



# In Touch

**November 2014**

## Branch Practice & Christmas Social : Olney

Saturday 20th December 2014

Everyone is invited to the Branch Practice at The Church SS Peter & Paul, Olney & Christmas Social in the Church Hall



Above photo from <http://www.dawsonimages.co.uk/>

**4.30 Branch Practice**

**6.00 Service**

**6.45 Mulled wine, supper and mince pies  
followed by quiz (in church hall)**

Food options: - Cod and chips  
- 2 sausages and chips  
- Pie and chips - chicken OR beef  
and onion OR steak and kidney

Names for supper and food option choices to  
Liz Sheaf:-  
tel: 01234 711 067  
or email: [esheaf@aol.com](mailto:esheaf@aol.com)

by Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December please.

## Forthcoming Events.....

Date and Time	Event	Location
Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November 2014	Guild 10 bell striking competition	Long Crendon
Saturday 29 <sup>th</sup> November 2014 - 10.00am to 4.30pm	Guild 10 bell training day	Aston Clinton
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> December 2014 - 7.40 to 9.00pm	Bob doubles, plain hunt and call changes practice	Whaddon
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2014 - 4.30pm onwards	Branch Practice & Christmas Social (see above)	Olney
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January 2015 - 8.00pm start	Bob doubles, plain hunt and call changes practice	Newport Pagnell
Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup> January 2015 - 4.00 to 5.30pm	Branch Practice	Woughton-on-the-Green
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> February 2015 - 7.40 to 9.00pm	Bob doubles, plain hunt and call changes practice	Calverton
Sat 21 Feb 2015 - 4.00 to 5.30pm	Branch Practice	Milton Keynes Village
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> March 2015 - 7.40 to 9.00pm	Bob doubles, plain hunt and call changes practice	Great Horwood

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### ***Deadline for next edition . . .***

The deadline for contributions for the next edition of *In Touch* is **Tuesday 3rd February 2015.**

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

*Nick Read*

# 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	Loughton	07724 889120	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	Loughton	01908 662483	secretary@northbucks.org.uk
<b>Minute Secretary</b>	Patricia Rosewell	Wavendon	01908 583652	minutes_sec@northbucks.org.uk
<b>Treasurer</b>	Sheila Watts	Emberton	01234 713667	treasurer@northbucks.org.uk
<b>Guild Reps</b>	Linda Maycroft	Shenley	-	guildrep1@northbucks.org.uk
	Ann Birch	Shenley	01908 503971	guildrep2@northbucks.org.uk
	Vacant			guildrep3@northbucks.org.uk
<b>In Touch Editor</b>	Nick Read	Newport Pagnell	01908 616546	intoucheditor@northbucks.org.uk
<b>Branch Websites</b>	www.northbucksbranch.org.uk or www.northbucks.org.uk (archive)		<b>Guild Website</b>	www.odg.org.uk

## Training

**Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers**  
*Established 17th January 1881*  
**EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**RADLEY**  
**ONE-DAY COURSE**  
Based at Radley (near Abingdon)

**SATURDAY 11th APRIL 2015**

**Cost £25.00 including evening meal**

**Methods offered:**

**Plain Hunt on 5, 6, 7, 8; Grandsire Doubles and Triples; Plain Bob Doubles, Minor and Major**

All subject to demand

These courses have been running for a number of years and are designed for learners of all ages and levels of competence. No need to feel nervous about coming as you will be with others at a similar level. We aim to improve your confidence as well as your ringing with friendly support and tuition.

Details of ringing criteria and an application form will be available after 1st December 2014 from:-

Ann Osborne,  
Email: annosborne.1@BTInternet.com  
or  
Tel: 0118 942 5876

Closing date for applications is:  
31st January 2015

Maximum of 25 students

## From the Secretary.....



### North Bucks Branch email group

The Branch maintains an email group distribution list which it uses to keep members informed of Guild/Branch news and events.

Subscribers to this email group are also permitted to send emails to other members of the group. This may be useful, for example, if you are short of ringers for a wedding, or wish to advertise a ringing related event.

Details of how to do this have already been emailed to all subscribers to the email group.

If you are not already subscribed to this email group and would like to be added then please contact me directly via email at [secretary@northbucks.org.uk](mailto:secretary@northbucks.org.uk) with details of your name and email address, and I will add you to the group.

Subscribers can opt out of the email group at any time.

*Gary Reading*

# Branch News

## BRANCH TRAINING DAY, SATURDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER

The Branch Training Day this year was on Ringing Up and Down in Peal. It is an area of ringing which many ringers struggle with and there are often limited opportunities to practise the skill as raising and lowering in peal is generally only down once at a practice night (or not at all at some towers).

A total of ten participants signed up for the course and 18 helpers volunteered to help out on the day. The course consisted of four sessions – two morning sessions held at Milton Keynes Village and Loughton and two afternoon sessions held at Bradwell and Wavendon. Each session was run by a different leader. This meant that the participants had the benefit of different teaching styles and viewpoints and lessened the burden on the leaders who only had to run one session.

All the participants were already competent in raising and lowering a bell, but most of them picked up tips on improving their technique. Everyone was able to have several goes at raising and lowering in peal and all felt they had made progress and improved by the end of the course. Some participants were also interested in learning how to lead up and down and, again, were able to have a few goes at that too.

A big “thank you” goes to all the helpers. It was quite a tiring day with lots of raising and lowering, but the course could not have taken place without them. The participants, in their feedback, had high praise for the helpfulness, friendliness, knowledge and experience of all the helpers which meant they were able to get a lot out of the course.

There was a welcome break for lunch at the Talbot in Loughton where participants and helpers were able to come together and compare notes; and there were refreshments in the form of tea, coffee and biscuits during the sessions to keep everyone going.

Several of the course participants have already put what they have learnt into practice at their home towers which is perhaps the best measure of success for the course.

*Ann Birch*

## THE NBB EIGHT BELL BAND

We have held two more practices in the last quarter. At **Great Brickhill** we rang Cambridge S Major for those who are consolidating the method and we had a further “learner” who rang their first blows of the method. The evening saw our first foray into Yorkshire, with one of the “learners” ringing it perfectly having rung it for the first time only the evening before. The Yorkshire was well struck and a number of people commented on how good it sounded.

We also added three leads of Kent TB Major to our repertoire and rang it a couple of times – again a first for at least one ringer, and I suspect others. At the Stony Stratford practice it took us at least 3 attempts to get the starts right, which shows how much we have progressed as a band. In between we rang various Plain methods and Stedman.

We did not hold a practice in November but used the opportunity provided by the **Branch quarter peal week** to get a number of people through 8-bell quarters. All were successful; scoring two firsts of Surprise Major (Cambridge inside for both) and a first quarter peal of Surprise Major on the treble for someone who is paying me handsomely to not say for how many years. What a superb and rewarding effort, with the individuals concerned commenting that they have never had to concentrate so hard for years! Thanks go to the bands that helped make these quarters a success.

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*

## BRANCH MEETING ROUND-UP

Following on from a suggestion made at the AGM, branch practice times have been varied during the last quarter. This hasn't had an impact, positive or negative, on attendance, however it felt very nice to go for an evening tippie after the Padbury practice! Reflecting on the year to date, the branch officers think that the 2014 calendar has been too full; even we are feeling worn out. Our special events are as popular as ever but it feels that the branch practices run in the same month as these are often one event too many. So next year we are going to organise the calendar so that there is only one general branch event per month. It will give us more time to focus on each event and means that everyone will feel less burdened.

Over the next four years we will be commemorating the lives of branch bell ringers who were killed during WWI. The centenary of the deaths of five of our ringers fall in 2015. We are arranging to hold branch practices on the nearest Saturday to the centenary of each of these deaths, hopefully holding them at the branch tower associated with each ringer.

A listing of all the branch events to be held in 2015 will be distributed to the towers at the beginning of the year and more details of all the events will be included on the calendar page of the branch website.

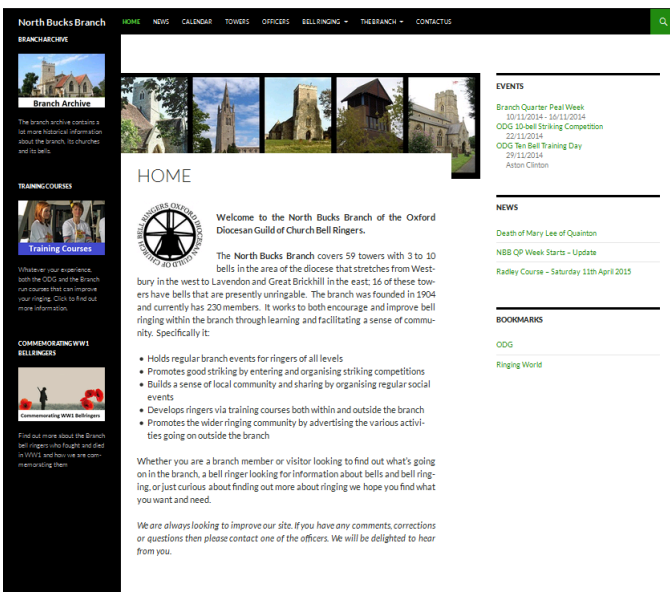
*Lesley Belcher*

# Branch News contd.

## CHECKOUT THE BRANCH WEBSITES

The branch website has been split in two.

The **archive website** contains historical records and information going back to the seventeen century! The site has been completely remodelled featuring a brand new menu structure and is packed with information about our bells, towers, the branch and its ringers.



In parallel a new **branch website** has been developed. This contains details of current and future events, a branch news feed plus information about towers. It is targeted at members and visitors who wish to find out what is going on and who to contact. Finally there are the branch and bell ringing pages; useful for finding out what happens in the branch and supporting your learning and teaching needs. Over the next months the site will be developing both its learning to ring pages and adding more biographies of bell ringers killed in WW1.

Why not take a look?

North Bucks Branch Archive Project -

[www.northbucks.org.uk](http://www.northbucks.org.uk)

North Bucks Branch -

[www.northbucksbranch.org.uk](http://www.northbucksbranch.org.uk)

## ODG 6-BELL STRIKING COMPETITION

Hanslope represented the North Bucks branch at the ODG 6-bell striking competition hosted by the Old North Bucks Branch.

Hanslope were second to Drayton St Leonard in the heats held at Cholsey (a fine ring of eight) and progressed through to the final at Aston Tirrold. This ring of six were challenging for all the competing bands, with the treble in particular being very odd-struck. Hanslope came in a very respectable 5th with Roy Keeves's early command of the treble getting a special mention from the judge.

Contd...

The full results of the final were:

- 1 High Wycombe – 14 faults
- 2 Thatcham – 15 faults
- 3 Wokingham – 19 faults
- 3 Drayton St Leonard – 19 faults
- 5 Hanslope – 21 faults
- 6 Caversham – 60 faults

The next ODG striking competition is the 10-bell, which will be held at Long Crendon on 22nd November.

## Tower News

### ST. MARY'S WHADDON - BELL ROPE DEDICATION

After the excitement of receiving and installing a set of six new bell ropes, the ringers of St. Mary's at Whaddon were pleased to be part of a service of dedication for the new ropes.

Held on the 12<sup>th</sup> of October, and led by The Reverend John King, we were given a ringing themed service, part of which was actually held in the ringing room, which overlooks the Nave.

The congregation joined us in thanks to the Church and to the PCC for its continued support of ringing in Whaddon.

Captain Derek White and the ringers of Whaddon would like to thank The Reverend John King for his excellent service, marked by his pointed sermon and good humour.

For those that would like to try the now bedded in ropes, practice night is on Tuesdays from 19:30.

*Phillip Starr*

### RINGING TO CELEBRATE TWO SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS

The following ringers, Michael Nimmo, David Moore, Christopher Crompton, Wendy Price, got together on the Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October at Whaddon, along with Hugh Butler and Phillip Starr. To celebrate two special birthdays Hugh Butler 80<sup>th</sup> birthday and Phillip Starr 30<sup>th</sup>. Some well struck bob doubles was rung by the band which we all enjoyed. After the ringing we joined Hugh and his wife for a slice of birthday cake and a few drinks.

Happy Birthday Hugh and Phillip.

*Mick Nimmo*

# Tower News contd.

## HANSLOPE

Our efforts continue towards raising money for the Hanslope Bell Restoration Fund. On Saturday 8th November we held a Pampered Chef Demonstration and Kitchenware Sale in the village hall. Despite being a dreadful rainy day, we were pleased to see the number of people who turned out to support the event. The representative, Cheryl, treated us to a light hearted demonstration of all the products as she used them to make several recipes which we were later able to sample. The afternoon also included a Ready Steady Cook feature where Carrie Walker of Emberton represented the bell ringers as the 'Green Pepper' contestant. Thanks to everyone who attended and bought products which, together with a raffle and donations, helped us to raise just over £400.00. Finally, a big THANK YOU to Sue and Andy Grout [parents of Stuart Grout, Hanslope ringer] who organised the event on our behalf, and also to all those who helped us on the day.



We plan to organise a Tower Open Day next spring in aid of the Restoration Fund. We will therefore be contacting towers in the Branch during the next month or two in order to request their support for this event by allowing us to include ringing at their church. The date and route are not yet finalised but we hope you will be able to accommodate our requests.

*Sheila Blenkhorn*

## HOLIDAY RINGING

In August four of the Haslam Family from Olney holidayed in Canada. Our visit coincided with opportunities to ring at 3 new towers, each arranged by email prior to our departure.

First was Calgary (8, 8 cwt). We joined 4 locals for Sunday Service ringing, and rang plain hunt, bob doubles and grandsire doubles with 3 bells covering. The following Sunday we rang at Vancouver (8, 16 cwt) again joining locals most of whom were ex pats, and again rang plain hunt, and grandsire. We then rang at Victoria (10, 29 cwt) on Vancouver Island, joining the five locals for practice night.

Here we managed Cambridge minor, a method that the locals hadn't rung for a long time.

What did all three towers have in common? The local ringers made us very welcome, were very pleased that we joined them (especially since it was also their holiday time which meant some of their own ringers were away on holiday) and they were keen to point us in the right direction for coffee shops, restaurants and other sites off the regular tourist trail.



*Calgary*

So ... the moral of the story ... when you go on holiday, do a bit of prior research to find towers that ring and go and join the locals. You will often be doing them a favour (especially when the next nearest tower is hundreds of miles away) and will add enjoyment to your holiday.

*Wendy, Phil, Sam and Martha Haslam*

## STONY STRATFORD

St Mary & St Giles Church Stony Stratford is busy trying to raise funds for the restoration of its fine Willis organ and as such is using the church as a venue for many musical fundraising items. More information about this can be found at <http://www.smsg-organ-appeal.co.uk/MusicSMSG.htm> - however an interesting by-product of this activity was a request we had from the local Beaver Group in Stony Stratford to come and have a look at Music in our church. These 15 eager Beavers visited the church and split into three groups - one to look at the organ, another to visit the church tower and learn about bellringing and a third group that tried out bellringing on a set of bell-plates (being too young and too small to pull the tower bells!) Beaver leaders reported back afterwards to say how much their youngsters had enjoyed the opportunity to come and see - and hear - the bells in the church. Perhaps some of these eager Beavers will, in years to come, take up bellringing - it's never too young to sow the seeds.

*Kieran Salter  
Churchwarden*

# Tower News contd.

## EMBERTON CELEBRATIONS



At Tuesday practice on 23<sup>rd</sup> September we were delighted to help celebrate a "significant birthday" for Carrie Walker. Balloons, badges and a lovely cake (thanks, Wendy) were enjoyed. Yes, we did some ringing too, before going back to Carrie's home at Newton Blossomville where we enjoyed more hospitality.

### New Bell at Emberton



Mr & Mrs Ellis of Emberton have loaned us an interesting bell that has been with their family for many years. Its history is unknown, but Doug Hird (Branch Archivist) has found that there is a bell cast by the same founder in 1885 at St Jude, Mildmay Grove, in London. The inscription on the Emberton bell is: *'Bowen Founder London 1848'*



*Emberton ringers enjoying Bacon & Sausage Butties before ringing for Harvest Festival.*

## WAVENDON

Wavendon's ringers have encountered some attendance challenges from late summer onwards. Despite absences for family holidays we've usually been able to maintain our weekly practice night with the aid of continuing support from Woughton, but rustling up enough competent ringers for a Sunday morning has been more difficult; our better ringers were instead able to return a favour by filling in at Woughton on occasional Sundays. We are proud to bequeath one ringer to Merton College, Oxford - congratulations and good luck to Ellie Atkinson who said a temporary farewell to the band in a celebratory touch of Plain Bob Doubles - and we have hopes of a band outing amongst the 'dreaming spires' next year! So for the moment we're depending upon our two youngest learners to continue making good progress so as to boost the number of ringers regularly available to ring for service.

At the Autumn Meeting in Newport Pagnell, Wavendon tower was represented by Hazel and Cerys Dallen, and Cerys also took advantage of October's Training Course, in which one of the sessions for 'Ringing up and Down in Peal' was held at Wavendon. It's always a pleasure to see others enjoying our bells and we do encourage you to bring your skills to our Friday practice nights. We don't usually repair to a local hospitality after practice since we're very much a family-oriented band, but we do like to have a bit of fun (and often cakes) in between times in the tower! This month we'll also be very proud to show you the trophy for the Interbranch Striking Competition (against Towcester), which three members of our band helped to win and will therefore be displaying in turn with other winners throughout the year.

As we advance our own skills we'll be even better placed to support learners, and we'd like to encourage more recruits, especially of the junior variety. Although few of the local residents fall into that age bracket, we're hoping to sow a few seeds of ambition in the local cub pack who'll be visiting soon. Most of them will be too young to learn yet, but it's a good opportunity to encourage parents to consider ringing as an alternative to screen-based pastimes . . . Meanwhile as an adult learner I continue to appreciate the warmth of the welcome offered by other North Bucks bands, as I try to sneak in extra practice at their towers in an attempt to hang onto the coat tails of our younger ringers, so many thanks for the encouragement from Woughton, Emberton and Great Brickhill!

We hope to complete the first Wavendon-only Quarter-Peal of Plain Bob Doubles as part of the campaign by North Bucks Branch to encourage more ambitious ringing. I seem to have been promising this event for ages, and we've been hanging at the edge of the pool far too long, so I hope this time we'll take the plunge! As a learner tower captain I'd like to thank the Branch's Ringing Development Officers particularly for all their hard work in promoting opportunities for novices and advanced ringers alike to broaden their ringing experience; as a member of the Branch committee I know how much thought and effort goes into planning activities on your behalf, so please do offer feedback - and do ask, or get your own tower captain to ask, for more of what you need!

Looking forward to Christmas (as we're bound to, with our young band), our tower will be decorating a tree for the Festival at St Michael's, Woburn Sands in early December; we expect to be busy ringing for services throughout the Advent and Christmas period; and we hope that our ringing might encourage some members of the bumper audiences of the season to try ringing for themselves. *Patricia Rosewell*

# Tower News contd.

## MILTON KEYNES BELLS IN UNUSUAL WW1 COMMEMORATION

Many communities throughout Britain have commemorated the centenary of the start of the First World War, and ringers have been involved in quite a few of those commemorations. However, at Simpson in Milton Keynes, this involvement took a unique form – the bells were an integral part of a piece of music especially composed for the occasion by a local composer.

Simpson is now part of the New City of Milton Keynes, but in 1914 it was a large village just outside the small urban complex of Bletchley and Fenny Stratford. Almost 90 men went off to war. Eleven were killed. Simpson remembered them at an evening of readings and music in St Thomas' Church on September 6<sup>th</sup>.

A band of ringers drawn from the neighbouring towers of Woughton and Wavendon rang half-muffled Grandsire Doubles as the audience arrived - nothing exceptional in that. What followed was more unusual.

The first half climaxed with three "Songs for Simpson" by local composer David Baume. The third, called "The Village of Santa Claus" (apparently an old nickname for Simpson, but that's another story), told the history of the village from its first mention in history to its incorporation into the New City. The song started with bells ringing in back rounds, a theme then picked up by the organ accompaniment. The piece finished with the organ playing a descending scale, a theme picked up by the bells ringing rounds. The composition was modern in style, but tonal – indeed the key, A flat major, was chosen so that the piece was in tune with the bells.

Brian Baldwin, the captain of the Woughton ringers, commented: "The hardest part was coming in on cue - the belfry and the body of the church are quite distant. We are really glad to have been able to take part - I think ringing as part of a piece of music is a unique experience for all of us".



*Most of the ringers who took part in Simpson's WW1 commemoration:*

*Back row Peter Tribble, Christina Tribble, Hazel Dallen, Paul Crombleholme*

*Front row Cerys Dallen, Brian Baldwin, Hannah Crombleholme*

The ringers' contribution to the proceedings didn't stop at the belfry door - the keyboard accompanist for songs sung throughout the concert was another ringer, Jean Mattinsley.

*Martin Petchey*



## FROM TOWERS TO TRENCHES, WE REMEMBER THEM.....

Many of us rang half muffled in commemoration of the start of World War 1 in August. In the August edition of In Touch Doug reported that the impact of the first few months of the war on the branch was minimal, after all it would "all be over by Christmas".

As the first signs of spring were appearing in Clifton Reynes and Newton Blossomville the British Expeditionary Force (BEF), after months spent defending French territory in miserable sodden trenches, was preparing for an attack. The light fall of snow on the evening of the 9<sup>th</sup> of March 1915 was replaced by a damp mist by the next morning. The peace of that misty morning was broken at 7.30am by the roar of shells exploding on the German front line and in the village of Neuve Chapelle. By 8.05am the bombardment was over, the heaviest that would be fired until 1917, and the troops of the Army Cyclist Corps joined the BEF attack. Among them was 24 year old private Frederick Charles Andrews .

Frederick Andrews was the 5<sup>th</sup> son of farm labourer John and his wife Mary, he was born 13<sup>th</sup> April 1890 and went to the local village school. Frederick was a Clifton Reynes member of the North Bucks branch between 1907 and 1909. He joined the Volunteer Corps at Olney before enlisting in the Middlesex regiment on the 1<sup>st</sup> March 1910, from there he served in India, Malta and Guernsey before joining the BEF in France from Oct 1914.

He was wounded in the Battle of Neuve Chapelle and died of his wounds the next day, 14 March 1915. Frederick was buried in the Merville Communal Cemetery, Plot II.E.3. His family were either not given the chance or could not afford to pay for a personal inscription to be added on his headstone. Instead just his rank, surname and initials and date of death were recorded.

We will be holding this year's AGM on the centenary of his ultimate sacrifice in his memory and we hope that as many of you as possible will be able to join us. If you can't join us perhaps you could commemorate him too by ringing half muffled during that week.

Our new website now contains a section devoted to those members that served and lost their lives in The Great War, just scroll down the on the home page to find the banner link. We will be adding the life stories of the bell ringers over the course of the next few months and of course would welcome any further information you may know about these brave young men.

*Linda Maycroft*

# Peals & Quarters

## **St Olave's Society**

**Beachampton**, Bucks

The Leys, 14 Main Street

Sunday, 25 May 2014 in 2h 22 (13cwt in E)

### **5152 Yorkshire Surprise Major**

Composed by Peter J Sanderson

1-2 Lesley J Belcher

3-4 Richard A Pearce

5-6 Ruth Blackwell

7-8 Michael J Trimm (C)

Rung to celebrate the marriage of Lesley Belcher and Peter Maddox.

## **Great Horwood**, Bucks

St. James the Great

Friday, 15 August 2014 in 42 mins (16-0-10)

### **1260 Grandsire Doubles**

1 Phillip Starr

2 David Moore

3 Wendy Price

4 Michael Nimmo

5 B Douglas Hird (C)

6 Mark Vale

## **Oxford Diocesan Guild**

**Olney**, Bucks

St Peter & St Paul

Saturday, 20 September 2014 in 3h 7 (24cwt)

### **5021 Grandsire Caters**

Composed by A Colin Banton

1 Catherine M A Lane

2 June D Wells

3 Roger W Powell

4 James M Champion

5 Alan J Griffin

6 John A Harrison

7 E John Wells (C)

8 Alan J Marchbank

9 Robert A Partridge

10 David Phillipson

Rung as a retirement compliment to the Rt. Rev. John Pritchard, Lord Bishop of Oxford and President of the Guild.

First peal on 10 - 4.

## **Stowe**, Bucks

St. Mary

Sunday, 5 October 2014 (10-3-23)

### **1260 Plain Bob Minor**

1 Anne Mercer

2 Sue Lucas

3 Ann Fletcher

4 Laurence Gibson

5 Andrew Spencer (C)

6 Sebastian Lucas

Rung to celebrate Ron Bundock's retirement after 16 years as priest-in-charge at Stowe.

## **Oxford Diocesan Guild**

**Milton Keynes**, Bucks

Downs Barn, The Cross & Stable

Saturday, 18 October 2014 in 2h 47 (6-0-10)

### **5088 Bristol Surprise Major**

Composed by Stephen J Ivin

1 B Douglas Hird

2 Lesley J Belcher

3 Julie A Haseldine

4 Ruth Stokes

5 Alan J Marchbank

6 Christopher C Stokes

7 Andrew Haseldine (C)

8 David Phillipson

Rung to say farewell to David Phillipson, wishing him luck in his move to Australia (again.)

Circled tower - 1.

## **Trafalgar Day Peal**

On October 21<sup>st</sup> 2014 a peal of Trafalgar Surprise Major was rung at St John the Evangelist, Wicken, Northamptonshire.

Not only was it Trafalgar Day but also a special birthday for one of the ringers.

The peal had been arranged to celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> birthday of Ray Vickers. His very first peal had also been rung at Wicken in 1957 at the age of 22.

After the peal Ray treated all the band and friends to an excellent lunch at The Bell at Beachampton. It was a good day and everyone enjoyed themselves.

Happy Birthday Ray, we are all looking forward to ringing a peal for your 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.



*The picture is of the ringers taken after the peal and are left to right:*

*Shirley McGill, Andrew Haseldine (Holding his Grandson Tobias) Ray Vickers, James Haseldine, Ruth Stokes, Murray Coleman, Julie Haseldine, Chris Stokes.*

## **Peterborough Diocesan Guild**

**Wicken**, Northamptonshire.

St John the Evangelist

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2014 in 3 hours 1 minute (15 cwt)

### **5056 Trafalgar Surprise Major**

Composed by D F Morrison (No 2397)

1 Shirley E McGill

2 Julie A Haseldine

3 Raymond A Vickers

4 Murray A Coleman

5 Ruth Stokes

6 Christopher C Stokes

7 Andrew Haseldine (C)

8 James A Haseldine

Rung to celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> birthday of Ray Vickers.

*Chris Stokes*



# Peals & Quarters

**Stowe, Bucks**

St. Mary

Tuesday, 4 November 2014 in 52 mins (10-3-23)

## **1260 Plain Bob Doubles**

- 1 Ian Smart
- 2 Anne Mercer
- 3 Sue Lucas
- 4 Sebastian Lucas
- 5 Laurence Gibson (C)
- 6 John Lewis

The quarter peal followed the memorial service for Bram Wiggins, former teacher at Stowe school and (among other distinctions) former assistant principal trumpet with the London Symphony Orchestra, in appreciation of his many contributions to music and the life of the parish.

**Old Wolverton, Bucks**

Holy Trinity

Tuesday, 4 November 2014 in 50 mins (14cwt)

## **1260 Doubles (3m)**

(3m: 120 Reverse Canterbury; 480 Plain Bob Doubles; 660 Grandsire Doubles)

- 1 John Mercer
- 2 Audrey Jones
- 3 Wendy Price
- 4 Malcolm Hooton
- 5 Michael Nimmo (C)

**St Olave's Society**

**Beachampton**

14 Main Street

Saturday, 8 November 2014 in 2h 20 (13cwt in E)

## **5024 Spliced Surprise Major (8m)**

(8m: 672 each London, Rutland; 640 each Lincolnshire, Pudsey, Superlative; 608 Bristol; 576 each Cambridge, Yorkshire: 129 com, atw)

Composed by N R Aspland

- 1-2 Lesley J Belcher
- 3-4 Michael J Trimm
- 5-6 Ruth Blackwell
- 7-8 Richard A Pearce (C)

A birthday compliment to Lesley Belcher on 6th November.

**Old Wolverton, Bucks**

Holy Trinity

Tuesday, 11 November 2014 in 55 mins (14cwt)

## **1560 Grandsire Doubles**

- 1 Nicola Stuchbury
- 2 David Goodyear
- 3 David Joyce
- 4 Roy Keeves
- 5 Michael Nimmo (C)
- 6 David Moore



Rung half muffled following 2 minutes silence. Each change represented 1 day the British were engaged in WW1.

# Quarter Peal Week

## **THE BRANCH QUARTER PEAL WEEK**

The idea for this quarter peal week was to give some ringers an opportunity to achieve something they wouldn't normally get a chance to do. With that in mind, I thought that a useful target would be to achieve 10 "firsts." Another aim was to let tower bands get on with doing their own organising rather than spending weeks bossing people around.

As it turned out, everything that normally happens when organising quarter peals did happen. We had a few that didn't start because we just didn't have enough ringers (or they had more sense in the case of Sherington). We had a few that didn't make it but were worth a try. Then there was the majority that did make it and did some good. All the ringers who achieved a "first" that I heard said they didn't think they could do it. Maybe they will have a bit more faith in those of us who had faith in them from now on.

The final total was 13 quarters and there were something like 13 "firsts." The Woughton band helped somewhat with five in one quarter and the Wavendon band did particularly well with their first as a band but congratulations are due to everyone who achieved something new, who took part and who put even more time into organising them. Well done and Thank You everyone.

*Doug Hird*

**Emberton, Bucks**

All Saints

Friday, 7 November 2014 in 48 mins (9-0-18)

## **1320 Plain Bob Minor**

- 1 Lesley J Belcher
- 2 Sam J Haslam
- 3 Wendy A Haslam
- 4 Roy Keeves
- 5 Phil M Haslam
- 6 Tony Gray (C)

Rung to celebrate the Diamond Wedding anniversary of Olive and Keith Haslam on 6th November 2014.



*Left to Right: Lesley Belcher, Sam Haslam, Wendy Haslam, Roy Keeves, Phil Haslam, Tony Gray.*

# Quarter Peal Week contd.

## **Woughton on the Green**, Bucks

St. Mary

Sunday, 9 November 2014 in 48 mins (7cwt)

### **1440 Kent & Oxford Treble Bob Minor**

- 1 Brian Baldwin
- 2 Christina Tribble
- 3 Martin Smith
- 4 Martin Petchey
- 5 Peter Tribble
- 6 Simon J O Head (C)



Half muffled, in commemoration of the fallen from this village. First in the method - 1, 2, 3 & 4.

## **Olney**, Bucks

SS Peter & Paul

Monday, 10 November 2014 (7-2-17)

### **1260 Plain Bob Doubles**

- 1 Judy Gay
- 2 Liz Sheaf
- 3 Doug Hird (C)
- 4 Roger Gay
- 5 Scott Ayers
- 6 Charles Knight



Rung half muffled for Remembrance. First in method inside - 2.

## **Wicken**, Northants

St. John the Evangelist

Tuesday, 11 November 2014 in 45 mins (15-1-20)

### **1280 Cambridge Surprise Major**

- 1 Ray Vickers
- 2 Ann Fletcher
- 3 Ann Birch
- 4 Nick Read
- 5 Lesley Belcher
- 6 Andrew Spencer
- 7 Ruth Stokes
- 8 Chris Stokes (C)

Rung in fond memory of Robert George a loyal ringer at Maids Moreton. First of surprise major - 3.

## **Newport Pagnell**, Bucks

SS Peter & Paul

Wednesday, 12 November 2014 (10-0-5)

### **1260 Plain Bob Doubles**

- 1 Keith Wagstaff
- 2 Nick Read
- 3 Nicki King
- 4 Charles Knight
- 5 Doug Hird (C)
- 6 Liz Wagstaff

First on treble - 1.  
First as cover - 6.

## **Milton Keynes**, Bucks

Downs Barn, The Cross & Stable

Saturday, 15 November 2014 in 44 mins (6-0-10)

### **1280 Cambridge Surprise Major**

Arranged by Simon Read

- 1 Graham Bartholomew
- 2 B Douglas Hird
- 3 Lesley J Belcher
- 4 Angela Blackburn
- 5 Roger Gay
- 6 Gary Reading
- 7 David Phillipson
- 8 Simon Read (C)

First surprise major - 6.

## **Milton Keynes**, Bucks

Wavendon, Assumption of the BMV

Saturday, 15 November 2014 in 43 mins (8-3-5)

### **1260 Plain Bob Doubles**

- 1 Cerys Louise Dallen
- 2 Hannah Crombleholme (C)
- 3 Hazel E Dallen (C)
- 4 Paul Crombleholme (C)
- 5 Peter Tribble (C)
- 6 Patricia Caryl Rosewell

First Quarter Peal for the Wavendon Tower since the new band was created in 2012. We would like to also associate the quarter peal with Brian Baldwin who has been instructing the band since formation.

## **Hanslope**, Bucks

St. James the Great

Saturday, 15 November 2014 in 50 mins (22cwt)

### **1260 Grandsire Triples**

- 1 Helen Dear
- 2 Alan Cozens
- 3 Brian Berry
- 4 Anthony Gray (C)
- 5 Ian Thompson
- 6 Nicholas Gray
- 7 Roy Keeves
- 8 Andrew Timms

A 100th Birthday compliment on 7th November for Emily Keeves, mother of 7th. In memory of Derek Ward who passed away on 12th November, brother-in-law of 6th.

First quarter peal - 1.

## **Newport Pagnell**, Bucks

SS Peter & Paul

Sunday, 16 November 2014 in 45 mins (22-1-16)

### **1250 Yorkshire Surprise Major**

- 1 Hazel Dallen
- 2 David Phillipson (C)
- 3 Alison Willgress
- 4 Ian Willgress
- 5 Lesley Belcher
- 6 Doug Hird
- 7 Alan Marchbank
- 8 Simon Read

# Quarter Peal Week

Rung by a combined Whiting Society and North Bucks band in North Bucks Branch Quarter Peal week.

## **The Whiting Society**

**Simpson**, Bucks

St Thomas

Friday, 14 November 2014 in 44 mins (7-1-7)

### **1260 Plain Bob Doubles**

- 1 Dorothe Steidinger
- 2 William N Evans
- 3 Jana Pavova
- 4 Graham J Bartholomew (C)
- 5 Clare Bellis
- 6 Anne F M Phillipson

## **The Whiting Society**

**Loughton**, Bucks

All Saints

Friday, 14 November 2014 in 48 mins (11-0-8)

### **1260 Doubles**

480 St Simons, 480 St Martins, 300 Plain Bob Doubles

- 1 Jana Pavova
- 2 Anne F M Phillipson
- 3 Clare Bellis
- 4 Philip R Wild
- 5 Pauline M Kennard (C)
- 6 William N Evans

## **The Whiting Society**

**Wicken**, Northants

St John the Evangelist

Friday, 14 November 2014 in 47 mins (15-1-20)

### **1250 Yorkshire Surprise Major**

- 1 Pauline M Kennard
- 2 William N Evans
- 3 Terence G Page
- 4 Anne F M Phillipson
- 5 Dorothe Steidinger
- 6 Linda M Pelc
- 7 Stuart I Bamforth (C)
- 8 Philip R Wild

First Surprise Major inside - 4

## **The Whiting Society**

**Bradwell**, Bucks

St Lawrence

Friday, 14 November 2014 (7-2-15)

### **1260 Plain Bob Minor**

- 1 Anne F M Phillipson
- 2 Jana Pavova
- 3 Ruth Stokes
- 4 Christopher C Stokes
- 5 Linda M Pelc (C)
- 6 Stuart I Bamforth

# Resources

## ***Branch DVDs to borrow....***

The branch has a number of DVDs available to loan out to members free of charge.

'Ropesight' is a collection of video tutorials providing the key steps in learning the fundamentals of change ringing. The DVD focuses on the three stages of mastering bellringing: learning bell control and achieving ropesight, becoming proficient in ringing methods, and finally, conducting your first touch. You can see clips of the DVD at [www.bellringingfilm.co.uk](http://www.bellringingfilm.co.uk)

'Learning the Ropes' is an ITTS DVD which demonstrates the key skills in teaching a new ringer to ring from the teacher's perspective. In addition it shows the full teaching cycle for a new recruit from first holding the rope through to ringing a bell competently and safely. If you are interested in teaching people to learn to ring then this is a useful resource.

We also have a DVD made up of the clips that were used in the presentations at Downs Barn as part of the Big Ring Pull. Nick has put together clips from other ringing DVDs to make this a useful video to show members of the public what ringing is all about.

If you would like to borrow any of these videos please contact the secretary.



## ***Did you know....***

The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers provides a set of Guidance Notes on the topics of particular concern:

- GN1 - Insurance and Ringing (2013)
- GN2 - Tower Management (2011)
- GN3 - Child Protection In Towers \* (2014)
- GN4 - Tower Safety and Risk Assessment (2014)
- GN5 - Church Law (2013)
- GN6 - Fire Risk Assessment and Protection (2011)
- Beacons and Church Towers
- GN7 - Noise, the Law and the Environmental Health Officer (2011)
- GN8 - Data Protection and Bell Ringing (2014)
- Summary leaflet (2014)

**\* The notes on Child Protection in Towers have recently been amended (March 2013) in the light of the Government's 2012 amendments to the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006. Please also see the following additional advice on this important topic:**

Child Protection Advice for Guilds and Associations (2013)  
Job Description for Guild/Society Child Protection Officer (2013)

See <http://cccbr.org.uk/towerstewardship/#guidance> for links to the above

# OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS NORTH BUCKS BRANCH

## Minutes of Autumn Meeting held on 13th September 2014 at Newport Pagnell



### Chairman's Welcome

The acting chairman, Doug Hird, welcomed everyone present to the Meeting and extended a special welcome to Hilarie Rogers (OD Guild Master) and John White.

### Apologies for Absence

Received from: Alan, Tine, Alex and John Marchbank, James Champion (Guild Secretary), David Phillipson, Ted and Becky Fawcett, John Brookman, Lesley Belcher, Gary Reading, Brian Newman, Patricia Rosewell, Sheila Watts, Sheila Ware and Ann Birch.

### Minutes of previous Meeting

The minutes of the AGM held at Lillingstone Lovell in March 2014 were published in the May 2014 edition of In Touch and were distributed at the Meeting. All present agreed they were a true reflection of the AGM and they were accepted as a true record.

### Matters arising from previous Meeting

Nick Read advised the Meeting that an update on progress against the strategy outlined at the AGM could be found in the article written by Lesley Belcher which was published in the May 2014 edition of In Touch.

Doug Hird reiterated that the branch committee would welcome constructive and positive feedback from members on the changes being made.

### Forthcoming events:

#### September

Sat 20 16:00-17:30 Branch Practice at Olney on Simulator

#### October

Sat 4 ODG 6 Bell Competition – Old North Berks Branch. Hanslope are expected to represent North Bucks, RDL to confirm.

Sat 11 12:00-16:30 Branch Training Day – theory and practice of ringing up and down in peal, The RDLs are now actively looking for helpers to facilitate the training, don't worry if you can only spare an hour.

Sat 18 19:00-20:30 Branch Practice at Padbury

#### November

Week commencing Mon 10 Branch Quarter Peal Week – looking to encourage as many towers to take part as possible would be great if these could be accompanied by firsts e.g. first peal, first time conducting, first method

Sat 22 ODG 10 Bell Competition – Long Crendon

#### December

Sat 20 16:30-20:00 Branch Practice at Olney on Simulator & Xmas Social

### Communication

#### *Group messaging:*

Doug explained to the meeting that Gary Reading on behalf of the branch committee had been exploring suppliers who could give us richer functionality for branch notifications. Tidyclub is now being used to send group messages to tower correspondents and members, along with invites to Branch events, and members may have noticed the difference in formats. Tidyclub has additional functionality which could be used in future e.g. text messaging.

Only half of the current membership has provided email addresses to the branch. The committee is concerned that the only reactive communication some members may receive is a copy of the In Touch newsletter which is sent to each tower. Going forward members will be asked for their email address when renewing their membership each year, which the committee hope will improve the reach of this channel of communication.

#### *Website:*

Our new-look website has been launched: the new site will be used to publish events and what members need to know about what's happening in the branch; the existing site will become the archive site and will focus on providing information about the history of the branch; duplicated information will be deleted from the old site over the coming months.

### Any Other Business

Graham Bartholomew raised a question about the need to have an Autumn Meeting. The meeting debated the subject and the following points were raised:

- Meetings are when we elect new members and appoint officers – however we have approved the election of new members at branch practices.
- Meetings used to be the primary communication method, whereas we now have the website, In Touch and emails to communicate up and coming events.
- Hilarie Rogers was asked what practice other branches in the ODG follow. Hilarie advised the meeting that North Bucks was one of 3 or 4 branches out of 15 which still have a formal meeting in the Autumn; the other branches still have an event at this time of year but it is not a formal meeting. Election of new members tends to take place at the AGMs or branch practices.
- The branch committee took an action to review the purpose of the Autumn meeting and have motion ready for the AGM in 2015 if a change is proposed.

### Vote of thanks

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to all those who attended and a special thanks to Mr & Mrs Read and helpers Loretta Ramsay and Liz Wagstaff for organising the tea, Nick Read for playing the organ and Revd Michael Godfrey for conducting the service.