



Emmanuel College
Cambridge
CB2 3AP

3rd December 2009

Dear Member,

This has been a very exciting year for Cambridge University as a whole, during which there have been various events to celebrate the 800th anniversary of its founding. The Guild has had a busy year as well; I will attempt to give a brief account.

The year started with Guild New Year in Abingdon, ably organised by Rob Backhouse. A peal of Bristol S. Major was scored at Cholsey, along with three days of visiting local tours and a date touch attempt. A good time was had by all, even during the curry with an OUS contingent. As usual, it was good to ring with local Guild members, and I hope any members who live near Shrewsbury will be able to join us this year.

The 800th year celebrations kicked off on the 17th January, where ringing took place across Cambridge, to accompany a light show that was being projected onto the Senate House. This was followed by a reception in Michaelhouse, which was enjoyed by all. Date touches were also rung across the country by Guild members, including ones at Guildford, Wokingham and Oxford.

Practices continued during the Lent term at St. Andrew's on Thursdays, and at St. Bene't's on Fridays. A variety of methods were rung, dependent on numbers at practices, but often included touches of Spliced S. Major. Quarters were regularly rung, including one of Belfast. We have maintained good relations with the 'other place', in February, a group travelled to Oxford for their dinner, and an enjoyable joint outing took place in Northampton a few weeks later.

The annual dinner took place at Robinson College, with a good number of members attending what was an excellent evening. Speeches were given by Martin Bright, Dale Winter and Angela Tilby, preceded by the traditional handbell touch of Stedman Cinques. Congratulations to Catriona Shearer and Freddie Manners who rang in this for their first time. A peal was scored at Great St. Mary's, but unfortunately attempts were lost at StAG and Great Shelford.

In April 2009, the old bells at Great St. Mary's were removed by crane, and then in July 2009, a new 24cwt ring of twelve were installed by Taylor's. There are a fine ring of bells, and if you are ever in Cambridge on a Sunday, you are most welcome to come to Guild ringing preceding the evensong service.

Thursday of May Week again saw the traditional punt outing to Grantchester, followed by an excellent Alternative Dinner at Emmanuel College, which was enjoyed by all. The Guild entered the Ridgman at Rickmansworth on the following Saturday, and rang respectably on the somewhat difficult bells.

Guild week this year was based at Reaseheath Agricultural College, in Nantwich, Cheshire. All the arrangements worked well, and we rang at a good variety of towers, including at St. Michael's and Christ Church in Macclesfield. Two out of the four peals were scored, at Tushingham and Prestbury, while an attempt was unfortunately lost on the fine eight at Eccleston, and the tenor clapper broke after 11 minutes at Daresbury. There was a 200% increase on the number of undergraduates present compared to last year, which is very encouraging. Overall, it was a very good week; thanks to Jonathan Shanklin for organising it.

Congratulations to Philip Saddleton and Anthea Edwards who got married in August, and also best wishes to Andy Smith and Kathleen Cara Polet on their engagement.

The new academic year started in October, with a good influx of freshers. The Guild had a stand at the Freshers' fair, which was followed later in the week by the Freshers' squash and cycle outing. We are delighted to welcome to the Guild: Max Drinkwater (Jesus), Rosie Reading (Christ's), Olivia Vane (Magdalene), Georgina Harris (Pembroke), Abigayil Blandon (Magdalene), Andrew Norman (Pembroke), Zoe Monkley (Fitzwilliam), Matthew Pryn (Christ's), and it's good to see them involved regularly in Guild activities.

This term has seen several quarters rung, including two on the back 8 of the new bells at Great St. Mary's. Practices have been well attended, as has evensong ringing. With ten minutes to go in a peal at St. Andrew's, the tenor clapper broke, but was fixed rapidly in time for the following week's practice. I am pleased to say the church are now a lot happier to allow ringing, and in particular peal attempts, which is very promising. I would encourage the Guild to make as much use of this as possible.

The Guild entered the SUA this year, the first time in a while, which was held in Oxford. It was a good weekend, with an almost Guild band coming 4th in the eight-bell and sixth in the six-bell. The London outing in November was superbly organised by Tessa Beadman. One of the highlights of the day was ringing at the second tower, St. Magnus the Martyr, another fine new ring of 12 installed this year. This fun day was rounded off with a curry in Brick Lane. It was good to see many Guild members there; I hope you will be able to come in future years. The year was rounded off with an excellent Christmas meal at Victoria Street, in the final week of term.

I would like to thank anyone who has supported Guild events throughout the year, both students and non-students, your help is very much appreciated, and we hope to see you again soon.

Guild Week 2010 will be centred on Oxford and based at Ripon College, Cuddesdon, a theological college set in fine buildings and beautiful grounds near Garsington, about four miles outside the city. The week will commence on Saturday 21st August and finish on the following Saturday. Dinner, bed and breakfast accommodation (largely in single rooms except where doubles are requested) has been reserved provisionally at £48 per night (excluding organising expenses); those who wish to are welcome to camp in the grounds and take breakfast and dinner with the rest of the party at approximately half this daily rate (possibly less). The main building has extensive meeting and social space, including a bar and a television room. Ours will be the only group occupying the building during this week. The organiser, Richard Youdale, will send out further information in the New Year but would meanwhile welcome enquiries by e-mail or post on any related matter. His home address is 41 Essex Street, Oxford OX4 3AW; e-mail rhyou@tiscali.co.uk or jane@youdale.co.uk ; telephone 01865 454851 (home) or 428320 (business).

Next year's dinner will be at St. John's College, on the 13th March, I hope many of you will be able to come.

Best wishes,

Jonathan Agg
Master, CUGCR