

ODD BOB



Newsletter of the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers
<http://www.odg.org.uk/>



The Fulbrook Ringers arrangement for the Flower Festival

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From your Editor...

In a previous Odd Bob I set a little competition for members to send me photographs suitable for the front cover – no prize but lots of kudos! I have received many photos in the last six months, so it gives me plenty of choice for future Odd Bobs.

Don't forget to check regularly the Guild website at www.odg.org.uk/ 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 April 2010.

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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Master's Mutterings

Many members are well aware that the Guild has been in existence for only 128 years. It is hard to imagine what sort of structures, if any, were in place for the organisation of ringing within the Diocese before that time. Apart from the good work that was going on in certain centres, we can assume that things were fairly shambolic, with much ringing going on in spite of church services rather than because of them.

At the beginning of the 1880's, a group comprising representatives both of clergy and lay people came together and took steps to ensure that the activities of ringers were better organised and supported. A leading member of this group was Revd. Francis Edward Robinson. He was a former bank employee in Oxford and, from 1878, Vicar of St. Peter, Drayton (then in Berkshire). Robinson was the obvious choice as the Guild's first Master and he worked tirelessly for the improvement of bells, ringers and ringing. Along with the first Guild Secretary, Revd. Dolben Paul, he ensured that the fledgling Guild grew in strength and membership. Many in the Diocese were wary of becoming part of this new organisation and it took time and energy to build up the number of affiliated towers, and to ensure that the Guild survived.

Robinson was a fairly prolific ringer, even by today's standards! He was the first to achieve 1000 peals (the 1000th was at Drayton on 9th August 1905), and his liking for Stedman is well known. There are also anecdotes about him, including the (in)famous 'no peal – no supper' one. What may not be appreciated is that Robinson did not deliberately set the standard for lengthy masterships that seem to have been in vogue until the mid-1970's. On more than

one occasion he attempted to stand down but was persuaded to continue in office, in spite of failing health towards the end.

Robinson retired to Wokingham in 1908 where he passed away on 16th February 1910, aged 77 years. His grave is in All Saints' churchyard and details about the man, his funeral and grave can be found on the website of the All Saints, Wokingham ringers.

As we are approaching the centenary of the passing of this remarkable man, I think it would be appropriate if, as a Guild, we have a week of special ringing dedicated to his memory. Please will you join me in this? The suggested dates are **Saturday 13th February – Sunday 21st February 2010**. It could be a dedicated touch (rounds or call changes would be quite acceptable), or a quarter or peal attempt, which does **not necessarily** need to be Stedman!

I would be very happy to co-ordinate the details of what has been rung, for publication in *Odd Bob* and the *Ringling World*. Please send any information for inclusion to me by the end of February at the latest. I suggest that, if sending peals and quarters to Campanophile, care is taken not to forward them to the RW to avoid the possibility of duplication.

Another thought: how about submitting a recording of (part of) your special ringing to Chris Johnson if your bells do not already feature on the Guild website? A couple of minutes would be more than sufficient.

Thank you.

Robert Newton

Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund Report

I am pleased to report that the amount of new money raised this year to date is £7405.10, which is almost exactly the same amount as in 2008. This includes:

- Donations from branches – £2572.66
- Donations from 6 towers – £470
- Donations from 9 P.C.C.s – £131
- Individual donations – £592
- Little Missenden collection at the service of rededication of the bells – £475
- Donation from Guild Handbell Day - £34
- Ringing Day proceeds – £1260.50
- Gift Aid tax refunded – £962.39
- Donation from the Guild – £550.

The Trustees thank all those involved with the arrangements for the Ringing Day and in consequence the excellent result, which in due course will be increased when the gift aid tax is recovered.

Investment income received for the year to 30 September amounted to £13,375.50. At the AGM the Trustees reported their concern that the current financial climate may result in the 2009 income level falling to around £14,000. However as the result of changes in the Fund's investments, based on the advice of the Diocesan Financial Advisor, the likely outcome is for 2009 income to be comparable with 2008 (£20,445).

Following inspections by members of the Towers and Belfries Committee and their confirmation of satisfactory work, grants have been paid to Hanwell (£4,310), Olney (£8,270 – provisional grant offer increased due to additional costs) and St Lawrence, Reading (£410 – provisional grant offer reduced as the final costs were lower than forecast). The work at Benson and Clewer has been completed and inspections requested.

In September, the Trustees approved offers of provisional grants to Buckland (£3,190), Mapledurham (£1,820) and Peasemore (£2,065). These grants are forecast for payment during 2010.

The Trustees thank everyone for their financial support of the Bell Fund in particular during these difficult and uncertain times.

Brian Gatward, Hon. Treasurer

Restoration Fund Report

The amount of money received this year to date is £2,692.43 which is a considerable increase on last year. The analysis of income is:

- Donations from 6 branches totalling £849
- Tower donations of £100
- Individual donations of £51.64
- Gift Aid tax refunded of 69.75
- A legacy from Miss Edith Mary Clift of £1,000
- Interest received from investments amounting to £72.04
- A donation of £550 from the Guild.

The grant offered to Olney (£1,020) has been paid. An application for a grant has been received from Padbury and is under consideration.

The Trustees wish to thank everyone for their financial support to the Restoration Fund and remind individual donors who are tax payers of the additional benefit to the Fund where donations are also gift aided.

Brian Gatward, Hon. Treasurer

EBSB Fund Raising

In the centre of this issue of Odd Bob you will find an up to date *pull-out* price list for all the items sold by the *Bell Fund Shop* for the Guild. The price list is also available by e-mail by contacting 'Orders' on the website. All items may be viewed on the website www.bellfund.org.uk and some items can also be ordered through the website.

If there is anyone who missed out on the Guild Centenary (1981), we have been given a Caithness glass bell and four mugs that were made for that occasion – all to be sold and proceeds to the Bell Fund. Reasonable offers would be very welcome; contact Derek & Wenda Fowles on 01628 629538.

Derek Fowles

Education Sub-Committee Report

Your Education Sub-Committee has gained a prospective volunteer in the person of Richard Stanworth from Great Linford and we hope the General Committee will confirm his appointment at its meeting on the day this is published. Congratulations and thanks to Richard for a most professional organisation of the *Steeple Aston Course*.

Thanks also to Lucy Walpole and Sarah Andrews, last year's volunteers, for running this year's *Michaelmas Course* in September. This is for those wishing to progress in change ringing but, contrary to rumours, it is not just for advanced ringers.

I know it sounds like it but it isn't a tradition that new members of the sub-committee have to arrange a course, and if you have strong views on recruitment or training of ringers we would value your input. Please don't hesitate to volunteer.

We are pleased to see that *Laying the Right Foundations*, the course for teachers and tower captains, maintains its popularity, which bodes well for the health of bell ringing in the Guild's area. Thanks are due to John and June Wells who have presented this for the last ten years or so.

Forthcoming courses are the 10-bell day on 5th December and the Radley Course (see separate advertisement).

The Guild's training leaflets, first published some years ago, are now downloadable free of charge from the Guild website.

While the sub-committee can propose, it relies totally on the time and commitment of volunteer tutors and helpers to deliver its courses and as usual we would like to record our thanks to them.

Jon Chamberlain

ODG 6-bell Striking Competition

This year the Vale of the White Horse Branch hosted the Guild 6-bell Striking Competition on Saturday October 3rd, with eight teams battling it out on the back six at Longcot.

The Judges were Brian Bladon and Pete Tombs from just over the Diocesan border in Gloucester and Bristol DA territory. Being so close, Longcot bells were no stranger to Brian or Pete and through their extensive ringing careers both judges were amongst a good many old friends for the afternoon.

The church with its ground floor ringing room has a vestry/office just inside the church below the tower, and this with a fan heater provided the judges with a snug location from which to hear the eight teams compete.

An excellent tea was prepared and served in the chapel and Tony Crabtree organised the delivery of the teams to the tower in a very timely and efficient manner.

The bells were easier than last year (Milton Keynes Village) but were certainly enough of a challenge to make this an interesting and very closely contested competition. All the teams rang Grandsire Doubles except Wokingham who rang Cambridge Minor and Shrivensham who rang Plain Bob

Doubles. Only Thatcham ventured into “round block” territory using Morris’s 240 for the test piece.

In announcing the results the judges commented that they had heard no bad ringing at all and that everyone should be most proud of their performances. These were not the easiest bells to strike and that there had been a very good standard throughout the competition. The defects were only found because they were listening very hard, as this was a competition.

The judges placed the teams in the following order:

Branch	Tower	Comments	Faults	Place
Reading	St Mary	Very good ringing with a steady pace throughout and only minor trips and hesitations	29	1
Vale of WH	Shrivenham	Very good ringing with few trips but occasionally a bit rushed	29.5	2
Sonning Deanery	Wokingham	Nice ringing with a few trips	33	3
Oxford City	St Aldates	Better as it progressed. Nice to listen to. Took too long to settle but was nice at the end	39	4
EBSB	Amersham	“Concertina” ringing caused by uneven leading. Many very good rows but few joined together by good leading	41.5	5
Old North Berks	Blewbury	Suffered a couple of trips which took too long to get right	45	6
South Oxon	Drayton St Leonard	Better pace but ringing did not flow, leading suffered inaccuracies	51	7
Newbury	Thatcham	Too slow for the bells, ringing did not flow	53	8

Unfortunately the winning band had returned to Reading before the competition finished due to other commitments. The Trophy will therefore be presented to the Branch Reps at the November Committee meeting.

I would like to thank all the ringers who took part in the competition, our judges Brian and Pete, Tony Crabtree and Lucy Laird and their helpers for the arrangements. You all contributed to make this a success.

Alan Marchbank

Model Rings of Bells

I have heard from an ex member of the OGD, Nick Green, who makes model rings of bells. He has created a web site about his models to raise awareness of his collection, and he would like to display the models at ringing and church functions in the area (Milton Keynes/North Bucks). The web address is:

<http://modelchurchbells.co.uk>

Rob Needham, Editor

Tower Maintenance Award Scheme

The Tower Maintenance Award Scheme has had a slight setback with a total of three awards lapsing as against two gained (Ellesborough – who renewed a Gold award and Sonning, who have upgraded a Bronze to a Silver). The number of towers participating or expressing an interest is now at fifty eight, which is about twelve per cent of the towers listed in the annual report last year. There have now been fifty inspections (of which fifteen were preliminaries), resulting in thirty-one awards (thirteen Gold, ten Silver, and eight Bronze).

As already mentioned, three awards have expired (at the end of their two year period) and the towers concerned are listed at the end of this report. Congratulations to the band and steeplekeeper at Ellesborough where an existing Gold Award was successfully renewed. Congratulations also to Sonning, who after heading the *Expired Awards* list for some time, applied to be re-inspected in October and achieved a Silver. Seven out of the fifteen branches now have towers in the current awards list, as follows:

Banbury	1	(Bronze)
Central Bucks	1	(Gold)
Chiltern	1	(Gold)
EBSB	2	(Gold)
Reading	2	(Gold, Silver)
Sonning Deanery	2	(Silver, Bronze)
South Oxon	1	(Gold)

If your tower is in one of the other eight, how about trying to get your branch included by gaining an award?

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 *Odd Bob*), 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.

Current Tower Maintenance Scheme Awards

Gold Award

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
Winslow (St Laurence)	Central Bucks Branch	Expires 31.10.10
Ellesborough(SS Peter & Paul)	Chiltern Branch	Expires 28.02.11

Silver Award

Reading St. Giles	Reading	Expires 31.10.10
Sonning (St Andrew)	Sonning Deanery	Expires 31.10.11

Bronze Grade

Tadmarton (St Nicholas)	Banbury Branch	Expires 31.01.10
White Waltham	Sonning Deanery	Expires 31.03.10

Expired Awards

Dorchester (SS Peter & Paul)	South Oxon Branch	Expired 30.09.05
Deddington (SS Peter & Paul)	Banbury Branch	Expired 30.04.06
Bray (St Michael)	EBSB Branch	Expired 31.07.06
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
South Stoke(St Andrew)	Reading Branch	Expired 30.06.08
Easthampstead (St Michael)	Sonning Deanery	Expired 31.12.08
Wokingham (All Saints)	Sonning Deanery	Expired 30.04.09
Winkfield (St Mary)	EBSB Branch	Expired 31.05.09
Cookham (Holy Trinity)	EBSB Branch	Expired 30.09.09

Towers and Belfries Committee Report

Since my last report, eight inspections have been carried out, details of which are shown below. Details of the inspections (locations and reasons) are as follows:

- Aston Rowant (advice concerning a possible ringing gallery)
- Clewer (advice on "setting" concerns after new installation)
- Fulmer (correction of "odd-struckness")
- Maidenhead (problem with tenor following building work in the tower)

Olney (Grant inspection)
Reading St Lawrence (Grant inspection)
Sonning (Maintenance award inspection)

Twyford (Quote comparison advice)

The committee are reviewing the contents of two Guild publications (*Sound Control* and *Maintenance*) with a view to updating these if necessary before they are re-issued by the Education Committee. We are also endeavouring to resolve ambiguities concerning the “ringability” of the bells at Little Brickhill, Medmenham and St Ebbe’s Oxford.

The recent situation at Malvern Priory was discussed and the committee will remain alert to try and ensure that, should a similar situation arise within the Guild, adequate advice and assistance is provided.

The church of St Cross, Oxford, is to be leased to Balliol College on a 999-year lease and the use to which the building is to be put, and the necessary building alterations, will preclude any further use of or access to the bells. At the time of writing we are liaising with the Oxford Society in an attempt to have the bells and fittings removed and re-installed elsewhere.

The committee had been asked to provide advice to towers having maintenance contracts with Taylors, Eayre & Smith now that the company was in administration. Our advice is that towers in this situation should first contact the administrators to establish whether the service will continue to be provided. If not, then they should contact one of the other founders/bellhangers, who all provide a maintenance service, and negotiate a new contract.

John Davidge

Guild 8-bell Striking Competition

The 8-bell competition attracted eleven bands this year, three coming from Reading alone. Heats were therefore required and these were contested on the back eight at Banbury and at Adderbury. The judges at Banbury were Tine Marchbank and Ken Davenport, and at Adderbury they were Barry Eglesfield and John White.

The six bands that met at Banbury found the day grey and cold, which made standing about listening less than comfortable.

The ringing was of an exceptionally high standard throughout as the results show, and only one band suffered any sort of difficulty, and that was due to a missed call rather than anything else.

Result of Heat at Banbury

The judges for the heat were Ken Davenport and Tine Marchbank. They commented that they were able to hear all the bells well from their location and it was apparent that 3, 4 and 5 were difficult bells to strike accurately. They also felt the 7th was probably slow at backstroke. That said, they had listened to some excellent ringing from all the participants.

They gave the following account of each band's ringing performance and their scores:

Drawn		Faults	Placed	Judges Comments
1	St Mary with St Lawrence Reading	37	3 rd	Minor faults throughout the piece. Good speed. Ended well
2	Abingdon	47	4 th	Minor faults throughout. Good speed. Ended well. Poor patches in leads 1 and 3
3	Reading "B"	61	6 th	Slower ringing. A major crunch in lead 8. Recovered well and good ringing at the end
4	North Bucks	28	1 st	Good pace throughout, consistent rhythm, niggly little errors throughout, not quite perfect
5	EBSB	33	2 nd	Steady confident ringing which improved. Last 7 leads very good. Occasional quick hand stroke leads spoil the rhythm
6	South Oxon	49	5 th	Good piece of ringing but with real clips not little niggles

Result of Heat at Adderbury

At Adderbury the judges found the standard high and placed the teams as follows:

Drawn	Tower	Faults	Placed
1	Witney & Woodstock	150.5	4 th
2	Banbury	100	3 rd
3	St Aldate, Oxford	65	2 nd
4	High Wycombe	60	1 st
5	Reading J		Disqualified due to missed call

The Final at Great Tew

Sadly the temperature had not risen above mildly uncomfortable when we got to Great Tew. I was particularly concerned that the rain would hold off, as the judges, Chris and Margaret Bullied from Towcester, were to work from a gazebo in the field across from the church path. However with winter coats from the car the judges declared themselves ready.

The bells were a considerable challenge to good striking and consistent rhythm – no team had it cracked from start to finish and once again a mis-call scuppered one team's chances of a podium finish.

Tea and refreshments were provided whilst the ringing progressed and the judges and stewards were fed and watered throughout. Then came the results.

Chris started by declaring himself a fan of striking competitions as they promote good quality ringing. He went on to congratulate everyone on the high standard of ringing that had been produced on what were clearly challenging bells. He said that it was apparent that the backstrokes were easier to strike than

the handstrokes, and that leading was critical but difficult. Margaret commented on each team's performance and gave the reasons for the award of the faults and the final positions of the teams.

Drawn		Faults	Placed	Judges Comments
1	St Mary with St Lawrence Reading	32.75	2nd	Nice opening rounds with a few hesitations. Settled quickly to a good rhythm. A small crunch towards the end then clean from row 140 to the end
2	EBSB	57.5	5th	Nice rounds, but found it hard to keep to rhythm in changes. Settled in the middle
3	St Aldate, Oxford	36.25	3rd	Pull off into rounds not so good. Felt slower, more measured. 2 nd half was better than first. More hand stroke errors
4	North Bucks	79	6th	Very promising rounds with no mistakes. Going well in changes until row 15 when major catastrophe hit. Did very well to recover and keep going
5	Banbury	42.75	4th	Nice rounds, a steady pace but never completely settled. Marred throughout by minor faults and quick and slow blows
6	High Wycombe	30	1st	Good rounds. Strong rhythm into changes. Nice throughout, with only very minor inaccuracies

So it's congratulations to High Wycombe who were placed first, and well done to Reading and Oxford coming second and third respectively. Charles Botting received the trophy on behalf of the winners and resounding applause demonstrated the appreciation of the audience and other competitors for their success.

I would like to thank the judges for heats and the final: Chris and Margaret Bullied, Tine Marchbank, Ken Davenport, Barry Eglesfield and John White. Thanks also to the incumbents of the three churches, Adderbury, Banbury and Gt Tew, to the stewards who ensured the ringing ran smoothly and assisted conductors with timing etc, and to those who provided us with teas and refreshments. Finally thanks to all the teams that entered and made it such an enjoyable event.

Alan Marchbank

Post competition note. We came very close to disaster at Great Tew without realising it. The very next time the bells were rung (a peal attempt I think) a few days later, the tenor clapper broke! I dread to think how we might have resolved the competition had it failed a few blows earlier!!

Librarian's Report

There have been seven library enquiries since Odd Bob issue 80. These concerned:

- Tower captains at Harwell
- The extent of Plain Bob Major at Loughborough in 1963
- Peal during 1950s, one before ringer at Shiplake's most recent peal
- Date of peal at Drayton in 1895
- Ringers at Drayton killed during World War I and II
- FE Robinson's '*Among the Bells*'
- Handbell peals during September 1973.

I was very pleased to be sent by David Rowlands of Iver a copy of Parts A and B of Andrew Corrigan's catalogue of Surprise Methods. This completes the library's set of the works. These were the forerunners to the place notation lists published by the Central Council, so are of considerable interest in showing how the compilations developed. Thank you to David for this kind gift to the library.

Work on sorting the miscellaneous material has continued. I have acquired a batch of folders to store it in, and have so far set up about 20 different categories to divide the material into. From time to time, I spend an hour or so allocating papers to their appropriate folders. I hope that in a year or so I will have divided up sufficient material to list the folders in the library catalogue.

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

For a number of years, the Guild has arranged Group Personal Accident Insurance cover for Guild members and those under instruction by a Guild member. In May 2009, the benefits were increased and the lower and upper age limits on cover were removed.

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 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.

Benefits payable

Age Range (years)	Temporary Total Disablement	Permanent Disablement or Permanent Partial Disablement	Death
16 – 70	£300 per week for up to 104 weeks	£30,000	£30,000
Under 16	Nil	£2,500	£2,500
71 – 75	Nil	£2,500	£2,500
Over 75	Nil	Nil	£2,500

Medical expenses up to £1,500 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.

News from the Branches

Banbury

This year it was the turn of our branch to host the Guild 8-bell Striking Competition and Ringing Day on Bank Holiday Monday, 4th May. The majority of ringable towers in our branch were open or involved in some way to make this a successful fundraising event for the Bell Fund. The heats of the Striking Competition were held at Banbury and Adderbury. The final was held at Great Tew. The Ringing Day part of the event raised over £1,000.



The Banbury branch 8-bell band

Once again the striking competition and barbecue at Cropredy was a great success, with Steeple Aston coming first, Great Tew second and Bloxham third. Seven teams entered, and after the actual ringing, ringers and their guests enjoyed a delicious barbecue at the village hall cooked and prepared by Cropredy ringers. On this occasion the raffle proceeds were donated to The Brodey Centre at the Horton Hospital in Banbury.

An excellent outing in July was arranged by Roger Stranks, with help from his wife Myrtle, to the Battlefield Line in Leicestershire and once again proved to be a most enjoyable day out. We rang at Hinckley and Sutton Cheney before

boarding the train at Shenton for a short trip to Shackerstone where many of us enjoyed lunch at the station. We then travelled back to Shenton where we went on to ring at Stoney Stanton and then the two towers at Rugby. The day was rounded off with a meal at a hostelry on our way home.

During the summer a number of our ringers celebrated significant wedding anniversaries. Dave and Rachel Tuckey celebrated their Golden Wedding. Barry and Jean Davis, Malcolm and Joan Hensher and Barrie and Margaret Salter all celebrated their Ruby Wedding. [See photograph on back cover.]

Alan Griffin, Ringing Master, ran a Stedman Doubles course for three of our ringers who wished to challenge themselves a little more. All three ringers did the necessary theory preparation beforehand, which was of benefit to them when it came to actually ringing the method. Another course for Grandsire Doubles will take place in November.

Heather Hughes

Bicester

News since the May edition of *Odd Bob* is rather sparse – Branch Practices have continued with a few additional ringers supporting the normal local tower bands – we are very grateful for anyone who visits from other branches! We've been ringing for summer weddings, including one at Kirtlington, which will be forever remembered by your correspondent for breaking a stay! Caversfield will have had three weddings in 2009, having had none since 2003.

St Edburghs in Bicester has been out of action since 30th August but planned, at the time of writing, to be available for ringing again in December. Work is also taking place in St Mary the Virgin, Ambrosden with ringing suspended until December too.

Kathryn Grant

Central Bucks

On April 25th the Branch supported a local Youth Event held at Winslow. This was organised through the Careers Service and local police to show what was 'on' in the area for young people across North Buckinghamshire. We were able to have a 'stand', for which we were able to secure the Chamborough mini-ring. This proved one of the most popular attractions of the day with a constant stream of visitors; ringers and non-ringers alike! So much so that the local council expressed an interest and so did the church authorities. We were later asked to take part in the local team ministry stand at the Bucks County Show at the end of August – quite an auspicious event. Again, we were very fortunate in being able to book the Chamborough mini-ring, and with gloriously sunny weather and a huge number of visitors it provided a great opportunity to publicise ringing.

In September we had our Branch outing to Suffolk. This was another successful day out with beautiful weather, ably organised by Janice Robinson, our Vice Chairperson. We travelled by small coach, (leaving Aylesbury before 7.00 am!), which proved a good choice for keeping the party together while enabling us to negotiate small country roads. We rang on a number of 'heavier'

rings, so an interesting challenge for some, enjoying the lovely tones that these can generate.

In October we had our Orchard Cup competition, a ‘friendly’ striking competition held between ourselves and the Chiltern Branch. Although a training day was also taking place we managed to raise 7 teams between us and had a lovely social afternoon alongside the ringing, with the ‘usual’ wonderful tea provided by the ladies of Wootton Underwood. Lyndsey and Nick Brett had kindly given up their time to be judges and made some apposite and encouraging comments to us. Central Bucks Branch were pleased to be able to retain the cup, the winning team being Aylesbury for the second year running.

Unfortunately for us our Chairman has resigned recently, for health reasons, so Janice Robinson has, very proficiently, stepped into his position. Our grateful thanks to her, and best wishes to Andrzej, with many thanks to him for the very active organisational and supportive roles he has taken within the Branch over the last few years.

Heather Dobson

Chiltern

The individual towers within the Chiltern Branch maintain their reputation for modesty in not publicising their successes, as little news has been passed on by correspondents for inclusion in *Odd Bob*. However, the Branch has continued its steady-state level of activities since the last edition was published in May. Most towers are generally successful in providing ringers from their own resources for Sunday service ringing. With a little outside assistance from elsewhere in the Branch they have also provided bands for weddings and other “special occasion” ringing such as to mark particularly notable wedding anniversaries. In this context, Ellesborough ringers rang 600 changes of Plain Bob to celebrate a Diamond Wedding anniversary of Ellesborough parishioners, who were married exactly 60 years to the day when we rang for them – a very memorable occasion.

There has been no great breakthrough in recruiting and development, but one new ringer was elected to Guild Membership at the October half-yearly meeting. A recent recruit to Ellesborough wrote a very good article for publication in the *Bucks Herald Magazine*. In it Ruth details her experiences of being taught to ring. The piece has received a good response and it is well worth reading. Support for the monthly practices has been variable, but a successful Training Day was held at Weston Turville in May.

The Branch’s half-yearly meeting was held at Wotton Underwood in October, following the annual Orchard Cup Striking Competition between Chiltern and Central Bucks Branches; the cup was retained by St Mary’s, Aylesbury. The co-option of Gillian Little as Branch Rep was confirmed. As John White wished to relinquish his role as Branch Web-site Manager because of other commitments, Julie Bunker agreed to try to bring it up to date; thanks are due to John for his work in getting the site started.

Brian Robson

Chipping Norton

Throughout the year our monthly practices take place in churches all around the Branch. We are very grateful to our Ringing Master, Keith Mitchell, who organises the annual programme, arranges its printing and circulation to all towers, and conducts at almost all the practices. On the occasions when he is away Chris Seers, his deputy, takes over, or another of our experienced members steps into the breach.

At the Autumn Meeting, held at Little Compton on Oct. 10th, it was suggested that daytime practices might be a way of attracting different members, as well as avoiding icy roads on winter evenings. In spite of all towers being asked for their views weeks before the meeting, there was little response and a minority of those present at this evening meeting voted in favour. It was however agreed that, as an experiment, the February practice would be held on a Saturday morning, with the opportunity of a pub lunch afterwards. We hope this will be well supported – as you may gather I am one who favours this arrangement!

I am pleased to have news of more ringing achievements by Hook Norton ringers. In August 13-year-old Daniel Austin rang the treble in his first quarter-peal on eight, in Grandsire Triples. Nick Burchell and Imogen Mead celebrated their 15th birthdays by ringing a quarter-peal at Wigginton on 29th September. Nick rang inside to Bob Doubles for the first time, and Imogen rang her first on the tenor.

Fulbrook ringers have different talents! They decorated one of the windows in the nave as part of the St. James the Great Flower Festival. The display, with a bell-ringing theme, drew many favourable comments from visitors and the event raised £645 in aid of the chancel roof restoration. [*See photo on front cover.*]

Anne Hoyle

East Berks and South Bucks

As part of the Branch initiative to provide more varied activities for our members, we combined a walk with ringing for a day out in May. Organising towers to coincide with a pleasant walk is not easy but Chris Nunn ensured that 18 walkers (many of whom do not usually attend Branch events) enjoyed bright spring weather and rang at Stewkley, Swanbourne and Winslow, followed by an enjoyable meal. [*See the photo on the back cover.*]

In July we held another successful Novices' Outing attended by ringers from Hambleden, Winkfield, Bray, High Wycombe, Cookham and Chalfont St Giles, visiting Waltham St Lawrence, Wargrave, Twyford, Hurst and Wokingham All Saints.

The Branch AGM was held at Denham in April where we were also able to try out the newly fitted rope guides, which have made the bells much easier to ring. The Branch email user group was launched at the half yearly meeting at Chalfont St Peter in October; it is hoped that all members (with access to email) will join, so as to facilitate communication across the Branch. [*Continued on page 23.*]

OXFORD DIOCESAN BELL FUND

East Berks and South Bucks Fund Raising Committee

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* * * * *

**The 'Bell Fund Shop' may be seen at
Guild events and meetings.**

It was the season of striking contests:

- Our team was one of eleven bands which entered the Guild 8-bell striking contest, coming fifth out of the six bands in the final.
- The EBSB 6-bell competition took place at Fulmer in June and was judged by Ian Judd. Amersham were placed first when ringing against Slough, Beaconsfield, High Wycombe, Chalfont St Giles and Chesham.
- Our own Branch 6-bell contest for the Lorna Newton trophy was won in October by Chesham, with Lane End runners-up.

Branch 10-12 bell practices continue monthly at Amersham or Cookham.

The PCC has given its approval for the ringers at High Wycombe to launch their appeal for re-casting their bells. They anticipate that it will take a couple of years of dedicated fundraising to achieve the £250,000 target but are greatly encouraged that the All Saints ringers have pledged a third of this, and that they have already had the offer of a bell from two members of the congregation. The appeal leaflet is available from High Wycombe ringers or downloadable from www.allsaintshighwycombe.org/bell_ringers.htm.

The work to Clewer bells has now been completed and ringing has recommenced. Repair work has also been completed at Old Windsor church following the fire last year and the band are practising again.

Stoke Poges are making a monthly practice a regular feature, these being the first practices there since late 80s/early 90s.

Maidenhead bells were tested at the end of March and still found to be in good order; they were rung for Easter service for the first time in over a year and there is now ringing regularly for service.

Ringing has been suspended at Bray whilst repairs are being carried out to the tower.

In June, the Beaconsfield ringers managed to repay a debt from 32 years ago by ringing for the wedding of Lindsey Plaskitt and Andrew Yorston. When the strengthening and bell renovation work was carried out in the tower in 1977 the father of the bride, Dave Plaskitt, who was a civil engineering work colleague of Geoff Hopkinson, was a volunteer in the working parties that carried out the task. Dave stood in for Geoff as the leading technical specialist when Geoff was unable to be present and was a willing hand on the chain block lifting system when the bells came back from Whitechapel.

Maryanne Roach for Mandy Salter

Newbury

The Branch had a successful outing to the Stroud area in May visiting Minchinhampton, Painswick, Leonard Stanley, Horsley and Tetbury. For many of those who rang on the day, the 12 at Painswick were probably the most challenging as many don't ring regularly on 12.

July 11th was the day the Branch had chosen for a striking contest and social event at St Mary's, Speen. The weather was not wonderful but many ringers braved the light rain to come and enjoy taking part in, or listening to, the striking contest, and joining in the activities that had been arranged. These

included a mini-ring and hand bells for both change and tune ringing along with other non-ringing activities, which included tea with a wide range of sandwiches, pies, biscuits and cakes. Our thanks go to the organisers and also to Speen for hosting us this year.

It is good to see Speen starting up a regular practice once again after many years when there was little ringing and no regular practices. A band is beginning to form around this church, thanks to the help given by ringers from other towers.

There were six bands who took part in the striking contest. This was won by Thatcham, who then went on to represent the Branch at the Guild competition. Lambourn were awarded the Marshall Shield for the best call change/learner band. Unfortunately we were unable to get a band together for the Guild 8-bell striking contest this year.

On July 21st members of the Branch remembered the 40th anniversary of the first moon landing by ringing a quarter peal at Highclere of the appropriately named Lunar Delight Major.

Attendance at the monthly branch practices continues to be good and we have added another regular activity to the monthly calendar – ‘Quarter and Curry night’. Not always a curry, but the principle is to ring a quarter peal and socialise over a meal afterwards.

We have recently heard of the death of Harry Larkham, a long time ringer at Beenham. He was tower captain for many years and a regular Sunday service ringer, although his ringing was largely confined to Beenham and mainly tenor behind.

David Wilcox

North Bucks

The Summer Social returned to Clifton Reynes again this year, as it is an ideal location for the event – a ground floor ring at the back of the chancel allowing plenty of room to chat over a cup of tea and a slice or two of cake. Because of other events in the village we postponed the event until the middle of June. As this date was very close to the usual date of the branch striking competition the two events were combined on the same day. About forty people came along but unfortunately by the time the striking competition took place only three teams were left. Ben Carey from Portsmouth and Guildford Cathedrals was the judge and he decided that the winners were Hanslope. Unfortunately they were unable to raise a band to represent the branch at the Guild competition in October.

July saw the dedication of the new ring of ten at Olney, so that we now have a ring of ten within the branch. Our Inter Branch competition was also held in July after missing it out last year. The judges were Graham Clifton and Alan Griffin from the Banbury Branch. As a branch we seem to struggle to ring on eight and the judges awarded the eight bell section to the Towcester branch while North Bucks won the six bell section. This meant that the Towcester branch won the competition by two sections to one, so they collected both the

Jack Green Trophy for the overall competition and the George Holland Trophy for the Stedman Triples.

The Autumn Meeting was held at Padbury, with evening ringing at Hillesden. We hope to welcome Padbury to the branch soon, once their transfer from the Central Bucks branch has been ratified.

As part of our attempts to increase support for branch events we have held some recent activities on Saturdays. A practice was held at Calverton on a Saturday afternoon in August which attracted limited support. This was during the summer holidays for many and so it may not have been as well supported as was hoped. We will continue with Saturday afternoon practices for the time being and review the success of this change at a later date. A Saturday morning event in October aimed at beginners was very poorly attended. This may have been due to poor advertising.

Helen Stanworth

Old North Berks

Our monthly mid-week branch practices continue to be fairly well attended. The local ringers enjoy being able to ring the two 'special' methods selected for each practice, which they might not otherwise have the chance to ring at their home tower. Please note that ringing at our practices is not normally restricted to these two methods and our Ringing Masters will always do their best to ensure that they accommodate the needs of all the ringers present.

Our surprise major practices, held in alternate months, are going from strength to strength, with at least 25 attending the August practice. Although we ring up to 8-spliced, Cambridge was the main focus of the most recent practice and we were pleased to see so many new attendees, who are just starting to ring surprise major methods. Our monthly mid-week sessions held on Wednesday afternoons continue to be popular with beginners and improvers alike. Everyone who is free in the afternoon is welcome to come along, either as a student or as a helper. We would like to thank all those who have tutored at these sessions and everyone who came along to help.

We held another successful outing in July and would like to thank Philip Roberts of Harwell for organising this for us. This year we visited the Newbury area, ringing at Speen, East Woodhay, Burghclere, Kingsclere and Newbury. As usual, the towers were punctuated by frequent refreshment stops. The cream tea in Newbury proved to be quite interesting though, as we were abandoned on a roof terrace to make our own tea. We also thank Stuart and Naomi Gibson for giving us another super evening after the outing with a barbecue at their home. The food, as ever, was excellent and the croquet very entertaining, especially in the dark.

Our next social event will be a chance for branch members and friends to display their bowling skills. We are holding a skittles evening with fish and chip supper in Radley's village hall. We can all also look forward to Daphne's sticky toffee pudding, made famous throughout the Guild on the Radley course. The Branch would like to thank Daphne for her loyalty to the Branch and Guild and

for all the hard work and effort she has put in over the years. I am sure all of you who know her will join me in congratulating her on attaining Honorary Member status this year.

Gillian Loyd

Oxford City

Early September heralded Oxford Open Doors and at Christ Church several City Branch ringers were kept busy with demonstrations, displays and the



Charmborough mini ring. The chairman of the branch, Anthony Ellis, is seen here practicing his ringing skills; it was a windy day and gusts made catching the rope quite a challenge from time to time!

The branch entered the eight-bell and the six-bell striking competitions. It is always difficult gathering a band together but we managed third at the eight-bell. Our thanks to Kidlington for the practices made available on a couple of Sunday evenings.

The six-bell held at Longcot presented even more problems; so many people were unable to attend on the date. In the end the conductor rang with swine flu and another was distinctly below par – we were relieved to have made fourth!

After some problems during the summer at St Aldates: very restricted ringing times, reducing the band to a skeleton number, and a curate stopping service ringing because we had ‘not been given authority’, we now hope to begin to move forward. A meeting was held with the incumbent who has a far more positive attitude to his bells and was unaware of the problems that we had been having. We are hoping that discussions might be forthcoming with Pembroke College and that full-length practices may recommence in the future.

It is made more complicated by the fact that our alternating practices with Cowley have been compromised by the need to help the brand new learner band at Cowley every week. They are making great progress, thanks to their own, and Jonathan Cresshulls’ determination, but there isn’t enough support to run two practices on a Monday night. Although, when the chips were down regarding St Aldates continuing at all, there was a great response from several branch members to my clarion call to arms – ring the St Aldates bells or lose them for ever! Heartfelt thanks to everyone who rallied to keep both Cowley and St Aldates ringing!

Kidlington ringers enjoyed the branch six-bell competition and entered two teams, coming second with their ‘A’ team and fourth with their ‘B’ team who rang very respectable call changes.

In June they held a Sunday afternoon Open Day with about 70 visitors going upstairs to see the ringing, then into the refectory for tea and cake provided by ringers and friends. This resulted in donations of £260 to their bell fund.

On Sunday 4th October the bells sounded out as one of the ringers, Rebecca Smith, organised a music concert to raise funds for her trip to Malawi next summer. She has already raised £1,300 by holding other events – good luck Rebecca!

When the relics of St Therese of Lisieux arrived in Oxford for veneration hundreds of people queued outside The Oratory to pay their respects. St Giles ringers and other branch members were delighted to be able to ring as the relics were processed into the church opposite; some may even have heard the bells on the local news and surely others were cheered as they waited in the pouring rain. It was a privilege and a pleasure to take part in this unique occasion.

Katie Lane

Reading

The number of practices has now increased to four each month, with the introduction of a regular Higher Numbers practice at St Laurence Reading on the 4th Sunday of the month in the early afternoon.

In June the Branch held its annual outing, this year to Hertfordshire organised by Stephen Rossiter and June Saint. Towers visited were South Mymms, Southgate, Enfield, Monken Hadley, Chipping Barnet and Elstree.

Shiplake bells have now been removed; the last ringing on the old bells was on Tuesday 8th September. It is hoped that the new bells will be dedicated in February 2010.

This year's Branch 6-bell striking competition took place at Streatley, on a superb warm September afternoon. Only six teams took part this year but provided a very high standard of ringing; the results were very close with only 11 faults between 1st and 6th!

The local band from Goring was judged the winner with 16 faults and was presented with the Topper Trophy. St Mary's Reading was second with 17 faults. Our judges this year were Ken and Angela Darvill. A superb tea was provided by the locals in the Morrell Rooms.

It was unfortunate that due to holidays and other commitments Goring could not represent the Branch in the Guild 6-bell striking competition, so the runners-up represented the Branch and of course won another close competition at Longcot.

Saturday 3rd October saw the Branch back at the Morrell Rooms, this time for a Quiz night to raise funds for the Shiplake project. It was well supported and the room was packed with teams. Our thanks are due to Joyce and Keith Vernon for doing the organising and catering – plus all their helpers, to the quizmaster, Alan Mitchell from Shiplake Village, who set the right level of questions, and to the scorer Stephen Smith.

Ken Baker

Sonning Deanery

It has been a fairly quiet time for the Branch since the last issue of Odd Bob. Attendance at branch practices has been varied with some well attended and others not. June saw strawberries and cream available at Shottesbrooke, and at the August practice members picnicked in the churchyard at Waltham St Lawrence.

Weekday Branch Practices are held at All Saints Wokingham on the first Tuesday of the month, and these have been better attended in recent months, which has enabled a variety of methods to be practised, including some Surprise Major.

The Branch 8-bell Striking Competition took place in October at Sonning with two teams entering. Both bands rang well with Sonning winning extremely narrowly from All Saints Wokingham.

The end of the summer was also marked by sad news within the Branch with the passing away of Chris Brown following illness. Chris had been a keen supporter of all activities within the branch and had also been Deputy Ringing Master for a time. His presence will be missed by all in the Branch. A full copy of his obituary can be found in our Branch newsletter, a link to which is on the Branch website.

At the end of October Sonning tower was inspected for a Tower Maintenance award and managed to merit a 'good' Silver Award (nearly a Gold!).

At a recent Officers meeting, our Chairman and Hon. Sec. announced their intention to stand down, so the branch is looking for members to 'take over the reins' before the AGM next February.

Andrew Moss

South Oxon

This summer has seen the Benson ringers without bells – and therefore the South Oxon Branch has had a group of nomadic ringers. While the bells in the Benson tower have been away being retuned, the ringers themselves have been touring the branch and keeping in practice. At the time of our Autumn Meeting their bells had just been returned to the tower together with the new cast iron frame. The bells will be dedicated on the 22nd of November.

On a similar topic, Chalgrove have started a project to replace the headstocks and clappers on their bells. They are in the fundraising stage and hope to begin work early in 2010.

As a branch we are mostly 6-bell towers, so over the past year – and hopefully into the future – we are having occasional 8-bell practices. These have been well supported and we encourage attendance at these "branch" practices! They are a chance for the novice ringers to experience 8 bells and for the more experienced ringers to show us what good 8-bell ringing sounds like.

There has been a real emphasis on encouraging young ringers this year. There are at least 6 young people (<18 years old) who ring regularly. You can find them at Benson, Shabbington and Chalgrove. A special young persons ringing day will be held in November to give them an opportunity to ring together.

The youngest tower captain in our branch, Daniel Rogers, has gone to University in Bath this autumn. We wish him the best of luck and hope to see him for some ringing over the holidays!

I'm afraid I missed the Spring Outing to Brownsea Island in May. Reports were that the outing was excellent. Although the Autumn Outing was only a half day event, it was very well attended. The whip had to be cracked to ensure that ringing was prompt as there were so many people wanting to ring. The group in essence took over the whole pub for lunch.

Amy Herlihy

Vale of the White Horse

Darran Ricks organised an enjoyable branch outing on the first Saturday in June. Travelling by car and minibus, we rang at Maisemore (6) and Corse (6) in the morning. After lunch we were ready to tackle the climb up to the ringing room at Tewkesbury Abbey (12), and then it was on to Woolstone (6) where the leaning tower and sloping floor proved somewhat disconcerting. Although the bells were not available, we stopped for tea in Bishop's Cleeve, before heading off to Leckhampton (8) for the final ring of the day.

The branch striking competition was held at Shellingford at the end of June. Six teams entered and ringing ranged from rounds to methods. Judges Daniel Knight and Sarah Meaden awarded the Greenley Shield to Shrivenham 'A'.

We visited Buscot for our August branch practice. Blessed with better weather this year, ringers met by the weir pool at Buscot lock for a picnic first, and a couple of brave souls even joined the ducks for a swim!

The branch hosted the Guild 6 bell striking competition on 3rd October. With insufficient entries to justify the planned heats at Coleshill and Shellingford, the eight teams went straight to Longcot for the final on the back six. Judges Brian Bladon and Pete Tombs were tucked away in the church, while competitors enjoyed an excellent tea in the nearby chapel, with waiter/waitress service provided by our young Longcot ringers Sam, Ruth, Tara and Natascha.

Shrivenham, representing the branch, rang fourth and were delighted to be placed second to Reading again this year, narrowing the gap to just half a fault! Congratulations to Teresa Sugden, Erica Crabtree, Lucy Laird, Darran Ricks, Tony Crabtree and Helen Pepler.

A new venture this year was a quarter peal week in October. With the exception of Buscot (4) and Lyford (3), there was at least one attempt at every tower in the branch. Over 40 ringers participated, and twelve quarters were scored. Personal achievements included Grace Ryan's first quarter at Stanford in the Vale, first inside for Carina Loblely at Faringdon and several firsts in method.

Congratulations also to Sharon Berrisford (Coleshill), and Tracey Wright (Shrivenham) who rang their first quarters earlier this year.

Lucy Laird

Witney and Woodstock

Our Branch Outing to Wiltshire was organised by Richard White. The day started at Melksham, followed by an impressive eight at Holy Trinity, Bradford-on-Avon, where we had lunch, explored the town and also rang at Christ Church. We then went on to a magnificent church at Steeple Ashton, which has been described as one of the finest examples of Perpendicular Gothic architecture in England; the bells, however, were quite challenging. Thankfully there was fine weather throughout the day and we finished with a memorable ring at Marlborough.

John White and Hilarie Rogers kindly agreed to judge the striking competition for us; congratulations to Wootton and Witney for winning the call-changes and method competitions respectively. Many thanks to Louise Brown and Alvescot for the organisation and barbecue. Special mention must go to Whites of Appleton for putting the clapper back in the treble in time for the event, the clapper having flown off during practice a few days beforehand.

Wootton hosted the Branch social event in September at the Killingworth Castle pub. The Aunt Sally contest was great fun and the food was delicious. It was good to see Geoff and Peter Holden, notable local ringers whose names appear on many peal boards throughout the Branch. Peter is hoping to ring a peal at North Leigh next January to celebrate his father's ninetieth birthday.

We are currently trying a different approach to Branch Practices in an attempt to achieve higher attendance. Numbers are frequently low for week-night Branch Practices (because towers tend not to cancel their own practice night when it coincides with the Branch Practice), so we have now introduced a few practices on Saturday mornings. So far these Saturday practices have been a great success. We are aware that some ringers seem reluctant to take part in Branch Practices because of lack of confidence, so we are keen to stress that they will always find people there who are delighted to help those who want to progress.

Anthony Williamson

Points from Peals

On 16th September, a peal was rung at Bledlow, Bucks in memory of Lady Iona Carrington, who passed away on 7th June, the day after her husband's 90th birthday, aged 89. In 1943 the Carringtons took over part of the Manor House, Bledlow, which is immediately adjacent to the church. At this time the house was almost derelict and part of it was occupied by evacuees. Lady Carrington did much to improve the property, in particular the gardens, and she and her husband were regular attendees at the church.

A peal was rung in memory of Ray Park, a ringer at Marcham, the day after his funeral.

Friends and acquaintances of Harold Rogers joined him in a peal at Isleworth on 16th September, this being the 60th peal Harold had rung on church bells since he passed his 90th birthday. This was a remarkable achievement: Harold holds the all time record for the most peals rung by a person of such seniority. Incidentally, this was not his only peal this week – Harold successfully rang two other peals (at Isleworth of course!)

The first peal was rung on the newly rehung and refurbished bells at St. Andrew's, Clewer. This performance marked the centenary of the first peal on the bells – 5040 Grandsire Doubles on 9th September 1909. This was also Adam Delves' first peal. Congratulations should be extended to him along with Alan Bain, Jonathan Spencer, Helen Beaumont and Rosalinde Nicholls, who have also rung their first peals this year.

A peal was specially arranged and rung to celebrate the life and works of the late Marie Cross on what would have been her 100th birthday. It was fitting that the peal took place at Radley, on bells that she enjoyed ringing on for many years, and that all the ringers taking part in the peal had associations with her.

The first peal for over 18 years has been rung at St. Mary, North Marston, Bucks, this being the 5th peal on the bells. Meanwhile the last peal was rung on the bells at SS Peter and Paul, Shiplake, prior to embarking on a major restoration project to replace the existing ring with a brand new one of comparable weight, and hung in a new metal frame lower in the tower.

Congratulations to John Wells who rang his 700th peal for the Guild recently. He and his wife, June, also rang their 500th peal together in June. Peals were rung to extend best wishes to Philip Saddleton and Anthea Edwards who were married in August.

Claire F. Roulstone

Guild Officers for 2009

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Deputy Master	Mr Alan Marchbank <i>depmaster@odg.org.uk</i>
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Assistant Treasurer	Mr Stuart Gibson <i>deptreasurer@odg.org.uk</i>
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Report Editor	Mrs Heather Browning <i>report@odg.org.uk</i>
Odd Bob Editor	Mr Rob Needham <i>oddbob@odg.org.uk</i>
Peal Secretary	Mrs Claire F Roulstone <i>peals@odg.org.uk</i>
Public Relations Officer	Mr Peter G Davies <i>pro@odg.org.uk</i>
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Six General Committee members

Mr A J (Tony) Crabtree	Mrs Wenda Fowles	Mr W (Willie) Haynes
Mr Jim Diserens	Mrs June Wells	Mr Ken Wakefield
Central Council Representatives <i>ccreps@odg.org.uk</i>		
Mr W (Bill) Butler	Mr Graham Clifton	Mr John A Harrison
Dr Timothy G Pett	Mrs Bobbie May	Mr Ken R Davenport

Towers and Belfries Sub-committee

Chairman	Mr John Davidge <i>tbchairman@odg.org.uk</i>
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Secretary **Mr Mark Walker** *tbsecretary@odg.org.uk*

Education Sub-committee

Chairman **Mr Jon Chamberlain** *edchairman@odg.org.uk*

EBSB Fund Raising website address is: *www.bellfund.org.uk*

Branch Secretaries

Banbury **Heather Hughes** *secretary@banbury.odg.org.uk*

Bicester **Miss Kathryn Grant** *secretary@bicester.odg.org.uk*

Central Bucks **Mrs Heather Dobson** *secretary@cbucks.odg.org.uk*

Chiltern **Mr Brian Robson** *secretary@chiltern.odg.org.uk*

Chipping Norton **Mrs Anne Hoyle** *secretary@chippy.odg.org.uk*

East Berks & South Bucks **Ms Mandy Salter** *secretary@ebsb.odg.org.uk*

Newbury **Mr David Wilcox** *secretary@newbury.odg.org.uk*

North Bucks **Mrs Helen Stanworth** *secretary@northbucks.odg.org.uk*

Old North Berks **Mrs Gillian Loyd** *secretary@onb.odg.org.uk*

Oxford City **Mrs Katie Lane** *secretary@city.odg.org.uk*

Reading **Mr Kenneth Baker** *secretary@reading.odg.org.uk*

Sonning Deanery **Mr Andrew Moss** *secretary@sdb.odg.org.uk*

South Oxon **Amy Herlihy** *secretary@southoxon.odg.org.uk*

Vale of White Horse **Mrs Lucy Laird** *secretary@vowh.odg.org.uk*

Witney & Woodstock **Mr Anthony Williamson** *secretary@witneyandwoodstock.odg.org.uk*

Diary of Events for 2009/10

Some of these dates may change, so you should check the www.odg.org.uk web site for diary updates on an ongoing basis.

* 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

DECEMBER 2009

Fri	4	Chipping Norton	BP	Fulbrook (6)	7.30 – 9.00
Fri	4	EBSB	BP	Amersham (12) 10/12 Bell Practice	7.45 – 9.15
Fri	4	Newbury	BP	Bucklebury (8)	7.30 – 9.00
Sat	5	Banbury		Tadmarton, Advent Carol Service: Ringing before the Service	Ringling 5.45 Service 6.30
Sat	5	South Oxon	BP	Benson	4.00 – 5.30
Sat	5	Oxford City	BP	Mary Magdalen (10) (TBC)	10.00 – 12.00 noon
Sat	5	Ten Bell Training Day		Aston Clinton Ringing Centre	10.00 a.m. – 16.30 p.m
Sat	5	Non Branch Affiliated 8 and 10 Bell Practices	RCP	Aston Clinton Ringing Centre	7.30 – 9.30
Sat	5	EBSB		TBA; Novices' Outing	*
Tues	8	ONB	BP	Wantage	7.30 – 9.00
Thu	10	Banbury	SP	Deddington	7.30 – 9.00
Sat	12	EBSB	BP	Penn (6) + Christmas Social Special Methods: Plain Hunt/ Double Oxford Minor.	6 – 7.30
Sat	12	Witney & Woodstock	BP	Witney (8)	10.30 – 12:00
Sat	12	Reading Branch		St Giles, Reading (8) Carol Service + BP	6.00 – 9.00
Mon	14	Banbury	BP	Cropredy	7.30 – 9.00
Thur	17	Reading Branch	AP	Caversham (8)	8.00 – 9.30
Sat	19	Sonning Deanery	BP	Wargrave	10.30 am – 12.00 noon
Sat	19	Chiltern	BP	Weston Turville, (BP followed by the 100 Club Christmas Draw)	7.00 – 9.00
Sat	26	Banbury	BP	Deddington	10.30 – 12.00 noon

JANUARY 2010

Fri	1	Banbury		Banbury New Years Day Ringing	10.30 – 12.00 noon
Mon	4	Bicester	BP	Bicester	19.30 – 21.00
Fri	8	Newbury	BP	Shaw	
Sat	9	EBSB	ASP	Hughenden (8)	7.00 – 9.00
Sat	9	Oxford City	BP	Iffley (6)	10.00 – 12noon
Sat	9	Reading	BP	Theale	4.00 – 6.00
Thur	14	Banbury	SP	Hanwell(Minor)	7.30 – 9.00
Sat	16	Sonning Deanery	BP	White Waltham	10.00am – 12.00 noon
Mon	18	Bicester		Bicester (10), Triples/Major Practice	19.30 – 21.00
Mon	18	Witney & Woodstock	BP	Eynsham (6)	19.30 – 21.00

JANUARY 2010 (cont.)

Thur	21	Reading	AP	Caversham (8)	8.00 – 9.30
Sat	23	EBSB	BP	Beaconsfield (8)	7.00 – 9.00
Sat	23	South Oxon	BP	Great Haseley	4.00 – 5.30
Mon	25	Reading		Shinfield (6) Simulator/Minor	7.30 – 9.00
Thur	28	Banbury		Elephant and Castle Tower Reps, Bloxham	7.30 – 9.00
Fri	29	Banbury	BP	Tadmarten	7.30 – 9.00

FEBRUARY 2010

Tue	2	Bicester	BP	Islip (8)	19.30 – 21.00
Fri	5	Newbury	BP	Labour	
Sat	6	Chipping Norton	BP	TBC Morning event	*
Sat	6	Oxford City	BP	Kirtlington (8)	10.00 – 12
Sat	6	Banbury		Tadmarten, Firsts, Social Evening	7.30 – 9.00
Sat	13	Witney & Woodstock	AGM	Wootton	*
Sat	13	EBSB		TBC, Novices Outing	*
Sat	13	Oxford City	BP	Horspath (6)	10.00 – 12
Sat	13	Reading	AGM	South Stoke (6)	3.00 onwards
Mon	15	Bicester		Bicester (10), Triples & Major Practice	19.30 – 21.00
Wed	17	Witney & Woodstock	BP	Clanfield (8)	19.30 – 21.00
Thur	18	Reading	AP	Caversham (8)	8.00 – 9.30
Fri	19	EBSB	BP	Burnham (8), Daytime Practice	2.30 – 4.30
Sat	20	Bicester	AGM	Islip: 10.30am Ringing, 11.00am Service, 11.30am Meeting, lunch at 12.30pm at the Swan, Islip.	10.30am onwards
Sat	20	Sonning Deanery	AGM + BP	Twyford: Ringing from 3pm followed by service, AGM and further ringing	3pm onwards
Sat	27	South Oxon	AGM	Chinnor	3pm ringing

MARCH 2010

Wed	3	Bicester	BP	Charlton-on-Otmoor (6)	19.30 – 21.00
Fri	5	Newbury	BP	Beedon	
Thur	11	Banbury	SP	Steeple Aston	7.30 – 9.00
Sat	13	EBSB	SP	Hambleden (8)	7.00 – 9.00
Sat	13	Oxford City	BP	Kidlington (8)	10.00 – 12
Sat	13	Reading	BP	Goring (8)	4.00 – 6.00
Sat	13	Banbury		Cartright Hotel, Aynho, Branch Dinner	*
Sat	13	Witney & Woodstock	BP	Bladon (6)	10.30 – 12.00
Sat	13	GUILD EVENT		Shipton-under-Wychwood; General Committee Meeting. Ringing from 1.45pm – 2.25pm. Business meeting in the New Beaconsfield Hall from 2.30 followed by tea	1.45pm onwards
Mon	15	Bicester		Bicester (10), Triples & Major Practice	19.30 – 21.00
Thur	18	Reading	AP	Shiplake (8)	8.00 – 9.30
Sat	20	Oxford City		Chicester Outing	*
Sat	20	Sonning Deanery	BP	Sandhurst Imm. Conception*	10 – 12*
Mon	22	Reading		Shinfield (6), Simulator/Minor	7.30 – 9.00
Fri	26	Witney & Woodstock	BP	North Leigh (6)	19.30 – 21.00
Fri	26	Banbury	BP	Mollington	7.30 – 9.00
Sat	27	South Oxon	BP	Watlington	4.00 – 5.30

APRIL 2010

Fri	2	Newbury	BP	Kintbury	*
Sat	3	Guild Event		Handbell day	*
Thur	8	Bicester	BP	Bletchinglydon (6)	19.30 – 21.00
Sat	10	EBSB	SP	High Wycombe (Front 8)	7.00 – 9.00
Sat	10	Oxford City	BP	St Giles (8)	10.00 – 12
Sat	10	Witney & Woodstock	BP	South Leigh (8)	10.30 – 12.00
Sat	10	Reading	BP	Mortimer St John's (6)	4.00 – 6.00
Thur	15	Reading	AP	Shiplake (8)	8.00 – 9.30
Sat	17	Guild Event		Radley; Radley One Day Course	All day
Sat	17	Banbury	AGM	Somerton (TBC), Ringing 3pm, Service 4pm, Tea and Meeting afterwards	3.00 onwards
Sat	17	Sonning Deanery	SC	Shottesbrooke, 6-bell striking competition + skittles evening	4.30 – 6.30
Mon	19	Bicester	BP	Bicester (10), Triples& Major Practice	7.30 onwards 19.30 – 21.00
Mon	19	Reading		Shinfield (6), Simulator/Minor	7.30 – 9.00
Wed	21	Witney & Woodstock	BP	Aston (6)	19.30 – 21.00
Thur	22	Banbury	SP	Cropredy	7.30 – 9.00
Sat	24	EBSB	AGM	TBA	*
Sat	24	South Oxon	SC	Brightwell Baldwin, (6 Bell)	7.00 – 8.30

MAY 2010

Sat	1	Oxford City	BP	Shabbington (6)	10.00 – 12
Mon	3	Guild Event	SC	Chiltern Branch, (8 Bell)	*
Mon	3	Guild Event		Chiltern Branch, Annual Ringing Day	*
Fri	7	Bicester	BP	Ambrosden (8)	19.30 – 21.00
Fri	7	Newbury	BP	Thatcham	*
Sat	8	EBSB		TBA, Outing	*
Sat	8	Oxford City	HY	Cowley	15.00 onwards
Sat	8	Reading	BP	Shiplake (8)	4.00 – 6.00
Thur	13	Banbury	SP	Somerton	7.30 – 9.00
Sat	15	Guild Event	ODG AGM	Newbury Branch	*
Sat	15	Sonning Deanery	BP	Warfield*	7.30 – 9.00*
Mon	17	Bicester		Bicester (10), Triples & Major Practice	19.30 – 21.00
Mon	17	Banbury	BP	Bodicote	7.30 – 9.00
Thu	20	Reading	AP	Shiplake (8)	8.00 – 9.30
Sat	22	EBSB	BP	Fulmer (6), Beginners Practice	*

For Your Notes

Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers

Established 17th January 1881

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

RADLEY ONE-DAY COURSE

Based at Radley (near Abingdon)

SATURDAY 17TH APRIL 2010

Methods offered:

**Plain Hunt, Grandsire and Plain Bob
Doubles, Minor, Triples and Major**

Cost £22.50 including evening meal

**Details and an application form will be available after
1st December 2009 from Jon and Kay Chamberlain
and on the Guild Website:**

<http://www.odg.org.uk/newspage.html#Events>

***E-mail:* jonandkaycham@tiscali.co.uk**

**Closing date for applications is 31st January 2010
after which places will be offered (limited to 25)**



The peal band that celebrated Barry and Jean Davis' Ruby Wedding



The EBSB walking outing – outside Swanbourne church