



# In Touch

August 2014

Autumn Meeting : SS Peter & Paul, Newport Pagnell

**Saturday 13th September 2014**

Everyone is invited to the Branch Autumn Meeting at The Church SS Peter & Paul, Newport Pagnell



**3.45 Ringing**

**4.45 Service**

**5.15 Tea**

**6.00 Half-yearly Branch Meeting**

**Ringling following the meeting up to 8pm**

All taking place in the church.

Names for tea to Alison Read tel: 01908 616546 or email: [alison\\_iread@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:alison_iread@hotmail.co.uk) by Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September please.

## Forthcoming Events.....

Date and Time	Event	Location
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> August 10.30am-12noon	Branch Practice	Bletchley
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> September 7.40-9.00pm	Bob doubles, plain hunt and call changes practice	Great Horwood
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> September	Ringling Roadshow	Newbury Racecourse (see page 2)
Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> September 3.45-8.00pm	Half-yearly meeting	Newport Pagnell
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> September 4.00-5.30pm	Branch Practice	Olney
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October 7.40-9.00pm	Bob doubles, plain hunt and call changes practice	Emberton
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> October	Guild 6 bell Striking Competition	Old North Berks Branch
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> October	Branch Training Day	
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> October 7.30-9.00pm	Branch Practice	Padbury
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> November 7.40-9.00pm	Bob doubles, plain hunt and call changes practice	East Claydon
Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> & Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> November	Branch Quarter Peal Weekend	
Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November	10 bell Striking Competition	Bicester Branch
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> December 7.40-9.00pm	Bob doubles, plain hunt and call changes practice	Whaddon
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> December 4.30-6.00pm	Branch Practice & Christmas Social	Olney

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## From the Secretary....

The branch uses a Yahoo! group to keep members of the North Bucks Branch informed of events, news items, requests for ringers, etc via email.

If you don't receive these items now, but you would like to receive them in future, then please let the secretary ([secretary@northbucks.org.uk](mailto:secretary@northbucks.org.uk)) know your name and email address so that you can be added to the Yahoo! group.

Gary Reading

# Who's Who 2014—2015

<b>Chairman</b>	Brian Newman	Great Linford	01908 395160	chairman@northbucks.org.uk
<b>RDL Buckingham</b>	Lesley Belcher	Hanslope	01908 260671	rdl_bh@northbucks.org.uk
<b>RDL Milton Keynes</b>	Graham Bartholomew	Shenley	07795 120007	rdl_mk@northbucks.org.uk
<b>RDL Newport Pagnell &amp; Archivist</b>	Doug Hird	Newport Pagnell	01908 614741	rdl_np@northbucks.org.uk
<b>Secretary</b>	Gary Reading	Shenley	01908 662483	secretary@northbucks.org.uk
<b>Minute Secretary</b>	Patricia Rosewell	Wavendon	01908 583652	
<b>Treasurer</b>	Sheila Watts	Emberton	01234 713667	treasurer@northbucks.org.uk
<b>Guild Reps</b>	Linda Maycroft	Shenley	-	guildrep1@northbucks.org.uk
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<b>Branch Website</b>	www.northbucks.org.uk		<b>Guild Website</b>	www.odg.org.uk

## Training

### OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS Education Committee

#### STEEPLE ASTON ONE-DAY COURSE Saturday 25th October 2014 9.15 a.m. to 8.00 p.m.

The course will provide tuition & practice on basic methods from Plain Hunting to Plain Bob Major.

Applications are invited from Guild Members only.

Priority will be given to members who have not attended before.

Cost: £25

For further details and an application form please email [steepleastoncourse@odg.org.uk](mailto:steepleastoncourse@odg.org.uk)

or write, with SAE to: Richard Stanworth, 11 Valley Road, Buckingham MK18 7BW

The Application Form will also be available on the Guild Web Site [www.odg.org.uk](http://www.odg.org.uk)

**Closing Date For applications is 31st August 2014**

## A day out at.....

### The Ringing Roadshow

#### **What is the Ringing Roadshow and what's it for?**

Ringing is a very local activity. You do it in your own tower and perhaps those nearby. From time to time the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers organises an event where ringers from all over the world can meet together and enjoy everything that ringing has to offer. The last such event was in 2008 – high time for another. It's a celebration of ringing in all its forms, mainly for ringers but with plenty for non-ringers to enjoy.

#### **When is it and how long is it on for?**

It's a one-day show from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm on Saturday, September 6th, 2014.

#### **Where is it being held?**

In both the Grandstand and the Berkshire Stand at Newbury Racecourse.

#### **For more information see:-**

<http://www.ringingroadshow.co.uk>

## *From the Chairman.....*

Hello All

First well done to the team who won the inter-branch completion with the Towcester branch so let's go for a clean sweep next time. Now that we are on a winning streak we can hope for a good result in the next Guild striking completion.

The branch is also looking at more training in the first instance training for trainers so that we have folk available to teach new learners. Then, as always training to advance the knowledge and range of methods that we all can ring.

Well as some of you know Jasie and I have moved to Winslow (CCB Territory) so although I will continue to hold the chairman's post for now, as I had said at the last AGM this will be my last term.

So I will be looking for someone to take on the role, of all the branch roles it is one of the easier ones, manage the meetings and the other officers!

Brian

## *Deadline for next edition . . .*

The deadline for contributions for the next edition of *In Touch* is **Tuesday 4th November 2014.**

Contributions to [intoucheditor@northbucks.org.uk](mailto:intoucheditor@northbucks.org.uk) please.

*Nick Read*



# Branch News

## Branch Six Bell Striking Competition at Maids Moreton

The ringers at Maids Moreton had kindly agreed to host the June Branch Social and Six Bell Striking Competition. The weather was warm and sunny, defying the forecast, so the cakes and sandwiches could be enjoyed in the sunshine in the Churchyard. Maids Moreton did a fantastic job with the tea, stewarding, and looking after the open ringing before the competition. A big thank you goes to the band for their hospitality.

Our judges for the event were Ian and Alison Willgress of Nether Heyford. They were complimented as giving the best verbal feedback that many people had heard, offering encouragement and constructive comments. Ian and Alison said that if today's ringing is indicative of the standard of ringing in the North Bucks Branch then we have little to worry about and should pat ourselves on the back. They also said that generally in the minute of rounds consistent leading was key with most pressure on the treble. Also in the changes steady leading was also very important. The results were:

### Team 1 (Emberton) – 45 faults

Started with steady rounds. Once into the changes there were some irregularities in the leading losing to a slight loss n rhythm. Rare to have more than one slip in a change.



### Team 2 (Hanslope) – 31 faults

Regular rhythm in rounds. Very few hesitations. When there was a hesitation it sometimes took a couple of changes to get right again but a good rhythm was always maintained.



### Team 3 (Woughton) – 40 faults

Confident pace in rounds. Ringing improved during test piece and less trips as progressed – showed they were working well together as a band. Faults were generally accumulated when changes condensed because of problems with the backstroke leads.



### Team 4 (Shenley) – 58 faults

Lovely clean ringing. Faults mainly came from leading errors. Maintained pace & rhythm of ringing well.



### Team 5 (Wavendon) – 71 faults

Lovely blocks of clean changes. Some changes dragged out at end of the change which impacted the next change. Small bells struck around the heavier bells well.





# Branch News contd.

## Branch Six Bell Striking Competition at Maids Moreton contd.

**Team 6 (Lillingstone Lovell) – 80 faults**

Confident leading and very steady rhythm. Some clips in middle of changes.



**Team 7 (Branch Officers) – 71 faults**

Very confident ringing but some significant breaks due to hesitations and clips.



So the results were: 1 Hanslope, 2 Woughton, 3 Emberton, 4 Shenley, 5 Wavendon, 6 Branch Officers, 7 Lillingstone Lovell. The trophy was presented to Hanslope as the winning team, who now go forward to the Guild Six Bell Competition. The first three teams received Branch certificates.



*The Trophy being presented to Nick Gray of the Hanslope Band*

## Inter-Branch practice, picnic and striking competition

The Inter-Branch practice, picnic and striking competition were held on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July. The afternoon's events kicked off with a joint practice at on the eight at Stony Stratford. There was a good cross-section of ringers from both Branches and the ringing ranged from Bristol Surprise Major to Plain Hunt.

The picnic was held on the Stony Stratford water meadows and the weather was glorious. Ringers from both branches sat down together and enjoyed a selection of picnics ranging from fish and chips to a Pimms picnic. At the end we all shared a massive box of scones produced by one of the Towcester ringers. We were joined by various members of the branch and somehow managed to miss some others who we only met in the car park on the way out. All in all a very enjoyable addition to the social calendar.



*The Picnic*

After the picnic, the ringers reconvened at Wicken for the striking competition. There was a general feeling of resignation among the North Bucks ringers that the competition would result in the usual defeat, as had happened in recent years. But would this year be different? The teams for the three sections had practised in advance, so at the very least, we should be able to give the Towcester Branch a run for their money.

The first round was Plain Bob Minor. North Bucks rang first and we felt we had rung well. On hearing Towcester Branch's performance, we thought the result could be close. The second round was Call Changes on eight. Again, North Bucks rang first, and, again, Towcester's ringing was as good as ours. The final round was Stedman Triples. North Bucks rang first and gave a good steady performance. Towcester's ringing was also good, but quite fast.

Then there was the nerve-wracking gap while the judges collated their results. The North Bucks ringers were feeling a bit more confident than at the start of the competition. The first two rounds, in particular, would be close, but had we done enough?



# Branch News contd.

## Inter-Branch practice, picnic and striking competition contd.

Did we dare hope that this might be our year? A few people glanced across at the trophy. Would this be the year when we would have to find a hook to hang it on in a North Bucks tower?



Then came the moment of truth. First round: Plain Bob Minor – North Bucks win. Second round: Call Changes – North Bucks win (by a whisker). Third round: Stedman Triples – Towcester win. So a victory to North Bucks by 2-1. Jubilation all round!

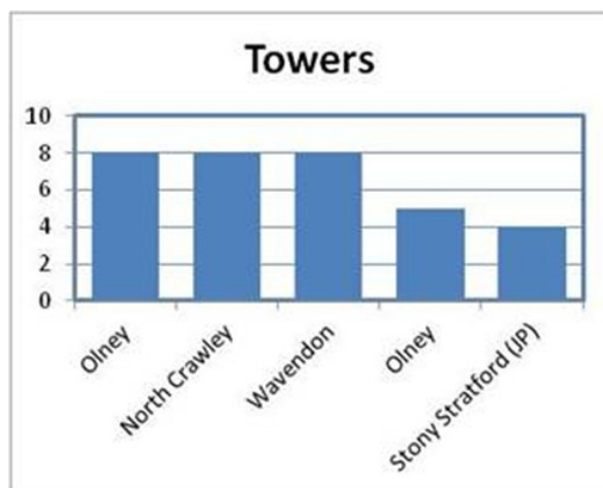
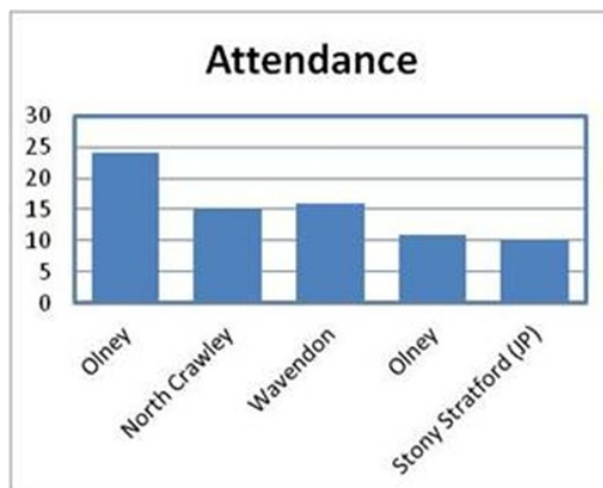


*Lesley Belcher receiving the trophy on behalf of the North Bucks Band from John Stanworth, Ringing Master of the Towcester Branch*

Congratulations to all the ringers who took part, in particular, the Call Changes band which included four Big Ring Pullers. Let's hope this will be the start of a few years of North Bucks supremacy!

*Lesley Belcher*

## Branch Meeting Round-Up



### Highlights

Both the Joint Practice with the Towcester branch and the Striking Competition at Maids Moreton attracted high numbers of ringers; the social side of the branch is as popular and well-received as ever. The moving of the Joint Practice from November and the inclusion of a picnic was enjoyed by all and something both branches wish to do again next year. Even though the day was very warm and the attraction of staying at home must have been strong more North Bucks ringers attended the joint practice than have done in previous years. The standard of ringing was enjoyable.

### Lowligh

Our 10-bell practice at Olney was poorly attended – we only made the 10 by including two recent recruits from Olney who enjoyed ringing rounds. Although we rang some interesting stuff on 6 bells, we don't need to go to Olney every 3 months to do that. As we are keen to promote 10-bell ringing in the branch, we are looking to widen these practices to engage the help of ringers from outside the branch to help us. You will probably see the results of this early next year. Until then we have two more 10-bell practices at Olney at which we will work hard to ensure we get some good ringing on ten bells.

*Lesley Belcher*

## Branch News contd.

### The NBB 8-Bell Band

We have now held a further three branch 8-bell practices following on from our first practice at Hanslope.

May's **Stony Stratford** practice concentrated on introducing people to 8-bell ringing and we were pleased to see so many of the Shenley band there who had kindly cancelled their practice in order to come along. The highlight of the evening was ringing a plain course of Kent Treble Major with three firsts in it. If I'd have known beforehand I would have split people up. Just shows.

The **Newport Pagnell** practice was our first themed practice and I think we all had rung enough Cambridge Major by the time it came to go to the pub. Having said that, we got all five of our learners successfully through a number of courses and half-courses of the method. They had all learned the method beforehand very well and so problems and coaching had only to concentrate on implementation. As it should be, of course.

For the **Downs Barn** practice we reverted to a general 8-bell practice format. There were a lot of people there; thankfully with the bells being light we were able to turn methods and touches around fairly quickly. We also had to fit in a couple of practices for the Inter-branch striking competition the following day. Of particular note was how many people were able to successfully practice the Cambridge Major they had learnt for the previous month; and we had someone ringing their first blows of Cambridge without going wrong once.

Next time we go to Downs Barn we shall hold a themed practice, ringing Double Norwich. This will extend the repertoire of the 8-bell band and allow the Downs Barn ringers to practice their plain hunting on 8 when the order of the bells changes hunting down from hunting up.

The practices have been very successful. We have a core of people wishing to learn new things and it is very pleasing to see the progress being made. We are also attracting a growing number of helpers who are also getting a chance to have a bit of decent 8-bell ringing just for themselves at some stage during each practice.

These practices are held **once a month rotating around the local 8-bell towers**. They are held on the practice night of the local band but run by the branch so a big thank-you to those towers for allowing us to take over their practices and hopefully they will let us come again.

**If anyone else is interested in joining the 8-bell band then please contact me for more information.**

*Lesley Belcher*

## Tower News

### A Cathedral.....and flowers

It's been a busy time for the GATE ringers! In May we ventured forth to Peterborough with the Roade and Ashton ringers, and had the privilege of ringing for Evensong at the Cathedral. After some initial nerves we all enjoyed this marvellous experience, and were reassuringly guided by the Cathedral Bell Master, Robin Rogers, and Alan Cozens of Roade, who makes our outings with his band so special.



*At Peterborough Cathedral*

Then in June we were invited to take part in the Stoke Goldington flower festival. Not just ringing for the festival concert, but also asked to decorate the ringing gallery. Some impressive artistic ability was discovered amongst our ringers and they produced a wonderful display at the back of the Church.



Our next adventure? Loughborough bell foundry has been mentioned....

*The GATE Ringers*

### **Peal attempt.....**

There will be a peal attempt at Olney on Saturday 20 September starting as close to 9.45am as possible. The method will be Grandsire Caters rung by a Guild band as a retirement compliment to Bishop John of Oxford

*Alan Marchbank*



# Tower News contd.

## Hanslope Tower

Many thanks to all those of you who supported our Bellringing Quiz in aid of the Hanslope Bell Restoration Project. We received six correct entry sheets and, following a draw, the winner was Alison Randall of Haverham who very generously donated her winnings back to the restoration fund. Congratulations and thank you very much, Alison.

Answers:-

1. Tail Ends; 2. Backstroke; 3. Carillon; 4. Trap Door; 5. Grandsire Caters; 6. Steeple Keeper; 7. Clapper; 8. Rise in Peal; 9. Ringing Chamber; 10. Bell Ropes; 11. Blue Line; 12. Lead Full; 13. Handstroke; 14. Sound Bow; 15. Bell Frame; 16. Broken Stay; 17. Twiddle Pins; 18. Tenor Bell; 19. Rounds and Call Changes; 20. Headstock; 21. Tower Bells; 22. Whittingtons; 23. Striking Competition; 24. That's All.

We are now about half way towards our target of approx. £70,000.00 and the church are soon to start applying for further grant applications.

If anyone is interested, we have done another fundraising quiz, called **Creature Characters**. All the answers are names of creatures from books, films, TV, cartoons etc. Copies are available for £1.00 at some branch events or email us and we will send you a copy [ [sjb@cloud9.madasafish.com](mailto:sjb@cloud9.madasafish.com) ]. Entries have to be back in by 20<sup>th</sup> September.

In July we held our annual Church Open Days when, amongst other attractions in and around the church, the tower was open for visitors. In spite of a rather gloomy weather forecast, the rain held off and it turned out to be one of our busiest years ever with over 250 people making the climb up onto the battlements to enjoy the view.

On Monday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2014 at 11.00am a half-muffled quarter peal was rung at Hanslope to commemorate the 100 year anniversary of the start of the First World War. We had been requested to ring by the Hanslope World War One Committee as part of a planned programme of events in the village over the course of the next four years. Nineteen men from our village lost their lives during the First World War and in order to honour the memory of each individual we are proud and honoured to have been asked to ring for each of them on the anniversary of the date of their death.

Earlier this month we had a visitor, Andy Timms, to our practice night who told us that he had come to Hanslope to fulfil a long held wish to ring here. It turned out that his mother, who was one of thirteen children, had grown up in Castlethorpe and over the years he had often visited relatives both there and in Hanslope. Whilst looking at the many ringing items on the walls of the ringing chamber, Andy recognised a name on one of the peal boards – Aubrey Atkins. It turned out this was his uncle but who, until he visited Hanslope that evening, Andy had never known was a bell ringer. There was also a photo of Aubrey, which was an added bonus for him. Quite a coincidence.

*Shelia Blenkhorn*

## Wavendon

Wavendon's ringers have worked hard this quarter. Throughout the summer, with the help of our friends from Woughton, many of us have been developing skills in Bob Doubles, while our more proficient ringers try more advanced methods both at home and at Branch Practice. Amelie Trendall has rung Plain Hunt, Paul Crombleholme has been honing his conducting skills, and Cerys Dallen celebrated her birthday with her first quarter-peal; we aim to ring our first Wavendon-only quarter-peal before Ellie Atkinson leaves for university.

Perhaps we'll find a suitable successor amongst the 1st Walton Scouts who last month visited Wavendon to learn about ringing! One group wrestled with a 'treasure hunt' while the rest viewed the bell chamber and got hands on ropes, before a final demonstration from the 'experts'. Thanks to Brian, Peter and Simon who helped with this taster session, we were able to keep a dozen scouts safe and interested, and training of new recruits has already started.

It's not been just work, though. We enjoyed the Branch Striking Competition (good progress since last year!), with the chance to guess the winners, eat cake, and catch up with other bands. And we made the most of some beautiful summer weather last month when Alise and Matt Trendall put on a superb supper for Wavendon and Woughton ringers in the garden of Wavendon Rectory; the chat went on late into the evening and was only reluctantly interrupted for practice!

We are as always indebted to Woughton's ringers, who joined us most recently on August 4th to ring as a prelude to Wavendon's 'Lights Out' commemoration of Britain's entry into the First World War; the half-muffled tribute was much appreciated by those in the churchyard and ringers alike.

*Patricia Rosewell*

## St. Mary's Whaddon – New Bell Ropes!

After a possible 87 years, and certainly at least 40, the ringers of St. Mary's Church at Whaddon are the proud recipients of a set of six brand new ropes, which bear a white, red and green colour scheme, and were hung by the band themselves over the weekend of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of August.

The ropes were put up by attaching the top end of the new ropes to the end of the old one with thread, then pulling the rope up from the belfry; we thank Mick Nimo for that helpful hint. This system allowed all six ropes to be in place in around an hour, with a little more time for adjustments.

The change was brought about after a rope broke during a wedding, and with a quarter peel later that day, a hurried repair was needed. This led to the ever supportive PCC of St. Mary's offering to replace the ropes and meet the cost in full.

Should you wish to experience a new rope, please feel free to join the ringers at Whaddon from 19:30 on any Tuesday evening, or once they have been stretched in a little more, to ring the pleasant bells at the Rounds and Call Changes practice on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> of December.

The ringers of St. Mary's Whaddon wish to thank the PCC for their generous and continuing support of ringing in Whaddon.

*Phillip Starr*

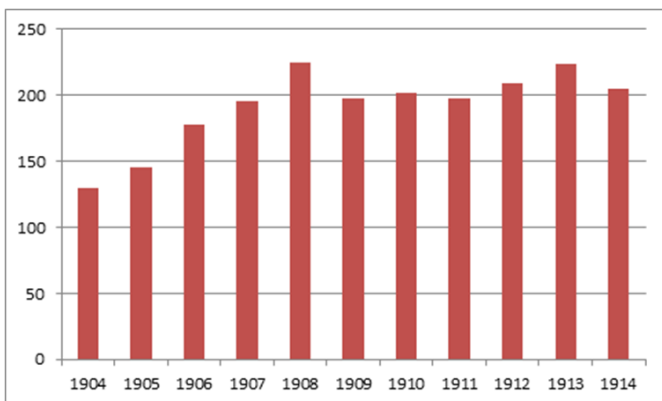
# World War 1 Centenary



## WW1 – The beginning

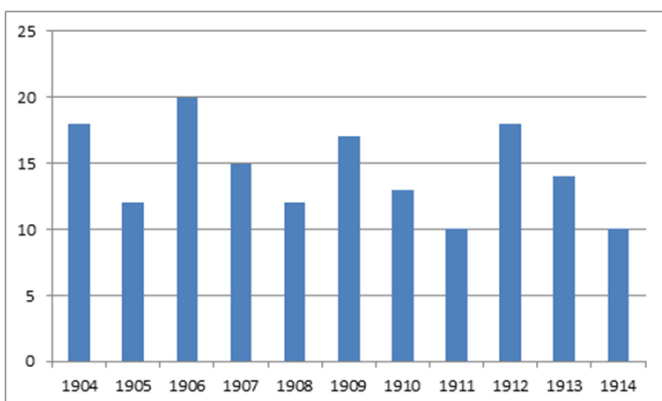
My impression of 1914 from researching for the archives is that it was progressing pretty much as usual. At Buckingham, the churchwardens were arranging for re-gilding the clock face. In January, the first North Bucks lady to ring a 720 and then a quarter peal was making good progress at Fenny Stratford. A major restoration of the stonework of Newport's church had been started at the same time that a new band was being recruited, the old band having been sacked by the Vicar over the Christmas period. The bells at Little Brickhill had been re-hung.

Membership was in line with previous years since the formation of the branch in 1904.



## North Bucks Branch Membership

The last peal of the year was rung at Clifton Reynes by the Olney band. Two of the band would reappear in the records in the next few years away from home. A total of 10 peals up to mid year, suggests that 1914 was going to be an active ringing year with more peals than in recent years.



## North Bucks Pre-WW1 Peals

But Europe was on the move. Perceived weakness in Serbia prompted a movement of troops in that direction which was soon followed by similar activity in other areas. Bletchley, a railway town, was re-focused from supporting the London North Western Railway to logistics in northern France. Ringers joined up with their friends from the towns and villages throughout the branch. Olney's contribution seems to have been strongly directed to first aid and medical help with a number of ringers and other townspeople joining the Royal Army Medical Corps.

Although the bells kept ringing through much of the war, there was little cause for celebration when the first troops left. The only exception being Buckingham with, what appears to have been something of a mis-judgement: "The churchwardens of Buckingham Parish Church desire it to be known that they were not responsible for the ringing of the church bells last Tuesday on the occasion of the departure of the troops."

With years of preparation setting up the infrastructure of war combined with decades of propaganda, it seemed that the country was well prepared for such a venture. Surely it would be all over by Christmas.

*Doug Hird*

## Remembering those who left North Bucks towers for the trenches

Monday 4th August saw the 100th anniversary of the declaration of war. Many towers across the country rang half muffled in commemoration of those who lost their lives.

The band at Shenley were among them by conducting their usual practice night half muffled. Of the 46 names appearing on the village war memorial, nine were members of this branch. Remarkably each ringer returned home. Towards the end of the practice Ted Fawcett shared with the band the recollections of Frank Daniels who remembers six of these ringers. Among the memories shared were the following:

Ernest Willett joined the branch in 1904 and always rang the tenor. He lived in Loughton after the war and worked at the Wolverton Works. Despite living at Loughton he only rang at Shenley because "that's where he learnt to ring".

Indeed there is a picture of Ernest with the Tenor bell rope, hanging in the Shenley tower. Ernest during his bell ringing career rang 2 peals at Shenley the latter on the 15th February 1930.

Sid Willett was Ernest's brother and joined the branch in 1907. After the war he lived at Brook End and had a small holding. He had a few cows and used to deliver to the Shenley's and Loughton, carrying the milk in buckets on a bicycle. Sid served in the Royal Engineers in the Railway Operating Division. Sid passed away in 1971 aged 82 and is buried in St Mary's church graveyard with his wife Mabel.

## Lives of the First World War

The imperial war museum has embarked on a 4 year project to create a permanent digital memorial of all who contributed during the First World War. To date they have uploaded the details of over 6 million people and are asking for help to pull their life stories together.

The IWM have create the facility for communities to be created in order to connect these lives together. A range of communities have been set-up by the public including clubs, residents of villages, family members etc. A community for our branch has been set-up and can be found through the following link <https://livesofthefirstworldwar.org/community/55>. Why not take a peak and remember our forebears who left the towers of North Bucks to serve their country in the Great War.

*Linda Maycroft*



# Peals & Quarters

**Quarter Peals rung to commemorate the 100 year anniversary of the start of the First World War.**



## **Lillingstone Lovell, Bucks**

Assumption of the BMV

Monday, 4 August 2014 in 45 mins (6-2-0)

### **1260 Grandsire Doubles**

- 1 John Nicholas
- 2 Malcolm Jones
- 3 Bernard Phillips (C)
- 4 Robin Culley
- 5 David Goodger
- 6 Nicola Stuchbury

## **Hanslope, Buckinghamshire**

St. James the Great

Monday, 4 August 2014 in 44 minutes (22 cwt)

### **1260 Stedman Triples**

- 1 Lesley Belcher
- 2 Ruth Stokes
- 3 Alan Marchbank
- 4 Tony Gray
- 5 Ian Thompson
- 6 Chris Stokes
- 7 Richard Haseldine (C)
- 8 Roy Keeves

Rung half muffled

## **Great Brickhill, Bucks**

St. Mary the Virgin

Monday, 4 August 2014 in 46 mins (14-0-07)

### **1260 Grandsire Doubles**

- 1 Caroline Whitelegge
- 2 David Middleton
- 3 Ruth Betts
- 4 Ed Houghton
- 5 Simon Head (C)
- 6 Butch Baker

Rung on the six bells in situ in 1914 before augmentation.

## **Other WW1 Centenary Ringing.....**

Great Linford Ringers (Tine, Alan, John, Steve Thomason, Viv, Lauren and Ros) rang for half an hour, half muffled, on Monday 4th August.

At Newport Pagnell the eight bells were rung fully muffled before and after a service starting at 11pm on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> August.

## **General Peals & Quarters**

### **Great Horwood, Bucks**

St. Mary

Friday, 16 May 2014 in 47 mins (16-0-10)

#### **1260 Grandsire Doubles**

- 1 Susan Freer
- 2 David Moore
- 3 Wendy Price
- 4 B Douglas Hird
- 5 Michael Nimmo (C)
- 6 Robert Freer

### **Olney, Bucks**

SS Peter & Paul

Sunday, 25 May 2014 in 48 mins (24-0-9)

#### **1259 Grandsire Caters**

Composed by R. Pullin

- 1 Ann Birch
- 2 Nick Read
- 3 Lesley Belcher
- 4 Nicholas Gray
- 5 Simon J O Head
- 6 Graham Bartholomew
- 7 David Phillipson (C)
- 8 B Douglas Hird
- 9 Alan J Marchbank
- 10 Barry R Eggesfield

For evensong.

First quarter peal on ten - 1.

First quarter peal of Caters - 2.

### **Milton Keynes, Gt. Linford, Bucks**

St. Andrew

Thursday 29 May 2014 in 48 mins (16-1-22)

#### **1260 Plain Bob Doubles**

- 1 Lauren Hollis
- 2 Gary Reading
- 3 Charles Knight
- 4 Brian Newman
- 5 Alan J Marchbank (C)
- 6 Viv Hollis

To celebrate Ascension Day.

First quarter peal - 1 & 6.

### **East Claydon, Bucks**

St. Mary

Friday, 30 May 2014 in 42 mins (7-0-15)

1260 Doubles (3m)

(240 All Saints; 480 Plain Bob; 540 Grandsire)

- 1 Richard Samways
- 2 Jane Vowles
- 3 Wendy Price
- 4 David Moore
- 5 Michael Nimmo (C)
- 6 Phillip Starr

Remembering Roy Jones of Old Marston, Oxford.

# Peals & Quarters contd

## Loughton, Bucks

All Saints

Sunday, 1 June 2014 in 46 mins (11-0-8)

### 1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- 1 Hilary Reading
- 2 Ann Macintyre
- 3 Ann Birch
- 4 Terry Page
- 5 Graham Bartholomew (C)
- 6 Gary Reading

Rung to celebrate the Silver Wedding Anniversary of Anne and Steve McIntyre on 10th June.

First quarter peal - 1.

First quarter peal as conductor.



## Milton Keynes, Great Linford, Bucks

St Andrew

Thursday, 5 June 2014 in 47 mins (16-1-22)

### 1260 Doubles (5m)

(60 Stedman; 480 Grandsire; 240 each St Simon's Bob, St Martin's Bob, Plain Bob)

- 1 Graham Bartholomew
- 2 B Douglas Hird
- 3 John B Marchbank
- 4 Charles Knight
- 5 Alan J Marchbank (C)
- 6 Steve Thomason

Rung on the 70th anniversary of the start of Operation Overlord, the Allied invasion of occupied Europe, by beach landings in Normandy.

Most methods - 3.

## Wicken, Northants

St. John the Evangelist

Saturday, 14 June 2014 in 49 mins (15-1-20)

### 1344 Yorkshire Surprise Major

- 1 Ruth Stokes
- 2 Andrew Spencer
- 3 Lesley Belcher
- 4 B Douglas Hird
- 5 Tony Gray
- 6 Simon Head
- 7 Nick Gray
- 8 Christopher Stokes (C)

For Wicken village dog show.

## Old Wolverton, Bucks

Holy Trinity

Saturday, 14 June 2014 in 45 mins (14 cwt)

### 1260 Grandsire Doubles

- 1 Susan Freer
- 2 Wendy Price
- 3 John Mercer
- 4 James Woodcock
- 5 Michael Nimmo (C)
- 6 Robert Freer

In recognition of the dedication and services given by the Rev'd Peter Dockree.

## Great Horwood, Bucks

St. James

Friday, 20 June 2014 in 47 mins (16-0-10)

### 1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- 1 Liz Wagstaff
- 2 Wendy Price
- 3 Michael Nimmo (C)
- 4 Christopher Crompton
- 5 David Moore
- 6 Keith Wagstaff

Wishing Nicki King a speedy recovery.

## Clifton Reynes, Bucks

St. Mary the Virgin

Wednesday, 9 July 2014 in 2h 44 (10-2-14)

### 5040 Surprise Minor (7m)

(720 each Bourne; Carlisle; Lightfoot; London; Netherseale; Westminster & Ipswich)

- 1 Barry R Care
- 2 Julie A Haseldine
- 3 Lesley J Belcher
- 4 Ruth Stokes
- 5 Andrew Haseldine
- 6 Christopher C Stokes (C)

Rung to celebrate the 350th anniversary of the casting of the back 5 bells in 1664 by John Hodson.

## Emberton, Bucks

All Saints

Sunday, 13 July 2014 in 44 mins (9-0-18)

### 1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor

- 1 Martha E Haslam
- 2 Wendy A Haslam
- 3 Phil M Haslam
- 4 Tony Manktelow
- 5 Roy Keeves
- 6 Simon Read (C)



Rung in celebration of Phil and Wendy Haslam's 25th wedding anniversary.

First quarter peal - 1.



# Peals & Quarters contd.

## Clifton Reynes, Bucks

St. Mary the Virgin

Tuesday, 15 July 2014 in 40 mins (10-2-14)

### 1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- 1 Adam Hird
- 2 Nick Read
- 3 Kate Hollins
- 4 Scott Ayers
- 5 B Douglas Hird (C)
- 6 Liz Sheaf

First quarter peal - 1.



## Clifton Reynes, Bucks

St. Mary the Virgin

Tuesday, 22 July 2014 (10-2-14)

### 1260 Plain Bob Minor

- 1 Adam Hird
- 2 Kate Hollins
- 3 Mike Davies
- 4 Scott Ayers
- 5 Charles J Knight
- 6 B Douglas Hird (C)

To wish Mike Lowndes a speedy recovery from his injuries.

First minor - 1.

## Woughton on the Green, Bucks

St. Mary

Saturday, 26 July 2014 in 45 mins (7 cwt)

### 1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- 1 Cerys Louise Dallen
- 2 Hazel E Dallen
- 3 Brian M Baldwin (C)
- 4 Christina Tribble
- 5 Peter Tribble
- 6 Paul Cromblehome

Rung as a celebration of Cerys Louise Dallen's 12th birthday.

First quarter peal - 1.

First quarter peal as conductor after 42 years of ringing.

## Olney, Bucks

SS Peter & Paul

Sunday, 27 July 2014 in 48 mins (24-0-9)

### 1260 Plain Bob Royal

- 1 Claire Reading
- 2 Lesley Belcher
- 3 Nick Read
- 4 Roy Keeves
- 5 Terry Page
- 6 Simon J O Head
- 7 Graham Bartholomew
- 8 David Phillipson
- 9 B Douglas Hird
- 10 Alan J Marchbank (C)

For evensong and a retirement compliment to John Witchell, Director of Music whose last service followed this Quarter.

First quarter on more than six bells - 1.

First quarter peal of Royal - 3.

By a North Bucks Band.

## Clifton Reynes, Bucks

St. Mary the Virgin

Tuesday, 29 July 2014 (10-2-14)

### 1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- 1 Ella Sheaf
- 2 Scott Ayers
- 3 Charles J Knight
- 4 Roger Gay
- 5 B Douglas Hird (C)
- 6 Keith Wagstaff

To welcome Simon Horrocks as landlord of The Robin Hood.

## Stony Stratford, Bucks

St. Mary and St. Giles

Saturday, 2 August 2014 in 2h 43 (12-1-16)

### 5088 Lincolnshire Surprise Major

Composed by W. Barton

- 1 June D Wells (C)
- 2 Lesley J Belcher
- 3 Peter J Blight
- 4 David Phillipson
- 5 Duncan Loweth
- 6 E John Wells
- 7 A John Stanworth
- 8 B Douglas Hird

Rung in compliment to Shelley and Stuart Horn on the day they renew their wedding vows after 10 years of marriage.

## Newport Pagnell, Bucks

SS Peter & Paul

Wednesday, 6 August 2014 in 47 mins (21-2-16)

### 1260 Grandsire Doubles

- 1 Mark Vale
- 2 Charles J Knight
- 3 Stephen R Aldridge
- 4 Mick Nimmo
- 5 B Douglas Hird (C)
- 6 Nat Masters

First quarter peal - 1 & 6.

## Bradwell, Bucks

St. Lawrence

Sunday, 18 May 2014 in 42 mins (7-2-15)

### 1260 Doubles (2m)

(660 Plain Bob; 600 Grandsire)

- 1 Chris Abbott
- 2 Jenny Brookman
- 3 Dean Meakins
- 4 Ted Fawcett
- 5 Ian Green (C)
- 6 Gordon Abbott

A very late celebration of Ian Green's 50th and Gordon Abbott's 80th birthdays.

## Clifton Reynes, Bucks

St. Mary the Virgin

Tuesday, 12 August 2014 in 38 mins (10-2-14)

### 1260 Grandsire Doubles

- 1 Adam Hird
- 2 Nick Read
- 3 Charles J Knight
- 4 Scott Ayers
- 5 B Douglas Hird (C)
- 6 Liz Sheaf

1st quarter of Grandsire - 4.

# Younger Ringers

## The Ringing World National Youth Striking Contest

**Worcester : Saturday, 5 July 2014**

Simon Read and I were invited by Robert Newton, the Ringing Master of the ODG, to be part of the band to represent the ODG at the Ringing World National Youth Striking Contest which was held in Worcester on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July. The contest was held at Old St. Martin Church, with many other churches available for open ringing during the course of the day. Each team was also allocated a slot to ring in the teaching centre situated in the cathedral. This was a challenging experience but helped us all realise that it is equally important to listen as well as rely on rope sight when ringing.



*The ODG Team*

*(Claire 4th from Left - Simon Read 2nd from right)*

We were the 12<sup>th</sup> team to ring our test piece on the slightly challenging back 8 at Old St. Martin. This was not helped by the fact that the stay had broken on one of the bells during the lunchtime ringing. Despite this, our touch of Bob Triples appeared to go quite smoothly, and we then had the long wait before we knew how our ringing compared to the other teams.

The results were then announced in the central hall of Worcester Cathedral. The ODG band came 2<sup>nd</sup> equal out of 6 teams in the method section, scoring an A-grade, which placed us 3<sup>rd</sup> equal overall out of the 16 teams. This was an improvement on our B grade last year, and something we were all very happy with! The winning band was Bedfordshire, who scored an A\* in Rounds and Call Changes and took the trophy for the second year running. We were very pleased with our result, especially as this was the first time we had rung together as a team of 8. Although Simon and I will be too old to take part in the contest next year, I'm sure our team will continue to do just as well in the future.

*Claire Reading  
Loughton*

## Sixteen Bell Peal

**Young Ringers Association  
Birmingham, West Midlands**

St Martin

Sunday, 10 August 2014 in 3h49 (39-1-19)

**5016 Spliced Sixteen (2m)**

(2m: 4992 Yorkshire S, 24 Little Bob, 5com)

Composed by M P A Wilby arr J H Potter

- 1 Edward R Mack
- 2 Jonathan H Potter (C)
- 3 Michael R Crockett
- 4 Katharine A Hill
- 5 Heather M Forster
- 6 Simon Read
- 7 Alex W Tatlow
- 8 Ryan S Noble
- 9 Adam R Crocker
- 10 Andrew J Rawlinson
- 11 Timothy E S Holmes
- 12 Daniel Jones
- 13 Andrew M Hills
- 14 Thomas B Mack
- 15 Nicholas D Brown
- 16 Thomas J Waterson

First on 16: 1,2,3,5,6,7,8,10,11,12,13,14,15,16.

Believed to be the youngest band to ring a peal on sixteen, average age: 22 & 2 months.

The question one might ask themselves when scanning down the (what seems to be) endless list of names of the record above might be "how on earth do you manage to ring with fifteen other ringers?" This a very good question – one I asked myself on the Saturday night before, having never rung on sixteen bells before.

Two years ago we had rung 5,016 changes of Yorkshire Surprise Fourteen and Littleport Little Surprise Fourteen; I vaguely remembering asking the same question to myself then, albeit it was *only* on fourteen. There is no simple answer to the question. The answer lies in the application of the primary skills, that we have all been taught, but in a much more pressured, demanding and somewhat intimidating environment.

A skill that I relied upon was rhythm – and keeping to it. The acoustics of the tower meant the bells were not always audible, so you could not always rely on hearing your bell (although still essential) through the fifteen others. Yorkshire is renowned for the coursing of the tenors throughout. Only bells two, three, four, five and six were affected by calls throughout the whole peal so the remaining eleven rang five and a half plain courses unaffected. This allowed the back bells to create a mesmerising rhythm in which we all stuck to.

I will happily admit that the ropesight was slightly tricky – even as a regular twelve bell ringer, another four bells provided for a lot of difference. I rang the sixth which meant there were five bells to the right of me and ten to the left of me.

Unfortunately... there is no tower with a musically correct 'eighteen', so thankfully it looks like we have reached the limit!

*Simon Read*