

In the Hook Norton Benefice quarter-peals were rung for the Ruby Wedding anniversary of Verity & Bob Calderan, and Philip Brown's 60th and Gayle Wood's 50th birthdays. Mark Tarrant conducted his first quarter peal of Grandsire Triples on April 11th at Steeple Aston.

The Branch AGM was held at Kingham on April 5th. All the current Branch Officers were willing to stand and, in the absence of other candidates, all were re-elected. They are: Chairman Reverend Jan Fielden, Vice-Chairman Nigel Harrison, Secretary Anne Hoyle, Treasurer Christine Harris, Ringing Master and Training Officer Keith Mitchell, Deputy Ringing Master Chris Seers, and Branch Representative to the Guild David Hopewell.

One new member was elected to the Guild – Nina Morgan of Chadlington. Congratulations were offered to John Benfield of Chipping Norton, a Guild member since 1954, who had been presented with a Long Service Certificate from the ODG, and to John MacVicker, Tower Captain at Shipton-under-Wychwood, on his recent 80th birthday.

By the time you read this Chadlington bells will be ringing again after the recent building work at St. Nicholas' Church.

Anne Hoyle

East Berks and South Bucks

Our Branch ten-bell band won the Guild competition at Aston Clinton in November. For some time it has been the privilege of the Branch winning the ten-bell to put together a band to represent the Guild in the Tewkesbury Shield, a national ten-bell striking competition. Our entry has been selected and our sights are now set on the challenge of winning the Shield for the Guild.

The Christmas social was held at Bray this year, the highlights of this very enjoyable and successful occasion being a 'Have I Got Ringing News for You?' quiz – the picture caption round proving particularly inspiring! – and the delicious food provided by the Bray ringers.

The Branch post-Christmas ringing outing took us to Cranleigh, Horsham and Warnham this year. This was as usual very well attended and extremely enjoyable.

Recent Branch training initiatives have been very successful, all being oversubscribed. The *Listening Skills* course in November run by John Harrison was very well received and another is planned for May. Referring to areas of need identified in a Branch survey, we have also offered *Raising & Lowering in Peal* courses and a *Simple Conducting* course, which have been equally successful. Training visits to towers' practice nights to provide strong support for their members have enthused ringers of those towers and given them confidence to move forward in their ringing. These visits will be a continuing feature of our training programme.

Hambleden's augmentation to eight was completed in July and we were able to hold a Branch practice on the new ring in November. With the first Branch practice on Cookham's new ten held in October, attended by over 30 members, the Branch has now had an opportunity to sample both our new rings and we are well pleased with the results. Cookham have now completed the whole refurbishment project with a newly carpeted and decorated ringing chamber and brand new set of ropes.

Other towers are suffering mixed fortunes. High Wycombe are currently only able to ring on their front eight bells until structural repairs are carried out on the tower. Clewer's six bells which presently hang on two levels are being rehung in a new cast iron frame to hold all six bells on one level. Work is estimated to take three months to complete. The church spire at Maidenhead is being repaired which will prevent ringing until it is completed. St Mary's Hitcham is undergoing a major refurbishment which will include the erection of a new first floor ringing chamber (currently a ground floor ring with very long draught). Building work has begun on Chesham's tower which will take between 6 and 12 months to complete; meanwhile ringing is suspended. Finally, a fire on Easter Sunday morning at the church at Old Windsor, whilst fortunately not affecting the tower or bells, has left the roof unstable and ringing is suspended until it is repaired.

Sadly we have recently lost two of our members. Bernard Collins, Denham's much loved tower captain, died suddenly in March. Bernard had been ringing for well over fifty years. Liz Nalder-Williams of Penn died in March after a long illness. Liz began ringing at Penn in her 70s and was a loyal member of their band, never missing on Sunday mornings or practice nights. Both these members will be very much missed.

Mandy Salter

Newbury

The Branch AGM took place at Beenham on March 1st. There was a good attendance from the towers in the branch. The rector of the newly formed benefice of Aldermaston with Woolhampton, the reverend Pete Steele, conducted the service in Beenham Church and then everyone moved on to Beenham School where tea was provided. The AGM then followed with Marcus Allum in the chair.

We have sadly lost three members since the last AGM: David Cooper and Dennis Muttram of Thatcham, and Douglas Vellender of East Garston.

The branch officers have decided that there will not be a striking contest in the branch this year but instead a social event is being hosted by East Garston on Saturday July 5th. Anyone from outside the branch who might be interested in coming along would be welcome.

A meeting of tower representatives was held on April 5th where items discussed included the branch outing, branch social, Guild 8-bell striking contest where the branch is hoping to enter a band, recruitment and retention of ringers, tower maintenance, sound control and training courses.

The organiser of the Newbury Branch 200 Club, Maureen Tarbox, has reported increased membership again this year.

David Wilcox

North Bucks

Our second Christmas Celebration was held at Bradwell. With a similar format to last year of carols, fish and chips and the Ringing Master's quiz, this was less about ringing and more about bringing members together away from the tower. It proved to be a most enjoyable evening and is now part of the branch calendar.

At the AGM in March it was as you were, with only Chrissie Cable standing down as Training Officer. No replacement could be found so this post is currently vacant, as is Assistant Ringing Master.

At Easter the Branch organised a tower open day to raise funds for the Olney Bells Project. Despite the weather this was very successful, raising over £900. The Olney Bells Project progresses well and should provide the branch with its first ring of ten bells by the end of the year.

Branch Practices over the winter have not been especially well attended but the joint practice with the Towcester Branch in November, on the twelve at Towcester, was well supported and enjoyed by all.

Helen Stanworth

Old North Berks

New Year 2008 got off to a good start when the Wantage ringers hosted the New Year's Day ringing and refreshments, and we extend our thanks to them. Recent Branch practices have also been fairly well attended, with local ringers continuing to benefit from ringing either one or both of two methods chosen for each practice. Our Surprise Major practices, organised by Richard Loyd, are going from strength to strength; with touches of 8-spliced being rung regularly, together with attempts at plain courses of Glasgow. Anyone who is able to ring the treble to surprise or treble bob major, or who is learning Cambridge, is most welcome to attend. Kate Crennell's mid-week afternoon sessions are also popular with beginners, and all are welcome, both students and helpers. Our thanks go to Richard and Kate for all their efforts.

On the social front, sixty Branch members and friends showed their appreciation to the East Hagbourne ringers for organising an excellent quiz night and ploughman's supper in their village hall in November. Thanks also went to Jeff Powell, ably assisted by Buzz, for preparing the questions and providing excellent entertainment as quizmaster. The Latecomers, headed by Colin and Nicola Turner were victorious (were they late because they had to be dragged away from their quiz books?), with a local team coming a close second. The evening raised almost £200 for Branch funds.

Branch membership rose to 268 in 2007, and continues to rise with thirteen new members and one lapsed member being elected to the Guild at our recent AGM. Sadly we have recently lost one of our members, Colin McInnes, who was a former tower captain at West Hendred.

Unfortunately our AGM no longer attracts the high attendance of yesteryear, with only twenty-nine Branch members present. It was suggested that we could hold social events after future AGMs to encourage a higher attendance rate. Either that or we should widely advertise the entertainment value of our 'any other business', where this year we had an impromptu 'Antiques Roadshow' display of unwanted impulse buys and mystery photographs! The AGM was preceded by the Branch 6-bell striking competition, which again had few entries although the standard of ringing was very high. Of the three teams entering, Wallingford came first, with Blewbury and Abingdon both a very close second and third.

Our next planned social event will be an outing and barbecue in July. Philip Roberts is arranging the towers for the outing and venues for lunch and afternoon tea in the Witney area. The barbecue will be held at the home of Stuart and Naomi Gibson on the same evening. As usual there will be croquet and trampolining for the more adventurous.

Gillian Loyd

Oxford City

The winter season is now only marginally less busy than summer months, with a regular mix of mini-outings, training mornings, and quarter peals. It is sometimes easy to forget what a daunting step it can be for a relative beginner to venture outside of their home tower, and even more so their branch. Therefore it has been encouraging to see our recent outings to Buckinghamshire towers and Hertfordshire/ Bedfordshire towers, as well as our Stedman Triples practice at Witney and 8-bell practice at Great Milton, so well attended.

Those who are most enthusiastic and eager to participate may not necessarily be the most natural to progress but are the life-blood of the branch, and the warm welcome we have received at several towers we have visited of late is much appreciated. Particular thanks are due to the owners at Emmington where a guided tour of the aviary was included, and the ringers at Rothersthorpe in Northants who provided a plentiful supply of tea and biscuits on a cold February morning.

Ten year old Stephen Nichols is currently learning to ring at St Andrew's in Headington. Stephen comes from a ringing family. His father, Graham, rings at Headington and his grand-parents, Nora and Bernard, were ringers some years ago.

At Kidlington a quarter peal was rung for the Queen's Diamond Wedding Anniversary on the date, and a report was sent to the Queen as requested by the Guild Ringing Master.



Stephen Nichols in Oct. 2007

A letter of appreciation was received from the Queen's Secretary and framed; it is now in the belfry.

Kidlington's Tuesday practice and service ringing are very well attended with their three young learners doing very well and ringing for Sunday Service. Kidlington has also been the victim of vandals with the lead being taken off the refectory roof, which was only noticed when the rain came in causing considerable damage to the walls and carpets.

The City branch calendar of events for 2008 is our most extensive yet, and the percentage of branch members attending events continues to increase.

Katie Lane

Reading

The Advent Carol Service was held at Henley-on-Thames in December and was taken by the Rev. Brendan Bailey from Nettlebed. The traditional mince pies and mulled wine was served afterwards, and thanks go to the Henley ringers for the excellent arrangements. Thanks also go to all those who did readings.

Practices still take place on the 2nd Saturday of the month with varying numbers attending; also the Advanced Practice has varying numbers attending. The Monday afternoon practices now take place on the 2nd Monday of the month. For full details of our Branch Practices please see our Branch web site.

The Branch Annual General Meeting took place at St John's Mortimer in February. There were two changes to the Branch Officers – Kate Davis was elected as one of the Ringing Masters and Chris Johnson has taken over the post of Web Site Manager.

Thanks go to Colin Cairns for the work he had done in the post of Ringing Master and for looking after the web site.

Also attending our Annual General Meeting was Jon Chamberlain the Guild Master.

Thanks to the Mortimer ringers for hosting the Annual General Meeting and providing tea.

Chris Johnson has already revamped the Branch web site and the address is now: www.odgreadingbranch.co.uk

Kenneth Baker

Sonning Deanery

The branch has remained busy over the winter period, with Branch Practices once a month on Saturdays, and a day-time Branch Practice once a month, usually in the afternoon of the first Tuesday of the month. These day-time practices are supported by a small group of regulars, but a few more ringers are needed to keep them viable. The branch thanks John Harrison for his organisation and running of these day-time practices.

At the branch AGM on Sat 16th February most of the officers were re-elected. Changes were that Aidan Hopkins became Ringing Master (in addition to being branch webmaster), and Sarah Boys took on the job of branch Newsletter Editor.

On the 1st March the branch had a very pleasant ringing outing to six churches in the Marlborough / Hungerford area; The three towers in the morning were 6-bell towers, and the three after lunch were 8-bell towers. A different person ran the ringing at each of the towers; a good idea which made it less tiring for the organisers. (A photo of all those taking part in the outing is on the back cover.) All the members thoroughly enjoyed the day, and they thanked Rachel and Andrew Moss for organising the outing – and the lovely weather!

The branch 6-bell striking competition was held at Warfield on Sat 19th April. Four teams took part and used the back six bells of the Warfield 10. This made it easier for those teams that were used to ringing heavier bells in their own towers. Both judges put the teams in the same order, but they differed markedly in the number of faults recorded, so the number of faults per team were not announced. The winners were Sonning and a photo of the team is on the back cover.

After the striking competition the branch held a 9-pin bowling with dinner evening at a pub nearby. This was well supported by 21 members and friends, the food was good and everyone enjoyed the bowling competitions.

Andrew Moss

South Oxon

I am afraid this report suffers from the fact that South Oxon has a new Branch Secretary. I am just beginning to get into the swing of things, and have only a small report to offer.

A group of truly young ringers (all under 16 year old) spent several hours one Saturday morning in January at Shiplake, working on the simulator. I have had reports that it was a good time out – and they picked up some pointers on ringing too!

We have had two training days, one for *Plain Bob Doubles* and one for *Plain Hunt*. A monthly *Grandsire* practice is taking place at Little Milton and Shabbington on an alternate month basis. For the experienced ringers, there are monthly Surprise Major and Minor practices, as well as Cambridge Surprise Major and Double Norwich CB Major practices.

In March the Branch 6-bell Striking Competition was held at Great Haseley. We had a terrific turn out of 5 teams and some serious competition, with a rather close score between Drayton St Leonard and Chalgrove. Chalgrove came out on top and will go on to represent the branch in the Guild Final in October. I should also point out that the Leap Year Sponsored Ringing raised a total of over £1000 in aid of the ODG Bell Fund.

Amy Herlihy

Vale of the White Horse

Branch practices and social events continue to be well supported. Just over 40 ringers and friends attended this year's annual dinner at the Rose & Crown at Ashbury.

Several different events were organised for sponsored ringing week. The Ashbury and Bishopstone ringers invited their sponsors to join them for a romantic Valentine's Day practice in the oil-lamp-lit ringing room at Bishopstone. At Shrivenham, Margaret Andrews rang her first quarter inside, and Jamie Townsend managed to score his first triples inside at Faringdon, despite ringing the final 400 changes with his rope untucked! Our younger ringers also joined in the fundraising with a visit to the mini ring in Martin Hough and Jane Johnston's garage at Lambourn. The band, aged between 10 and 17 (average age 12.8) rang 15 minutes of rounds on 12 and raised £156 pounds.

Faringdon hosted our AGM in March. All of the branch officers were re-elected with the exception of the ringing master – after three years in post and with young Daniel taking up more of her time, Cheryl Watson had decided to stand down. Tony Crabtree was elected in her place, with Darran Ricks taking over as deputy ringing master. Five new members were welcomed to the Guild, three from Ashbury and two from Longcot.

Our recent recruits continue to make good progress. The single method training evenings have been very useful, especially the plain hunt and raising and lowering sessions, and several ringers have also attended Guild training days.

Lucy Laird

Witney and Woodstock

Our February AGM was hosted by Yarnton. Nineteen new members were elected and membership now stands at 188. Louise Brown has kindly agreed to take on the role of Ringing Master, with Lindsey Thornton and Kate Everett as deputies. Brian Curtis was elected as our website editor. David Rose (Bampton) was presented with a certificate in recognition of 50 years membership with the Oxford Diocesan Guild, and Peter Coveney (Eynsham) was elected an Honorary member.

In January, Richard White organised another of his very enjoyable Branch quiz evenings at the Woodstock Tennis and Bowls Club. There was a good turnout with each team providing delicious food. Congratulations to Hugh Deam's team from the City Branch who won the quiz. Earlier in the day, there had been open tower ringing at Langford. It's the most westerly tower in the Branch which seldom has visitors and is without members. The ringing was arranged to coincide with a mini-outing planned by Jon Chamberlain. It was good to have support from the City Branch for both events.

A Branch meeting was arranged in April to present a long service certificate to George Wiltshire (Aston) and elect him, along with Peter Clarke and Terry Hester (Witney), as Honorary members.

Branch practices have been very well supported this year, particularly at Combe and Aston.

Anthony Williamson

Points from Peals

On 5th January 2008, the first peal for thirteen years was rung on the bells at Ewelme, Oxfordshire; a peal of seven Surprise Minor. It was rung as a compliment to Professor John Bell on attaining a Knighthood for his services to medicine. The immunologist and geneticist is Oxford's Regius professor of medicine, one of the United Kingdom's most senior academic medical positions. It was fitting for the peal to take place at Ewelme, a village with certain renown, as Professor Bell holds the distinguished position of Master of the Almshouse, which was established in 1437 by Alice, first Duchess of Suffolk and the granddaughter of the poet Geoffrey Chaucer. As is custom, the lord of the manor of Ewelme chooses the master, and practice states that the post should held by a member of the University of Oxford.

A number of significant events and anniversaries have taken place over the past few months. Jim and Helen Diserens, prominent ringers in the Guild for many years, recently celebrated their golden wedding anniversary, and peals were rung to congratulate them on this occasion. Similarly, Vic and Doreen Murphy, active members of Isleworth church for seventy years, also celebrated their golden wedding anniversary, and Guild members dedicated a peal at Isleworth to this event. Doreen was in fact a ringer at this church for a number of years. A peal at Wallingford was rung as a 60th birthday compliment to Christopher Tuckett. This peal was also the 40th anniversary of Robert Partridge's first peal of Surprise at Wallingford. And a peal was rung to welcome Toryn Devon Morlan Pett, first grandchild of Gill and Tim.

A number of new methods have been rung to peals of late: Highclere Church Surprise Maximus, X-ray Surprise Major, Yaffle S Major, Wadworth 6X Surprise Royal, and Quicklime S Major. Congratulations should also be extended to the ringers who rang in the peal of 25-spliced Surprise Major at Goring on Thames on 14th January 2008. This was the most methods rung to a peal for three members of the band: Antoinette Jackson, Robin Middleton, and John Wells.

The first peal has been rung on the six bells at St John the Evangelist, Ryhall, Rutland. In 2004 a new treble was cast and tuned, and new fittings were provided for all the bells.

The customary peal was rung at St. Paul's Wokingham for the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul and also to mark Wokingham All Saints bellringers' Dinner Day.

On 9th March 2008 a peal at Milton was arranged specially and dedicated to Christopher J N Dalton, renowned bell historian, who played a part in the restoration of the bells at this church.

Claire F. Roulstone

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Mr David Lane

Mrs Wenda Fowles
Mrs June Wells

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Miss Louise Marshall

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Mr W (Bill) Butler

Mr Mike K Till

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Diary of Events for 2007/08

* Subject to confirmation	AGM Annual General Meeting	AP Advanced Practice
BP Branch Practice	EP Elementary Practice	HY Half Yearly Meeting
QM Quarterly Meeting	RCP Ringing Centre Practice	SC Striking Competition
SM Surprise Major	SP Surprise Practice	CM Committee Meeting

MAY 2008

Fri	2	Newbury	BP	Kintbury (8 bell)	7.30 – 9.00
Sat	10	Central Bucks	BP	Twyford Bucks	6.30 – 8.30
Sat	10	Newbury	Outing	Worcester	*
Sat	10	Banbury	SP	Tadmarton (Minor)	
Sat	10	Oxford City	HY	Cowley	
Sat	10	EBSB	SP	Stoke Poges (8)	7 – 9pm
Sat	10	South Oxon	Outing	Spring outing to the Isle of Wight	
Mon	12	Bicester	BP	Brill (6)	7.30 – 9.00
Tues	13	Banbury	BP	Steeple Aston	
Wed	14	Old North Berks	BP	Childrey (8)	7.30 – 9.00
Fri	16	North Bucks	BP	Shalstone, Stedman Doubles	7.30
Sat	17	Chiltern	BP	Great Missenden	7.00 – 9.00
Sat	17	Oxford City	BP	Picnic & ringing, West Wycombe	5.30
Mon	19	Bicester	BP	Triples/Maj Practice Bicester (10)	7.30 – 9.00
Sat	17	Sonning Deanery	BP	Sonning (8)	10.30am – 12
Wed	21	Vale of White Horse	BP	Colehill	7.30 – 9.00
Sat	24	EBSB	BP	Denham (8)	7 – 9pm

JUNE 2008

Tues	3	Bicester	BP	Souldern (6)	7.30 – 9.00
Wed	4	Chipping Norton	BP	Chipping Norton (8)	7.30 – 9.00
Thur	5	Witney & Woodstock	BP	Church Hanborough	
Fri	6	Newbury	BP	Hungerford (8 bell)	7.30 – 9.00
Sat	7	Oxford City	BP	Stedman Triples, Cuddington (8)	10.00
Sat	7	North Bucks		Summer Social, Maids Moreton	4.30
Tues	10	Old North Berks	BP	East Hendred (6)	7.00 – 8.30
Sat	14	Central Bucks	SC	Drayton Parslow	5.30 draw
Sat	14	Banbury	SC	Bodicote	5.00
Sat	14	Oxford City	SC	Striking Comp. Hinton Waldrist (6)	6.30
Sat	14	EBSB	SC/BP	6-bell competition Chenies (6), followed by branch practice	5pm onwards
Mon	16	Bicester	BP	Triples/Maj Practice Bicester (10)	7.30 – 9.00
Thur	19	Banbury	SP	Great Tew	
Fri	20	North Bucks	SC	6-bell Comp., Stoke Goldington	7.30
Sat	21	Sonning Deanery	BP	Waltham St. Lawrence (6)	4 – 6pm
Sat	21	Chiltern	SC/BP	Great Kimble	*
Sat	21	Oxford City	Outing	Dorset Coast towers	
Sat	21	Witney & Woodstock	SC	*	
Wed	25	Witney & Woodstock	BP	Stanton Harcourt	
Fri	27	Vale of White Horse	SC	Six-bell SC, Longcot	7.30
Sat	28	South Oxon	BP	Drayton St Leonard (6)	7 – 8.30
Sat	28	North Bucks	SC	Inter-branch comp., Wicken	*
Sat	28	EBSB	BP	Bisham (3)	6.30 – 7.00
				Marlow (8)	7.00 – 9.00

JULY 2008

Tues	1	Chipping Norton	BP	Ascott-under-Wychwood (6)	7.30 – 9.00
Wed	2	Bicester	BP	Middleton Stoney (6)	7.30 – 9.00
Thur	3	Banbury	BP	Somerton	
Fri	4	Newbury	BP	Brightwalton (6 bell)	7.30 – 9.00
Sat	5	Newbury	Social	East Garston	
Sat	5	Old North Berks		Outing and Barbecue	*
Sat	5	Oxford City	BP	St.Thomas (10)	
Tues	8	Witney & Woodstock	BP	Tackley	

Sat	12	Central Bucks	BP	Bierton	6.30 – 8.30
Sat	12	Banbury	Outing	*	*
Sat	19	Sonning Deanery	BP	Twyford (8)	6 – 8
Sat	12	EBSB	BP	Clewer (6)*	7 – 9pm
Fri	18	North Bucks	BP	Newport Pagnell, Duffield Major	7.30
Sat	19	Chiltern	BP	Bledlow	7.00 – 9.00
Sat	19	Banbury	SP	Swalcliffe (Minor)	
Sat	19	Oxford City	BP	Kidlington (8)	10.00
Mon	21	Bicester	BP	Triples/Maj Practice Bicester (10)	7.30 – 9.00
Thur	24	Vale of White Horse	BP	Hinton Waldrist	7.30 – 9.00
Thur	24	Witney & Woodstock	BP	Woodstock	
Sat	26	South Oxon	BP	Little Milton (6)	7 – 8.30
Sat	26	EBSB	SP	Beaconsfield (8)	7 – 9pm

AUGUST 2008

Fri	1	Newbury	BP	Midgham (6 bell)	7.30 – 9.00
Tues	5	Chipping Norton	BP	Enstone (6)	7.30 – 9.00
Thur	7	Bicester	BP	Stratton Audley (5)	7.30 – 9.00
Sat	9	Central Bucks	BP	Nether Winchendon	6.30 – 8.30
Sat	9	Banbury	SP	Rousham (Minor)	
Sat	9	EBSB	BP	Bray (8)	7 – 9pm
Wed	13	Old North Berks	BP	Cumnor (8)	7.30 – 9.00
Thur	14	Witney & Woodstock	BP	Bladon	
Fri	15	North Bucks	BP	Chicheley, Durham S Minor	7.30
Sat	16	Sonning Deanery	BP	Shottesbrooke (6), and picnic	11.30 – 2.30
Sat	16	Chiltern	BP	Ivinghoe	7.00 – 9.00
Mon	18	Bicester	BP	Triples/Maj Practice Bicester (10)	7.30 – 9.00
Mon	18	Banbury	BP	Great Tew	
Tues	19	Vale of White Horse	BP	Buscot	7.30 – 9.00
Sat	23	EBSB	SP	Cookham (10)	7 – 9pm

SEPTEMBER 2008

Thur	4	Oxford City	BP	Rousham	
Fri	5	Chipping Norton	BP	Burford (8)	7.45 – 9.15
Fri	5	Bicester	BP	Ludgershall (5)	7.30 – 9.00
Fri	5	Newbury	BP	Newbury (10 bell)	7.30 – 9.00
Thur	11	Witney & Woodstock	BP	Wootton	
Fri	12	Old North Berks	BP	Blewbury (8)	8.00 – 9.30
Sat	13	Central Bucks		Branch outing (tbc)	*
Sat	13	Banbury	SP	Mollington (Minor)	
Sat	13	Oxford City	BP	Stedman Triples, Headington (8)	10.00
Sat	13	EBSB	BP	Slough (10)	7 – 9pm
Sat	13	North Bucks		Autumn Meeting, Shenley	
Mon	15	Bicester	BP	Triples/Maj Practice Bicester (10)	7.30 – 9.00
Thur	25	Vale of White Horse	BP	Shellingford	7.30 – 9.00
Thur	25	Banbury	Reps	Elephant and Castle	
Sat	20	Chiltern	BP	Ellesborough	7.00 – 9.00
Sat	20	Sonning Deanery	SC/BP	Wargrave (8)	6.00 – 9.00
Sat	27	South Oxon	BP	Wallingford (10)	7 – 8.30
Sat	27	EBSB	SP	West Wycombe (8)	7 – 9pm

OCTOBER 2008

Wed	1	Witney & Woodstock	BP	Northmoor	
Fri	3	Newbury	BP	Bucklebury (8 bell)	7.30 – 9.00
Sat	4	Chipping Norton		Autumn Meeting, Chadlington (6)	*
Sat	4	North Bucks	SC	Guild 6-bell Striking Competition	*
Mon	6	Bicester	BP	Bicester (10)	7.30 – 9.00
Sat	11	Banbury	SP	Deddington	
Sat	11	Oxford City	Outing	Hampshire towers	
Sat	11	EBSB	HY	Lorna Newton Final & Half Yearly Meeting	5pm onwards
Sat	11	South Oxon	Outing	Autumn outing	
Sat	11	Witney & Woodstock	Outing	Branch Outing	

Mon	13	Old North Berks	BP	Marcham (6)	7.30 – 9.00
Sat	18	Chiltern (hosts)		Orchard Cup	*
Sat	18	Sonning Deanery	BP	Warfield (10)	7.30 – 9.00
Sat	18	Chiltern	BP	Wendover	7.00 – 9.00
Sat	18	Banbury	HY	Bloxham	
Mon	20	Bicester	BP	Triples/Maj Practice Bicester (10)	7.30 – 9.00
Mon	20	Witney & Woodstock	BP	Bampton	
Sat	25	Oxford City	BP	Minor Methods, Hillesdon (6)	10.00
Sat	25	EBSB	BP	Hambleden (8)	7 – 9pm
Sat	25	South Oxon		Meeting at Shabbington (6)	
Mon	27	Vale of White Horse	BP	Shrivenham	7.30 – 9.00

NOVEMBER 2008

Sat	1	Banbury		Steeple Aston Course	
Tues	4	Chipping Norton	BP	Churchill (8)	7.30 – 9.00
Tues	4	Bicester	BP	Islip (8)	7.30 – 9.00
Fri	7	Newbury	BP	Lambourn (8 bell)	7.30 – 9.00
Fri	7	Witney & Woodstock	BP	North Leigh	
Sat	8	Central Bucks	BP	Winslow, Bucks	
Sat	8	Banbury	SP	Adderbury	
Sat	8	EBSB	BP	Old Windsor (8)*	7 – 9pm
Fri	14	Old North Berks	BP	Appleton (10)	7.30 – 9.00
Sat	15	Sonning Deanery	CM	St. Paul's, Wokingham (8)	5.00 – 7.30
			BP		7.30 – 9.00
Sat	15	Old North Berks		Barn Dance, Blewbury Village Hall	
Sat	15	Chiltern	BP	Stoke Mandeville	7.00 – 9.00
Sat	15	Oxford City	BP	Stedman Triples, Witney (8)	10.00
			AGM	Iffley (6)	4.30
Sat	15	North Bucks	BP	Joint Practice, Downs Barn	7.30
Mon	17	Bicester	BP	Triples/Maj Practice Bicester (10)	7.30 – 9.00
Fri	21	Banbury	BP	Mollington	
Sat	22	EBSB	BP	Dorney (6)	7 – 9pm
Tues	25	Vale of White Horse	BP	Buckland	7.30 – 9.00
Wed	26	Witney & Woodstock	BP	South Leigh	

DECEMBER 2008

Tues	2	Witney & Woodstock	BP	Yarnton (may be on 9 th Dec.)	
Wed	3	Chipping Norton	BP	Charlbury (6)	7.00 – 8.30
Wed	3	Bicester	BP	Kirtlington (8)	7.30 – 9.00
Fri	5	Newbury	BP	Shaw (6 bell)	7.30 – 9.00
Fri	5	Oxford City	BP	with Wheatley	7.30
Sat	6	Banbury	CS	Deddington	6.30
Mon	8	Banbury	BP	Bodicote	
Wed	10	Old North Berks	BP	Cholsey (8)	8.00 – 9.30
Sat	13	Central Bucks	BP	Cuddington	6.30 – 8.30
Sat	13	Banbury	SP	Banbury	
Sat	13	EBSB		Christmas Social, Burnham (8)	*
Sat	20	Chiltern	BP	Monks Risborough	7.00 – 9.00
Sat	20	Sonning Deanery	BP	St Michael's, Sandhurst (6), (with mince pies)	10.30 – 12.30
Fri	26	Banbury	BP	Deddington	10.30 – 12.00
Mon	29	EBSB		Post-Christmas Daytime Outing	*



Sonning Deanery branch ringing outing, 1st March 2008



St. Andrew's, Sonning, branch 6-bell striking competition winners