Customers of Sherbourne Teaching Aids will have been aware of delays in completing orders due to the illness of Ted Copson. It was at Easter time that Ted was taken into hospital after a fall where he stayed for some time and is currently in care and we all wish him well.

Sherbourne Teaching Aids originated through the inspiration of the late Pam Copson, a former teacher who, with her husband Ted, ran ringing at All Saints, Sherbourne, Warwickshire hence the title for the series. Pam was always encouraging new ringers and in 1982 produced the first hand written One Per Learner booklets, the first batch of 2,500 copies selling out in just three weeks.

The success of the first publication led to the “Follow-on” book in 1987 and the next year the Ringers Exercise Book. There followed the introduction of Personal Record Cards to迹 trace progress with associated award of badges according to the number of stages ticked off on bell-motif tables. The four badged stages are Ambitious Apprentice (Blue), Happy Hunter (Green), Artful Dodger (Red) and Champion Campanologist (Gold). The popular ladder of success in the “Bell Club” series resulted in names and awards being listed periodically in The Ringing World.

Further items available are Question and Answer sheets and min-leaflets explaining Grandsire and Plain Bob Doubles. A model bell for demonstration purposes, initially cardboard material changed into a wooden model which is still available as is the Method Maker board.

The success of the Sherbourne items may be gauged by the fact that, at the last count, some 200,000 books have been purchased together with 100,000 leaflets and 20,000 badges. The One Per Learner book remains the most popular accounting for about 75% of sales. Until recently a proportion of the very small profits were returned to the local Associations of the purchasers as a “dividend” but increases in postage and other costs have eroded any profit.

After much discussion Ted has understandably felt reluctantly unable to continue distributing Sherbourne materials and the continuation of Pam and Ted’s legacy to learners is being passed to the Publications Committee of the Central Council. Details will be available on the CC website shortly but in the meantime any orders for Sherbourne books, badges and leaflets should be addressed to Central Council Publications, Mrs B. Wheeler, 2 Orchard Close, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE61 1XE.

Cheques payable to “Central Council Publications” or payment by BACS: Nat West Bank, Sort code 56-00-33 Account No. 53654293. Payment by PayPal will be possible via the CC website soon. Enquiries to Mrs Wheeler via email: barbara@ccpublications.plus.com.

Please note that the wooden items (model bells and Method Maker) will not be dealt with by CC publications but the CC website will include a downloadable form so that customers will be able to order these items directly from Alan Hartley, 162 Easemore Road, Redditch, B98 8IU.

Following earlier delays, I have personally sent any outstanding orders and they should have been received by the time this article is read. If anyone has not received their order, please contact me on 01926 402273.

CHRIS MEW

Diamond Wedding of Ron and Doreen Sanderson

Ron and Doreen Sanderson of Huntington, York recently celebrated their Diamond Wedding anniversary in the presence of friends and family. They met in the tower of St Peter’s, Bentley, Doncaster, in 1947 where a new team of ringers was being taught, and they married there on 28th July 1956. In 1968 they moved to York and joined the band at Huntington. Ron had to sadly retire from ringing a few years ago due to ill-health, but Doreen, now 87, continues to be a stalwart of the band, impressing younger ringers with her levels of concentration and striking accuracy. Ron and Doreen’s love for each other has always shone through, and it was a delight to mark the anniversary with a quarter peal in which Doreen took part.

Huntington, N. Yorks. 28 Jul, 1273 Grandsire Triples: Christina Sanderson 1, Emma Coles 2, Margaret Coles 3, Christine Potter 4, Doreen Sanderson 5, James Sanderson 6, Peter Sanderson (C) 7, Robert Meadows 8. To celebrate 60 years of marriage for Ron and Doreen Sanderson.