



In Touch

February 2015

Branch Annual General Meeting and Annual Dinner

Saturday 14th March 2015

The Branch Annual General Meeting this year has been scheduled a week later than usual in order to commemorate the life of Frederick Charles Andrews, a ringer at Clifton Reynes between 1907-09 and choir boy at Newton Blossomville. Frederick lost his life on the 14th March 1915 from the wounds sustained during the battle of Neuve Chapelle.



- 13:00 – 13:45 Ringing at St Nicholas (3 bells), Newton Blossomville, MK43 8AL
- 14:00 – 15:00 Ringing at St Mary the Virgin (6 bells), Clifton Reynes, MK46 5DT
- 15:00 – 15:30 Service of thanksgiving and remembrance at Clifton Reynes
- 15:30 – 16:00 Light refreshments (drinks and biscuits) at Clifton Reynes
- 16:00 – 18:00 FREE TIME
- 18:00 – 18:15 Drinks at the Two Brewers, Olney, MK46 4BB
- 18:15 – 19:30 Annual General Meeting upstairs at the Two Brewers, Olney
- 19:30 – 22:00 Annual Dinner upstairs at the Two Brewers, Olney

Parking at both Churches is at the roadside. Names and choices of meal (see menu on branch website) for the Annual Dinner to Linda Maycroft lmaycroft@googlemail.com or 01908 609014 by Friday 6th March please.

Forthcoming Events.....

Date and Time	Event	Location
Sat 21st Feb - 4.00 to 5.30pm	Branch Practice	Milton Keynes Village
Friday 6th Mar - 7.40 to 9.00pm	Bob doubles, plain hunt and call changes practice	Great Horwood
Sat 14th Mar - 1.00 to 10.00pm	Branch AGM, WW1 Commemoration & Annual Dinner	Newton Blossomville, Clifton Reynes & Olney (see above and page 5.)
Fri 10 th Apr - 7.40 to 9.00pm	Bob doubles, plain hunt and call changes practice	Weston Underwood
Sat 11 th Apr - 9.30am to 6.30pm	Hanslope Tower Open Day	(See page 7.)
Sat 18 th Apr - 4.00 to 5.30pm	Branch Practice	Chicheley
Fri 1 st May - 7.40 to 9.00pm	Bob doubles, plain hunt and call changes practice	Bradwell (tbc)
Sat 16 th May - 4.00 to 5.30pm	Branch Practice	Buckingham
Fri 5 th June - 7.40 to 9.00pm	Bob doubles, plain hunt and call changes practice	Wavendon
Sat 20 th June	Branch Striking Competition & Summer Social	Whaddon
Sat 18 th July	Inter-branch Joint Practice, Picnic & Striking Competition	Downs Barn (tbc)
Sat 15 th Aug	Branch Outing	London
Sat 26 th Sept	Branch Half Yearly Meeting	Bradwell
Sat 17 th Oct	Branch Training Course	Various
Sat 7 th Nov	Branch Quarter Peal Week begins	Various
Sat 19 th Dec	Branch Practice & Christmas Social	(to be advised)

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Who's Who 2014—2015

Chairman	Brian Newman	Great Linford	chairman@northbucksbranch.org.uk
RDL Buckingham	Lesley Belcher	Hanslope	rdlbh@northbucksbranch.org.uk
RDL Milton Keynes	Graham Bartholomew	Loughton	rdlmk@northbucksbranch.org.uk
RDL Newport Pagnell & Archivist	Doug Hird	Newport Pagnell	rdlnp@northbucksbranch.org.uk archivist@northbucksbranch.org.uk
Secretary	Gary Reading	Loughton	secretary@northbucksbranch.org.uk
Minute Secretary	Patricia Rosewell	Wavendon	minutesecretary@northbucksbranch.org.uk
Treasurer	Sheila Watts	Emberton	treasurer@northbucksbranch.org.uk
Guild Reps	Linda Maycroft	Shenley	guildrep1@northbucksbranch.org.uk
	Ann Birch	Shenley	guildrep2@northbucksbranch.org.uk
	Vacant		
In Touch Editor	Nick Read	Newport Pagnell	newslettereditor@northbucksbranch.org.uk
Branch Websites	www.northbucksbranch.org.uk <i>or</i> www.northbucks.org.uk (archive)		Guild Website www.odg.org.uk

Training

Forthcoming training events offered by the Guild:-

MICHAELMAS TRAINING DAY 26TH SEPTEMBER 2015

The aim of the day is to provide the opportunity for students to learn more advanced methods than those offered on the Radley and Steeple Aston one-day courses

STEEPLE ASTON COURSE 24TH OCTOBER 2015

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

10-BELL TRAINING DAY 5TH DECEMBER 2015

The ten bell training day is for Guild members who would like to develop their ten bell ringing skills.

Further details on the above courses will be published on the Branch website when they become available:-

<http://www.northbucksbranch.org.uk/bell-ringing/training-courses/>

Bits and Bobs

e-Group changes

Now our new tidyclub e-group is set up and established, there is no need to retain the old Yahoo group. The Yahoo group served us well but doesn't have the valuable functionality we now find we need. We are keen that no one is left out so, if you haven't yet received any communication from the new group, let one of the officers know and we will make sure you are included.

Doug Hird

Chairman's Tankard Competition

The Chairman's Tankard has been re-discovered. This was donated to the branch in the 1980's by Sheila Watts and David Phillipson as a trophy for a learners' striking competition. Having found it, we have been considering what to do with it and have decided to keep to its original aims.



So, at the next branch striking competition, there will be an extra competition for learner bands, one from each deanery. The qualification condition is that five band members have not rung in a quarter peal. The sixth will be the Deanery RDL, whose fault it will be if it all goes wrong. The RDLs will need to drum up some interest though as the success of last year's quarter peal week has reduced our numbers a bit.

Doug Hird

Deadline for next edition . . .

The deadline for contributions for the next edition of *In Touch* is **Tuesday 5th May 2015**.

Contributions to intoucheditor@northbucks.org.uk please.

Nick Read

Branch News

Branch Meeting Round-Up

The New Year started with a very well attended practice at Woughton where we competed very successfully with a musical practice that was being held in the body of the church. Ringing ranged from Grandsire Doubles to Wells Surprise Minor with quite a few ringers being able to practice the methods that are currently testing their old grey cells. Thanks to the Woughton ringers for coming along to support the practice and directing us to the pub across the road for after-ringing refreshments. It was nice to meet them again and hopefully they enjoyed hosting the branch at their home tower. February will see us visiting Milton Keynes Village.

We are currently looking afresh at 10-bell ringing in the branch which is proving to be a bit of a minority sport. The quarterly practices at Olney have not been well attended and we have rarely been able to ring on the 10 bells, so we have decided make better use of these practice slots by visiting other towers within the branch. We are currently liaising with other branches to see if there is an appetite to run joint 10-bell practices and/or ring 10-bell quarter peals.

A listing of all the branch events to be held in 2015 will be distributed to the towers after the AGM so that all the information (such as officer details) remains relevant for the full year. A complete listing of all branch events to be held during 2015 can be found on the calendar page of the branch website.

The NBB Eight Bell Band

For the band, last year culminated in the quarter peal week in which a number of band members scored some notable firsts.

The January practice was hosted by Wicken. We welcomed three new ringers to the band and hopefully we'll be seeing all of them again! Our experienced 8-bell ringers had to work hard helping all the learners; however we were able to ring Grandsire, Stedman and Surprise Major – our repertoire now includes Cambridge, Yorkshire and Superlative. We have come a long way since last Summer's Cambridge Surprise Major practice at Newport Pagnell. This year I am going to organise more quarter peals for people to consolidate their 8-bell ringing and some more advanced stuff for the helpers to say thank you. So far we have scored a QP of Yorkshire Surprise Major and have a further QP set up for February. One a month is the limit of my organisational time at the moment, but if anyone is able to lend a hand, then maybe we could do more.

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 Practice & Christmas Social

A very successful and most enjoyable Branch Practice and Christmas Social was held at Olney Saturday 20th December 2014. The afternoon started with the Branch Practice on Olney's magnificent 10 bells. Following the ringing a service was held in church conducted by the Rector of Olney Rev. Clare Wood during which seasonal carols were sung. After the service all proceeded to the newly refurbished Church Hall in Olney where Liz Sheaf and her helpers had set out a warm and welcoming hall.



Mulled wine was available on arrival and the assembled ringers and families etc. sat down to a fish & chip supper. This was followed by mince pies, coffee, tea etc. All then took part in a challenging quiz under the able control of Roger Gay the quiz master.



Sheila Blenkhorn & Liz Sheaf promoting fund raising for Hanslope's Bell Fund

Our grateful thanks to Olney for hosting the event and especially to Liz Sheaf and her team for all their hard work.

Branch News contd.



From Towers to Trenches, we remember them.....

In the last edition of In Touch we remembered **Frederick Charles Andrews** who died 14th March 1915.

In this issue we remember a further three North Bucks Ringers who made the ultimate sacrifice during the Spring of 1915.

Chicheley - Arthur William Wright "Chicheley's first volunteer"

One of the 54,896 names impregnated into the stone panels of the Menin Gate Memorial belongs to a young bell ringer. Arthur William Wright, second child of Leonard and Emma Wright, was baptised 23rd August 1891 at Chicheley, where he was later to ring.

The census records for 1891 were taken on the 5th April at which time Emma would have been carrying Arthur. The Wright family were living at 4 Bedlam Lane with eldest daughter 1 year old Agnes. Leonard's employment status was typically recorded as an agricultural labourer.

By 1901 a further 5 children had been born and all 6 were living at home which was now 1 Bedlam Lane and Leonard's occupation was recorded as "Horse Keeper on farm".

Arthur joined the band at Chicheley and became a capable ringer. Our records suggest that he rang in a quarter peal there, on the treble to Grandsire Doubles on June 15th 1910.



*Parents of Arthur W Wright Leonard & Emma
(Picture courtesy of Sue Brownie)*

In 1911 the Wright family were still residing in Bedlam Lane, Chicheley, father Leonard was a horse keeper on a farm whilst 19 year old Arthur was employed as a labourer in the Iron foundry in the railway coaches business.

Arthur was Chicheley's first volunteer, he became a private in the East Surrey Regiment (service number 7309) and in 1915 aged just 23 found himself in the Ypres Salient where unfortunately he was killed in action on the 28th April 1915. It is likely that he died in the Second Battle of Ypres, (first use of Chlorine gas by the Germans). Arthur's body has never been found and his name will therefore remain on the Menin Gate until such time it is discovered and finally laid to rest.

Maids Moreton - Fred Rainbow "Rang his first peal at Padbury on the Tenor"

Alexander the Great founded the port of Alexandria around a small ancient Egyptian town in 331BC. As a coastal port its importance and wealth grew as the trade in goods including Egyptian cotton increased. The strategic importance of Alexandria was just as significant in the Great War as it was all those centuries ago. Used as a staging post for the Gallipoli campaign and as a base for a fully equipped military hospital, it is not surprising that the city now holds two War Memorial Cemeteries.

The Alexandria (Chatby) Military and War Memorial Cemetery (originally a garrison cemetery) now holds 2,259 First World War burials. Among these burials is the grave of Fred Rainbow, a young Butcher from Maids Moreton.



Fred Rainbow

Fred was born in Maids Moreton in 1886 and was the 4th child of William and Mary Rainbow. William was an agricultural labourer in 1881 and by 1891 was an engine driver; the engine was a threshing machine. In 1891 the family were living in Wellmoor, Maids Moreton.

By 1901 William had diversified his business by adding the role of publican to his existing threshing business and the family were residing in the Wheat Sheaf Inn on Main Street. Fred and his older brother William had become Journeyman Butchers. (A journeyman is an individual who has completed an apprenticeship and is fully educated in a trade.)

In 1911 Fred was the eldest child still living at home and was a self-employed Butcher his father was noted as a General labourer and the families address given was just "Maids Moreton", possibly suggesting a new publican at the Wheat Sheaf.

Branch News contd.

From Towers to Trenches, we remember them..... (contd.)

It is known that Fred rang a peal at St Edmunds during his career as a ringer and a picture taken of him in uniform still hangs in the ringing chamber. Fred rang his first peal on the tenor at Padbury which was the first peal on the bells there in 1911. The ODG Annual report shows that a P Rainbow rang a peal on the 20th April 1914, we believe this was a typo and should have been registered against Fred as we can't find a record of a P Rainbow in the 1911 census.

Fred joined the army as a Shoeing Smith in the Royal Buckingham Hussars, little is known about his time in army but he was awarded the British War Medal and Victory Medal and his medal card gives his rank as Staff Sergeant and records that he "died" 4th May 1915.

His younger brother Arthur James Rainbow also served in the war and was killed in action on the 24th August 1916 in the Battle of the Somme.

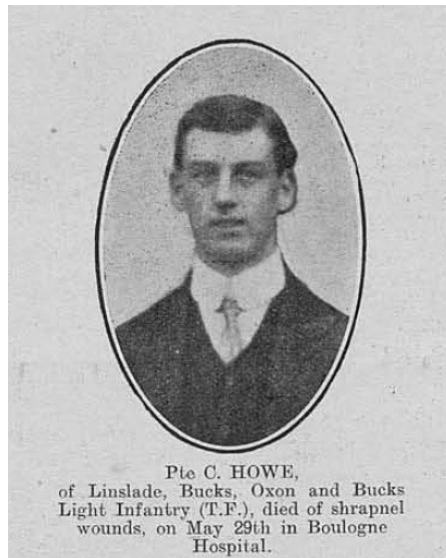
Linslade - Charles Arthur Howe – *"He's reached the ransomed joyful band whose home is in the better land"*

Following a boundary change during the 1970's, Linslade moved into the Central Bucks Branch. Prior to this Linslade was part of the North Bucks Branch so it is fitting that we remember the life of Charles Howe who was a guild member from 1913-1915.

An extract of the Ringing World on the 11th June 1915 says it all *"Another ringer who has given his life for his country is C. Howe, of Linslade, Bucks, a member of the North Bucks branch of the Oxford Guild. His parents received an intimation from Boulogne Hospital stating that he had been admitted there, having been shot through the eye on May 22nd. Later they received a telegram that he had passed away on May 29th, without having regained consciousness. On Tuesday evening, June 1st, the St. Barnabas ringers, with the help of Messrs. W. Seabrook, F. Dedman and W. Jeffs, rang the bells of Linslade Parish Church, half-muffled, when 336 and 210 Grandsire Triples among other touches, were brought round.*

The deceased commenced ringing in 1910 at a time when the St. Barnabas' band was very short-handed through several of the older members leaving the parish on account of

slackness of work in the neighbourhood. He made good progress, and was soon able to ring the treble in Grandsire Doubles, while, as the band improved, he made a good ringer in the method on eight bells. At The outbreak of war he got permission to enlist in the Bucks Territorials, being at the time engaged on the L. and N. W. Railway as a telephone operator and train booker at the Leighton Buzzard Station. Of a quiet and unassuming disposition, he was ever ready to help in any church work."



Pte C Howe - Taken from the Ringing World 18th June 1915

The 12 February 1915 edition of The Ringing World advises that there were three ringers from St Barnabus serving in the forces "From St. Barnabas, Linslade, Bucks, the following are serving with the Bucks Territorials:- J. Child, now at Chelmsford.W. Bacchuss, now at Northampton. C. Howe, now at Northampton."

On the 30th March 1915 the Bucks Territorials were mobilised for war and landed at Boulogne. Two short months later Charles lost his life and was buried in the Boulogne Eastern Cemetery, plot VIII. A. 54. His father paid for the words

"He's reached the ransomed joyful band whose home is in the better land" to be added to his headstone.

Linda Maycroft & Doug Hird

North Bucks Branch Annual Dinner

14th March 2015

Two Brewers, 34 High Street, Olney
7.30pm following the AGM

In memory of Frederick Charles Andrews, a Clifton Reynes ringer who died 14th March 1915 whilst on active service in the First World War. A dinner menu can be found on the branch website or be obtained from your tower captain.

RSVP: lmaycroft@googlemail.com with meal choice by 6th March 2015

Tower News

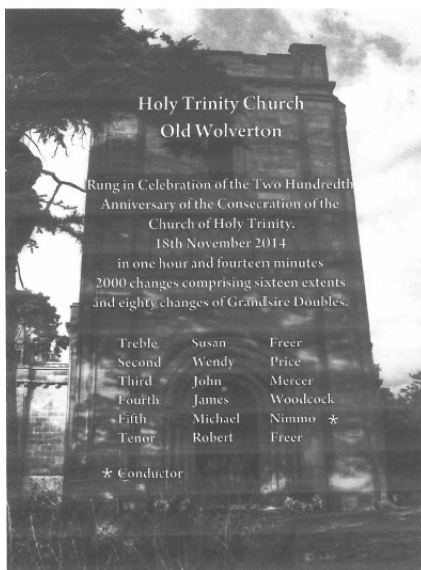
Tower News – Holy Trinity Old Wolverton

2014 was bicentenary year for Holy Trinity Old Wolverton making 200 years since its rebuilding was finished in 1814. The rebuilding began in 1809 with the demolition of the old dilapidated medieval church, with the important exception of its central tower – yes – central tower built over a crossing with North and South transepts either side or dating from the 14th century. It is built of Northamptonshire limestone now only visible inside.

The rebuilding of the church was undertaken by the Radcliffe Trust, then lord of the manor, patron of the living principal landowner. The architect for the new church was Henry Hakewill architect also for Rugby school. The trustees chose to rebuild the church in the Norman or Romanesque style. It is the first complete church in the revived Norman style in Great Britain.

The old central tower was cased in new Warwickshire sandstone to match the facing stonework of the rest of the church. It became the entrance of the new church on the east with the tower. The stone spiral staircase is the south west angle looking up to the ringing chamber the bells and the tower roof is still the medieval style. The blocked arches which can be seen behind screens, in the kitchen and lead into the transept on the other side facing the toilet! The new church was finished by Christmas 1814.

The old church had four bells. The present ring of six was cast by the noted bell founder Bryant of Hertford and dated 1820 and have only been chip tuned and are still in this original state.



The band rang 16 extents plus 80 of Grandsire Doubles to give 2,000 changes on the 18th November 2014 to celebrate the event with part of our Sunday band, 1) Susan Freer, 2) Wendy Price, 3) John Mercer, 4) James Woodcock, 5) Michael Nimmo (c), 6) Robert Freer.

*John Brush
Church Historian*

Loughton & Shenley Christmas Social

On Monday 12 December instead of the usual practice night the Loughton and Shenley ringers, after a brief ring on the church bells, enjoyed a fish and chip supper. An entertaining ring on handbells was followed by the joys of unwrapping a Snatch Secret Santa.



We always invite our retired ringers to our social events, and the photo here shows Bob Winstanley in the bottom left of the picture. As you may already know, Bob passed away in January and this was the last bellringing event that Bob attended. He will be sadly missed by all those who knew him.

Hilary Reading

Hanslope Tower

The Hanslope Tower Christmas Dinner was held in early December at the Black Horse in Great Linford and nearly all of our ringers and their partners were able to attend. We had an excellent meal, although the service was rather slow, but that merely gave us all more time to drink and chat - rather noisily at times I seem to remember! The general consensus was that a great time had been had by all and that perhaps we shouldn't wait until next Christmas before we all had another night out together.

Xmas Draw in Aid of the Hanslope Bell Restoration Project

Thank you to everyone who bought tickets for our Xmas Draw. We did two draw boards over the course of the festive season and we raised a total of £208.00

The results were as follows:

First Draw	Bottle of Whisky	Jennifer Wright [Hartwell]
	Bottle of Baileys	Zoe Baines [Wolverton]
Second Draw	Bottle of Whisky	Polly & Charlie Marchbank
	Bottle of Baileys	Jeannie Choy [Stantonbury]



Polly & Charlie collecting their prize

Tower News contd.

Hanslope Tower contd.

We also had a stall at the Hanslope Xmas Lights Street Fayre to sell tickets for our Xmas Draw and whilst we were there Roy was interviewed about the Bell Restoration Project for the local radio station MKFM, with Dorrie Mutch 'chiming' in as well.



Our next fund raising event will be a Tower Open Day on **Saturday 11 April**.

Provisional List of Towers [#] To be confirmed

9.30 am	Stoke Goldington [#]
10.00 am	Tyringham
10.30 am	Emberton
11.00 am	Sherrington [#]
11.30 am	North Crawley
12.00 noon	Newport Pagnell
12.30 pm	Milton Keynes Village
1.30 pm	Woughton on the Green
2.00 pm	Wavendon [#]
2.30 pm	Great Brickhill
3.00 pm	Shenley [#]
3.30 pm	Loughton
4.00 pm	Calverton
4.30 pm	Passenham
5.00 pm	Old Wolverton
5.30 pm	Hanslope

All towers will be open for one hour

Cost: Day Tickets £10.00 or £1.00 per tower

Refreshments will also be available at some towers. Full details will be published later in the Ringing World magazine and website. Details will also be posted on the North Bucks website.

We hope you will come and support us on the Open Day. Please can you also circulate the date and details of this event to anyone you know who might be interested in attending, especially to your ringing friends in other branches.

Hanslope Tower contd.

Finally, we have just heard that one of our ringers, Helen Dear, will be leaving us later next month to live on the Isle of Wight. Helen and her husband, Steve, were both born and bred on the island and they had always planned to return there in later life. Helen has been learning to ring at Hanslope for about five years now and she is a very lively and pro-active member of our tower; we shall miss her. She plans to carry on with her ringing when she is back on the island, and has recently been told that they are asking for people to learn to ring in the village where they will be living, so she will be a welcome asset to the local band. Goodbye and good luck to you.

Overheard in Hanslope Tower one Sunday morning as one of our ringers climbed onto the tenor box.....

"I reckon this is the tallest box in the North Bucks Branch"

Unless, of course, you know different...!
[PS it's 16"/40cm high]

Sheila Blenkhorn

Stoke Goldington

Meet our latest addition to Stoke Goldington ringing chamber. It's a Rope Warmer, which makes a big difference to our rope ends when temperatures are fluctuating. It has a light bulb at the base, but even without being turned on it has made a huge difference to the ropes.



We are very grateful to Dave Sharpe, Jackie's husband, for making it and we hear the queue in his 'order book' is growing.....

St.Mary's, Whaddon

Tower Captain Derek White and the ringers of St . Mary's Whaddon are delighted that our Church has been selected to host this years Summer Social & Striking Contest (on Sat 20th June - Ed). We look forward to welcoming as many ringers as can make this event.

Phillip Starr

General News



**Ringing
for
England**

**St. George's Day
April 23rd 2015 - 6pm**

A letter from the Ringing for England Campaign

Dear Secretaries,

The St. George's Day ring for 2014 was terrific and again the campaign was mentioned with great enthusiasm on most of the BBC Regional Radio breakfast shows and local newspapers and radio stations. It even got mentioned in The Times and all thanks to your wonderful and continuing support for which I am most grateful.

The feedback from all the media contacts was very positive with requests to keep them informed for next year. With social media added to the campaign there is no doubt it is reaching a wider audience and all with happy results. There is also the fact that more ringers, guilds and associations are connected via these sites and this in turn helps to spread the word. In all honesty I have received only a handful of complaints, all mild, since the campaign started and these were brought about through misunderstandings which, once explained, brought them on side.



With Christmas soon to be upon us and with most of your towers gathering together for the festival ringing I hope you will encourage as many towers as possible to participate. It would be of enormous help if they could confirm that they will be able to take part in 2015 and to let me know. The campaign is now on facebook and twitter which can be accessed via the web site and it would be hugely helpful and fun to receive messages, comments, and 'likes' and so help the campaign evolve with a powerful input from your ringers.

Next year will be the campaign's 5th year – a huge achievement. There is no doubt there is a growing awareness of your hard work which is received with delight by everyone.

May I wish you all a Most Happy Christmas and I look forward to hearing from you regarding next year.

Libby Alexander
Ringing for England Campaign - April 23rd 2015
www.ringingforengland.co.uk
Telephone: 07799 23 04 23

Winston Churchill remembered

A peal was rung at Bladon on 31st January 2015 to mark the 50th anniversary of the peal rung immediately following the interment of Sir Winston Churchill. This peal was rung by officers holding positions corresponding, as closely as possible, with those who took part in the 1965 peal, namely: Master, Deputy Master, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer of the Guild with the Ringing Master and Secretary of the Witney and Woodstock Branch.

Oxford Diocesan Guild

Bladon, Oxfordshire
St Martin

Saturday, 31 January 2015 in 2h40 (6-1-18)

5040 Minor (3 Methods)

2160 changes of Cambridge Surprise and 1440 each of Plain Bob and St Clement's

- 1 Michael Probert
- 2 Alan J Marchbank
- 3 Anthony Williamson
- 4 James M Champion
- 5 Jonathan D Chamberlain
- 6 Stuart F Gibson (C)

1, 3: First Peal of Minor



Photo of the family plot and Churchill's grave, located to the north of the tower at St Martin, Bladon, Oxon.



The OGD peal board recording the peal rung by Guild officers immediately after his interment.

Anyone considering visiting, there is a super exhibition of Churchillian stuff at the back of church. With who we were ringing for, and the band who had rung in 1965 watching over us, I had a feeling of walking in the steps of gods! It was a "must get" peal. The peal took over 14 months to arrange and agree with the Church and the Family. David Floyd who had rung in 1965 made all the arrangements and was present throughout the peal, but did not ring.

Alan Marchbank

General News contd.

MESSAGE FROM THE GUILD MASTER

Young Ringers' Award 2015/2016

I am pleased to draw your attention to the Young Ringers' Award Scheme, which is again being run by the Guild's Education Sub-committee. A poster and Registration Form will be coming your way.

A description of what is involved along with other useful information can be found on the Guild website <http://odg.org.uk/education/YRA/>. The suggested framework provides stimulating and worthwhile activities throughout the year, for ringers with a spread of ages and abilities.

Those who wish to participate should complete the Registration Form, also on the website, get it signed by a parent or guardian, and return it to the Secretary of the Education Sub-committee by 31st March 2015. Previous participants can join again this year.

Can Branch Secretaries please forward this to Tower Captains; and can you all encourage members of the Guild aged under 18 on 1st April 2015 to consider taking part.

Can you help.....

..... The Guild's Public Relations Officer, Verna Wass, is hoping to set up a network of contacts, minimum of one in each branch, who can pass stories on to her. To date very few branches have been in touch – her email address is pro@odg.org.uk. Please identify someone from your branch who would be willing to do this – possibly a newsletter editor?

.....and we are looking for somebody to prepare an annual Quarter Peal analysis for the Guild, using details from the Ringing World. If you want to know more please contact James Champion secretary@odg.org.uk and he can put you in touch with the person who has been doing it so far.

And finally

Look out for details of the Guild AGM which this year is being held at Cowley on Saturday 16th May. We are planning displays on what the Guild can offer to its members..... put the date in your diary now, so you don't miss this opportunity to meet ringers from around the Guild.

With best wishes,

Hilarie

Wireless wonder launched

Belfree started life at the ART Conference and when I attended an ITTS Module 2 Day Course. These both set me thinking... I was interested in putting a simulator into our tower particularly to teach bell handling to learners. BUT having seen the "rats nest" of wiring in the towers we visited and coming from an IT and electronics background I thought there MUST be a better way.

I spoke to the Leicester Guild Ringing Master and learned about all the downsides of IR switches etc and initially decided it wasn't worth going down the wired physical switch type route, however I got my thoughts together and spoke to two friends of mine - one a computing and electronics guru and the other a drum maker, engineer and electronics guru too. We got our heads together and started to see what we could come up with. We agreed there must be a better way! After several approaches (all of which worked but we thought we could improve on!) we have arrived in the last 2 months with what is our pre-production prototype which we demonstrated at the Ringing Roadshow with help and support of the Leicester Guild Education Committee.

The principal is that we have a wireless (radio) link between the sensors mounted with a quick release clip on the bell wheels and a "dongle" receiver (about the size of a USB Memory stick) which plugs into the USB port of a PC running Abel or Belltower. Thus no cabling or electronics expertise required just a few option settings in the software, as near to "plug and play" as possible!

This means that Belfree is for the technophobes and is portable! You can take the one or multi-bell set up to other tower(s) simply using the wheel mounts into which the sensors clip. Ideal for teaching learners on one or two tied / silenced bells or for full ringing practices without disturbing the neighbours.

We are just finalising the design and chip set and hope to be in production in early 2015. The Belfree WRS sensor detects the rotation and position of the bell wheel to indicate a strike. It is also capable of sounding the bell such that ringing up and down can also be practised using them. We are planning to have an open day at St Margaret's, Leicester, to show the sensors working in this large architecturally challenging tower – details will be in ART WORKS.

Belfree consists of at least one bell mounted wireless sensor communicating with a USB dongle which interfaces with both Abel and Belltower which must be purchased separately.

Our plans are to produce 3 products:

- **Belfree WRS** - standard sensor(s) and dongle using Abel or Belltower. As many or few bells as you like. A single bell sensor, mount, charger and dongle will cost £170. More sensors and foot controls pedals at £85 each.
- **Belfree "in a box"** - transportable one sensor one dongle for teaching basic handling skills on different bells and towers. It contains a small computer that reproduces bell strikes so a laptop or other PC is not needed. Cost TBC.
- **Belfree Pro** - the sensors can do so much more than a simple switch so we plan to develop a specialised version which can sense vibration, angles of rotation, speed of rotation, temperature, etc.. This will be useful for assessing frame movements and the source of mechanical issues in towers.

The sensor batteries need to be kept charged, but, as you have to go up to the bells to fit and remove the muffles / turn the tyres and as the sensor are quick release from the housing mounted on the wheel, charging should not be a major problem and sensors will run for more than 10 hours on a full charge.

We are also exploring a variety of charging methods like motion or light. We are talking to the simulator software developers as we can transmit battery status and other information to them for displaying on the simulator PC. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or to register your interest.

By Tony Croft
www.belfree.co.uk

Peals & Quarters

Correction:- In the November 2014 edition of In Touch a quarter peal was published as being rung at Old Wolverton, Bucks on Tuesday, 11 November 2014. This was incorrect the tower was in fact St James, Great Horwood.

Wavendon, Milton Keynes, Bucks
Saturday, 15 November 2014 in 43 mins (8cwt)

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.

Oxford Diocesan Guild
Olney, Bucks

SS Peter and Paul
Sunday, 7 December 2014 in 3h 15mins (24-0-10)

5040 Lincolnshire Surprise Royal

Composed by Frank E Darby

- 1 Alan J Marchbank
- 2 Paul M Mason
- 3 Lesley J Belcher
- 4 Ruth Stokes
- 5 B Douglas Hird
- 6 Simon L Edwards
- 7 Peter J Blight
- 8 Richard A Horne
- 9 Christopher C Stokes
- 10 Stephen H Stanford (C)

Rung during the 'Dickens of a Christmas' celebrations in the town.

600th tower pealed – 2.

Wicken, Northamptonshire

St. John the Evangelist
Friday, 2 January 2015 in 48 mins (15cwt)

1344 Yorkshire Surprise Major

- 1 Ann Fletcher
- 2 Ruth Stokes
- 3 Claire Reading
- 4 Lesley Belcher
- 5 Andrew Spencer
- 6 Nick Gray
- 7 Tony Gray
- 8 Christopher C Stokes (C)

First of Yorkshire - 3.

Stoke Goldington, Bucks

St. Peter
Friday, 16 January 2015 (13-1-22)

1260 Plain Bob Minor

- 1 Roy Keeves
- 2 Alan Cozens
- 3 Ian Thompson
- 4 Charles Knight
- 5 Phil Haslam
- 6 Tony Gray (C)

Rung to celebrate the lives of Owen and Winifred Warren.

Weston Underwood, Bucks

St. Laurence
Friday, 16 January 2015 in 43 mins (9-3-1)

1260 Grandsire Doubles

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

Rung to celebrate the life of Owen Warren of Stoke Goldington. Rung with 96 calls, one for each year of Owen's life.

Loughton, Bucks

All Saints
Thursday, 22 January 2015 in 48 mins (11-0-8)

1260 Plain Bob Minor

- 1 Linda K Maycroft
- 2 Anne F M McIntyre
- 3 Ann E Birch
- 4 Terence G Page
- 5 Graham J Bartholomew
- 6 Alan J Marchbank (C)



To celebrate the 85th Birthday today of Derek Stainsby, tower captain at Loughton. With good wishes for a speedy recovery to Gary Reading who would like to be associated with this Quarter. 1st in Minor - 1.

Peals & Quarters contd.

Shenley, Milton Keynes, Bucks

St. Mary

Sunday, 28 January 2015 (17-1-11)

1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor

- 1 Graham Bartholomew
- 2 Anne McIntyre
- 3 Ann Birch
- 4 Terry Page
- 5 Ted Fawcett
- 6 Alan J Marchbank (C)

Celebrating the life of Bob Winstanley.
100th quarter peal – 5.

Peterborough Diocesan Guild

Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire

SS Mary and Giles, Stony Stratford

Saturday, 31 January 2015 in 2h 54 (12-1-16)

5088 Double Dublin Surprise Major

Composed by Arthur Knights

- 1 Raymond A Vickers
- 2 Julie A Haseldine
- 3 Ruth Stokes
- 4 Murray A Coleman
- 5 Andrew Haseldine
- 6 Simon L Edwards
- 7 Richard A Horne
- 8 Christopher C Stokes (C)

Emberton, Bucks

All Saints

Friday, 13 February 2015 (9-0-18)

1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor

- 1 John Randall
- 2 Nick Gray
- 3 Phil Haslam
- 4 Roy Keeves
- 5 Ian Thompson
- 6 Tony Gray (C)



Rung after the memorial service in thanksgiving for the life of Edward Ellis. A good friend to the bell ringers, and a loved and respected member of the community.

First treble bob – 1.

Obituaries

It with sadness we report the recent loss of three ringers who had been members of the branch:-

LOU MOODIE 1915-2015

Lou will be remembered by ringers as a regular member of the Newport congregation and by some of us as a teacher at



Newport's Infant School, now Cedars. As a teacher, she was memorable in treating her pupils as real people. She treated us with respect but expected us to behave as adults. A few years after retiring, Lou learned to ring at Newport. She was a branch member between 1976 and 1985 and was eventually able to hunt the treble with reasonable reliability. She would occasionally join us whenever we went out to ring at other towers, especially in the Newport area.

Her ability to write out documents with extreme neatness found a job in writing out the peal and quarter peal records at Newport. She also applied the same neatness to marriage registers and on occasions, when wedding parties spent an age signing their names, we would joke that Lou was reverting to her old job and teaching them all to write.

After persevering with ringing for some time Lou eventually had to give it up. She retained a strong interest however, and would frequently ask how the band was progressing or watch our progress from the body of the church.

Lou died on Monday 5th January in Newport. She asked to be buried in Newton Longville, close to her family.

Doug Hird

OWEN WARREN 1918 - 2014

Owen was a North Buckinghamshire ringer for most of his life, having learned to ring at Stoke Goldington in the mid 1930s. He was taught by Ernie Shouler, and rang at Stoke for the next eighty years. In the early days Owen recalled ringing at many towers in the area, anywhere that was within cycling distance.



He would also recount that things were very different in the 1930s and 40s. If you missed your sally or committed some other ringing misdemeanour, that was it, you didn't get asked to ring again!

Arthur Armstrong was Tower Captain at Stoke when Owen succeeded him some forty years ago, and for many years he ran a successful Friday evening practice, alternating with Olney. Grandsire was a favourite....

The annual Stoke Goldington ringers' outing was apparently legendary, with competition for spare seats on the coach! There are forty six recorded Branch Quarter Peals that

Obituaries contd

OWEN WARREN 1918 - 2014 cont

include Owen, mostly rung in his home tower, but sometimes venturing over the parish borders to Tyringham, Weston Underwood, Hanslope, Olney and Emberton. He only rang one peal, 5040 Plain Bob Minor in 1963 at Stoke, which was for the Patronal Festival and the first on the bells since being augmented to six in 1952.

In 1941 at Gayhurst Church Owen married another Stoke ringer, Winifred Croot. Although she gave up ringing later, the Croot family featured strongly in the Stoke ringing records for many years. Sadly Winifred died just nineteen days after Owen.

Owen was elected a member of the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers in 1935 at the Branch AGM at Newport Pagnell. He was made an Honorary Member of the Guild in March 1991 at another AGM, and then the Guild Master, Jon Chamberlain, attended a Branch practice at Stoke in July 2005 to recognise Owen's 70 years of Guild Membership.



Model making was another of Owen's keen interests. He worked at Vauxhall in Luton and was involved in making models of the cars that were being developed prior to production. He used this skill to make models connected with ringing. There are many of his rope spiders in towers in the area, bell table lamps, model bells, and a scale model of Stoke Goldington bells before augmentation.



Latterly, Owen was unable to ring but he always maintained a lively interest in ringing matters, most recently following the progress of the new band of ringers at Stoke Goldington. Quarter Peals in celebration of Owen's life were rung by his ringing friends at his home towers of Stoke Goldington and Weston Underwood on the day after the funeral. Plain Bob Minor at Stoke, and Grandsire at Weston Underwood, which had 96 calls, one for each year of his life. Winifred and Owen's funeral was well attended by members of the North Bucks Branch and the Guild Banner was on display in the Chapel.

We remember Owen with both affection and gratitude.

BOB WINSTANLEY

Bob was born in the Wirral, and learned to ring whilst at University in Oxford around 1956. After graduation, he found work with Lever Bros. in Port Sunlight, and returned to the Wirral, where he was a member of the band at Eastham until 1968, apart from a spell working for Boots in Nottingham between 1961 and 1964.

In 1968, he took up a new job with Boots, and settled in Melbourne, Derbyshire, where he was instrumental in forming a new local band. As well as teaching new ringers at Melbourne – Ian Roulstone was a notable pupil – Bob rang a lot of quarters with the locals there, and also regularly rang Thursday evening peals with Gordon Halls.

In 1982, a new job with EDS took him to Milton Keynes, where he joined the Loughton and Shenley ringers. Following his retirement, he rang quarters frequently with the Chiltern mid-week group.

He rang 131 peals in all, mostly during his time at Melbourne, but including one for the Whiting Society in 2000. Bob was an active member of the Whiting Society for over thirty years.

It is a shame that his final years were blighted by Parkinson's, which caused him to give up skiing and painting, as well as ringing.

Bob was a quiet, unassuming man: a true gentleman and a model of courtesy who never shouted or made a fuss, but was always a competent ringer and teacher.

Bob was for many years a member of the Chiltern Mid-week Group, and on 11 February quarters were rung by the group to remember both him and Stella Shell.

Langleybury, Herts 11 February 1296 Cambridge S Minor: Mary Rixon 1, Colin Walter 2, Richard Hunt 3, Ian Sawford 4, Tony Ruberry 5, Chris Hoare (c) 6

Kings Langley, Herts 11 February 1280 Yorkshire S Major: David Burbidge 1, Deirdre Watson 2, Howard Collings 3, Deborah Crawley 4, Kath Baldwin 5, Stephen Wooler 6, Brian Watson 7, Penny Watson (c) 8

Apsley End, Herts 11 February 1296 Cambridge S Minor: Tony Ruberry 1, Howard Collings 2, Deirdre Watson 3, Colin Walter 4, Stephen Wooler 5, Brian Watson (c) 6

Hemel Hempstead, Herts 11 February 1280 Lincolnshire S Major: Ian Sawford 1, Mary Rixon 2, Deborah Crawley 3, Roger Baldwin (c) 4, Richard Hunt 5, Penny Watson 6, David Burbidge 7, Chris Hoare 8

James Ingham, David Cornwall and Barry Cowper would like to be associated with these quarters.

Branch Accounts ££

Please see below copies of the Branch accounts which will be presented to the AGM on Saturday 14th March 2015

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS - NORTH BUCKS BRANCH INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT - GENERAL FUND 2014

INCOME		£	£	EXPENDITURE		£	£
January	Balance brought forward:						
	Building Society Account	1,331.11					
	Cash in hand	32.35					
			1,363.47				
June	Building Society interest	1.76					
September	Building Society interest	0.65					
			2.42				
	2014 Guild Subscriptions 201 senior x £8.00	1,608.00		January	Renewal of Big Ring Pull website 2014		5.99
	2014 Guild Subscriptions 26 junior x £6.00	156.00					
			1,764.00		2014 Guild Subscriptions 227 x £5.00		1,135.00
				Feb/May/Aug/Nov	In Touch - printing expenses	195.34	
					In Touch - postage	41.16	
	Printed copies of In Touch		90.00				236.50
April	Ringers' Outing - Fees & Donation		513.50	April	Ringers' Outing - tower donations & coach hire		667.00
June	Maids Moreton Striking Competition Tea Donation		21.85	June	Donation to Striking Competition judges		15.00
				July	Donation towards broken stay		10.00
				July/August	Engraving of striking competition trophies		22.50
	Guild Bell Fund donations		41.35		Guild Bell Fund - from donations		41.35
	General donations		103.50		Branch website		115.49
					2014 Data Protection Registration		35.00
					Secretary's expenses		84.74
					Guild Representative's expenses		6.12
					Treasurer's expenses		38.52
					Honorarium for Auditor		15.00
				October	Balances carried forward:		
					Bank Account	1,448.74	
					Cash in hand	23.14	
							1,471.88
			3,900.09				3,900.09

Note: The grant of £750.00 awarded to Hanslope tower on 1 March 2014 has not yet been paid.

I confirm the above account is a true record of the transactions in the year to 31 December 2014 and has been compiled from the books and records, as presented to me.

Alison Fowler, Hon Branch Auditor

A.F. Fowler 18/1/15

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS - NORTH BUCKS BRANCH INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT - TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT FUND 2014

INCOME		£	£	EXPENDITURE		£	£
January	Balance brought forward:						
	Building Society account		1,250.93				
June	Building Society interest	1.24					
September	Building Society closing interest	0.48					
			1.72				
Jan - Sept	Donations at Branch practices		88.60	Jan - Sept	Donations to towers at Branch practices		67.60
11-Oct-14	Branch Course - donations for refreshments		28.75	11-Oct-14	Branch Course - tower donations		80.00
				11-Oct-14	Branch Course - expenses		38.10
				December	Balance carried forward:		
					Bank account		1,184.30
			1,370.00				1,370.00

I confirm the above account is a true record of the transactions in the year to 31 December 2014 and has been compiled from the books and records, as presented to me.

Alison Fowler
Hon Branch Auditor

A.F. Fowler 18/1/15

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD

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Or from

Alan Bentley, 8, King Edward Avenue, Aylesbury, HP21 7JD.
Tel: 01296 393 077 email: edsecretary@odg.org.uk



Registration forms to be returned by 31st March 2015