



In Touch

North Bucks Branch . www.northbucksbranch.org.uk . November 2015

Branch Practice & Christmas Social Saturday 19th December 2015

Everyone is invited to the Christmas Branch Practice at St Mary & St Giles, Stony Stratford & Xmas Social in the Church Hall.



4.30 Branch Practice

6.00 Service

6.45 Supper & Quiz

Food Options - Cod and Chips £5.50
Fish Cake and Chips £3.00
Sausage and Chips £3.00
Vegetarian Burger and Chips £4.50
Chips £1.60

Names & food option choices to Wendy Price:

0777 585 0584 or 01908 568222
email to wendyaprice@hotmail.co.uk

by Wednesday 16th December. Pay on the day.

Tea, coffee and squash will be provided.

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Editorial

May I first congratulate the Woughton band on their impressive third place in the ODG 6-bell striking competition. And talking of striking competitions well done to the Newport Deanery band for winning the revived Chairmans' Cup competition held at Bradwell. We'll see about next year!

Encouraging news is coming out of Bletchley and we are hopeful that the bells will be up & ringing again in the near future. We will keep you updated.

The spotlight is on recruitment & retention, with various initiatives at both tower and Branch level. Please let us know how things are going with you, if you've any ideas that you'd like to share or have any requests for help.

It has been quite a busy year for the Branch. My thanks go to all those who have worked hard to make these events happen. Why not make a resolution in 2016 and come along to a new event?

May I take this opportunity to wish you & your families a very Happy Christmas.

Graham Bartholomew.

What's On

Bob Doubles, Plain Hunt & Call Changes Practice

Friday 4th December, 7.40 to 9.00pm @ Whaddon

Branch Practice & Christmas Social

Saturday 19th December, 4.30 to 9.00pm @ Stony Stratford

Branch Practice

Saturday 16th January, 4.00 to 5.30pm @ Fenny Stratford (tbc)

Branch Practice

Saturday 20th February, 4.00 to 5.30pm @ Great Linford

Branch AGM & Annual Dinner

Saturday 5th March @ Great Brickhill (tbc)

Branch Open Practices

First Friday of the month @ Whaddon, 7.40 to 9.00pm

Alternate Sunday's @ Calverton, 5.00 to 6.00pm

ODG Training Courses

Ten Bell Training Day

For Guild Members who would like to develop their 10 bell ringing skills; methods will include Grandsire and Stedman Caters.

The course will be held on **Saturday 5th December 2015** and will be held at St. Nicolas **Newbury** and St Mary's **Thatcham**.

£12.00 including tower donations & refreshments.

Closing date for applications will be 21st November.

For application details see the Branch website:

www.northbucksbranch.org.uk/bell-ringing/training-courses/

Radley One Day Course

For Guild Members who would like to improve their confidence as well as your ringing. Methods offered include Plain Hunt on 5, 6, 7, 8; Grandsire Doubles and Triples; Plain Bob Doubles, Minor and Major

The course will be held on **Saturday 9th April 2016** and will be based at **Radley (near Abingdon.)**

£25.00 including evening meal.

Details of ringing criteria and an application form will be available after 1st December 2015.

Closing date for applications is: 31st January 2016

With Thanks to Nick

Having looked after In Touch since 2012, Nick Read has had to step down as Editor. I am sure we can all agree that Nick has done an excellent job, building on the work of our previous editors and keeping up the high standard that we really shouldn't take for granted. Nick's experience within ringing and the church, as well as the real world, will be missed by the officers, a feature of the current committee being a willingness of all to comment and contribute, whatever the subject. I hope Nick can continue to contribute when he can in the future. The newsletter will be carried on in the meantime by Lesley and contributions will be welcome as ever.

As Lesley asked for photos wherever possible, I dug out this one from 1974. The occasion is probably a flower festival, or similar, in Newport church. The model bell is a particularly fine example, made, I understand by Malcolm Hooton



From left to right: Jill Eales (then Haseldine), Andrew Haseldine, Nick Read, David Taylor, Bert Beard, Andy Clarke,

Doug Hird

The Branch Goes to London

Saturday 15th August 2015

Six churches, each with an interesting history, encouraged about twenty of us to forego a lie-in to meet up at St Clement Danes for a 9.30 a.m. start. A few ringers from Rickmansworth joined us for the day which meant there were enough to allow us time to look around each church and listen to the bells outside in the sunshine, if we wanted.

The 21 cwt ring of 10 at St Clement's were a joy to ring and made an encouraging start for the more nervous among us, while there was plenty to look at in the church, as it is the Central Church of the RAF. There was also an interesting leaflet on the 'Oranges and Lemons' nursery rhyme which said it dates back to at least 1744. It suggests the macabre ending refers to the bells tolling as prisoners were escorted through the streets, by lantern-light, to the executioner's axe.

Every church we rang at was rebuilt by Sir Christopher Wren after the Great Fire, though many had to be restored or rebuilt after WWII. Our second church was St James Garlickhythe, otherwise known as Wren's Lantern. It was a surprise, therefore, to walk into an extremely gloomy wood-panelled narthex and eventually find our way up a wooden staircase into a small ringing room. A large area was boxed off, but atop this was a splendid peal board giving the details of the peal rung on the 9 cwt 8 as they travelled down the Thames on a barge during the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations. Those who went into the nave will have seen the large arched windows which gave the church its nickname. There was also decoration in the form of vine leaves, as it is the church of the Vintners Association.

We had an early break for lunch, pubs, picnics and pavement cafes proving popular!

A short walk took us to St Vedast, another tower with large arched windows and many 8-lined poems on the walls in the triolet form: rhymed *ab aa abab*, lines 4 and 7 repeating 1 and 8 repeating 2. The structure seemed to give them a hypnotic quality similar to the sound of the bells. A special effort to learn St Vedast Doubles had been made by some and a couple of courses were rung.

The bells of St Lawrence Jewry, on one side of Guildhall Square, are described as the best 8 in the City. We gathered outside, around a fishpond, watching goldfish swimming, honeybees drinking - and people in sackcloth preparing their stalls in the square, behind some stadium seating the other side of crowd-control barriers. We were told they were going to film a contest of gladiators called *Gladiator Games*. It turned out our entrance to the church was behind the barriers, so Graham sweet-talked the burly security men into letting us through on the strict understanding that the bells would be silent by 3 p.m. (the end of our time slot) as that was when filming would start. The bells were cast by Whitechapel, a 24 cwt 8, and hopefully the crowd enjoyed them as much as we did.

Another short walk to Bow left us with time to watch the late arrivals at the wedding which had to end before we could access the ringing room, up another long spiral staircase. The expected large room had two large windows, each with a door. One led to a balcony overlooking the street, the other led out through plants onto a garden path, which seemed bizarre - how many other church towers have a roof garden attached to them? Sadly it was marked 'Private' so we couldn't see what it was like to sit in your garden with the top of a church tower at the end of it. Somehow I think they probably retire indoors when the bells ring.



St Mary le Bow, Cheapside

Contd...

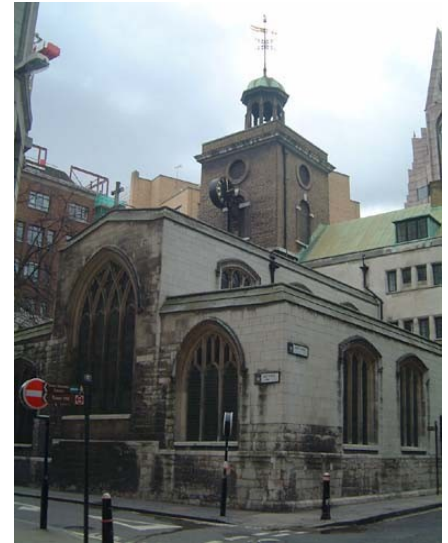
The Branch Goes to London

The 12 bells were suitably impressive and many of us pleased just to ring some decent rounds, though we were all encouraged to try plain hunt on 11. Although not the 'great bell of Bow' of the nursery rhyme, the tenor is still 41 cwt and lightly set - a challenge too far for most of us. Of those who did attempt it, one in particular provided the usual entertainment (known to all sympathetic ringers) derived from someone struggling to set their bell. While it was fun to go out on the balcony and watch the construction workers in the office block opposite watching the bride and groom who were having the benefit of the bells, sadly the sound of the bells for us was distorted by the reflection off the surrounding buildings.

Our final church was due to be St Olave's, Samuel Pepys's resting place and the only medieval church of the day. We passed some impressive modern buildings on the way, including the car-melting 'Walkie Talkie' tower and arrived to find an embarrassed key-holder holding the wrong key - the pad-lock had been changed without his knowledge. As he was unable to contact any other key-holder, we called it a day; some disappeared to find food, others to catch an early train home.

So ended a brilliant day out - a great selection of towers, perfect leave-your-coat-and-brolly-at-home weather, easy navigation (just follow someone with a satnav!) and even the lock-out was the last tower.

Thank you Graham Bartholomew!



St Olaves, Hart Street

Teaching Elementary Change Ringing

ART Module 2 Course - Marsworth

Six Teachers and two Mentors met, representing Barnes, Caterham, Fulham, Great Brickhill, Linslade, Wokingham and Woughton on the Green towers.

Having been a Tower Captain for 40 years and just spent two years teaching a new band in a local tower, virtually from scratch, I have held ART at arms length for some time now with a slightly arrogant attitude of "what can they teach me that I do not already know". I am pleased to say that this was quickly dispelled with Pip Penney giving a comprehensive and interesting presentation covering Foundation Skills, building a band, Plain Hunt and Plain Bob skills development, topped off with sound advice on Running a Good Practice. Okay "so I knew it all" but it certainly reminded me of a number of things I was not actually doing and should be.

I am pleased I went and I gained a lot from finding out that all the teaching problems I have are replicated across many towers and there are things you can do to stimulate interest, and get them to progress incrementally with little bits of valuable fun. The practical exercises were excellent, some helpful books were available, and the tips and advice of fellow participants all added value to the day.

I presented myself as a Teacher with a Mentor that I taught to ring 35 years ago. All I have to do now is to complete the theory tests and paperwork that is slightly daunting and I might just make it to accreditation.

Many thanks to Pip and to Richard Booth for all the practical support on the day, especially rescuing the iPad that I left behind in my rush to get home for the rugby.



Brian Baldwin

NBB Tower Census

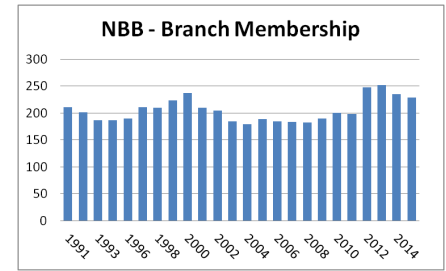
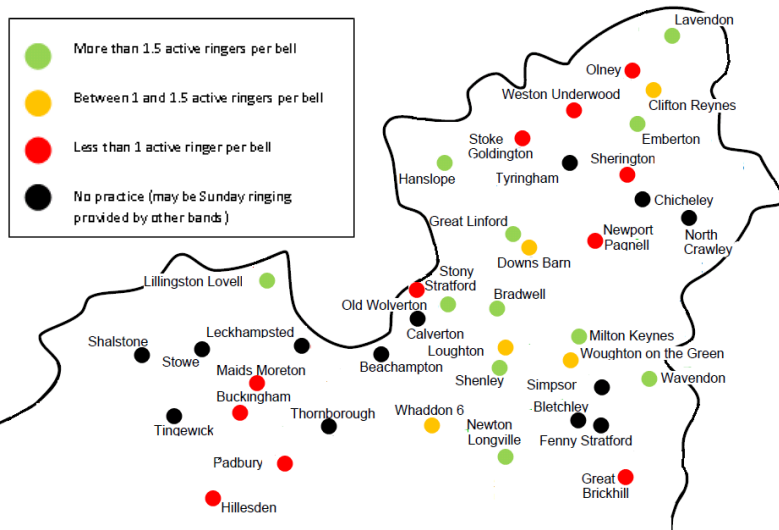
The Big Ring Pull was the start of a recruitment journey and whilst membership records show the Branch is healthier than before the BRP was initiated, membership is declining again. The 2015 tower census revealed some interesting findings and poses some intriguing questions.

How many ringers are ringing in the Branch?

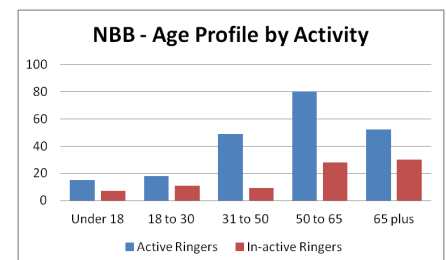
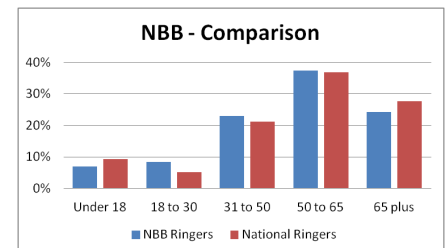
There are 297 ringers in the branch of whom 228 are ODG members. Not all these ringers are active – 71% of Guild members and 68% of non-Guild members are active in their towers. In some towers there is a large difference between membership and number of active ringers. An active ringer is one that rings on Sunday and at tower practices at least 50% of the time.

How are these ringers distributed?

Segmenting towers according to the number of ringers (of whatever standard) to the number of bells shows that the Milton Keynes deanery has the healthiest distribution, reflecting the concentration of BRP recruits.



Branch Membership is not the same as number of active ringers



Will there be enough ringers in 20 to 30 years?

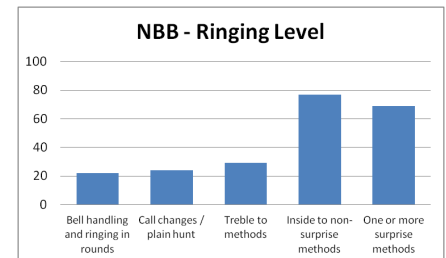
The age profile of the Branch mirrors the national profile and projections here show that the number of ringers will halve in 20 years unless there is a major change in recruitment, retention & training.

Does the age profile reflect the modern day life style?

Yes. Too many competing demands on younger people's time leading to low recruitment & retention rates. There is a higher proportion of inactive ringers in the 65 plus age bracket where health becomes a critical factor. By far the largest challenges reported by towers was in recruitment & demographics.

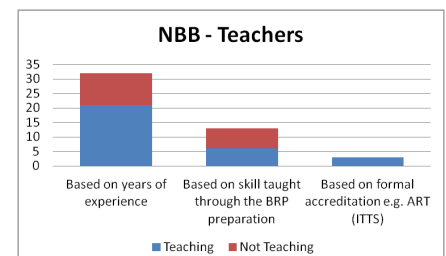
What can our ringers ring?

The majority of active ringers in the Branch are method ringers – 35% ring non-Surprise methods and a further 31% can also ring Surprise methods. The number learning to handle a bell accounts for 10% of the Branch's active ringers. Development & training needs are to develop their method ringing and conducting skills.



What about our ringing teachers?

There are 48 ringing teachers in the Branch, 30 of whom are currently teaching. Most of our teachers have developed organically drawing on their years of experience. There are 13 teachers who teach using the skills gained through the BRP. There are 3 ringing towers without teachers.



Every Branch tower with 5 or more bells completed a census return. Many thanks to all the tower correspondents and captains for their time in bringing together the numbers and their comments and suggestions.

Linda Maycroft

Recruitment, Retention & Training

With the 2015 census complete it is time to think about what the Branch wants to achieve, starting with an ambition that addresses its challenges.

By 2020 the North Bucks Branch of the ODG of Church Bell Ringers will have retained and increased the numbers of ringers in each of the towers that have active bands in 2015. It will have identified and formed active bands in two more towers within the branch. It will provide a positive learning experience to all new recruits.

To meet this ambition we need to learn from our past successes and best practice from other areas.

Retention

For retention and motivation, stepping stones and rewards are needed to mark achievements.

Emphasise to new ringers that they are filling a gap not taking up your time.

There is a need to eliminate intimidation which is very off-putting to new ringers.

Creating groups of new ringers (including across towers) gives a sense of team and allows frustrations to be shared.

Need to motivate people to stay, perhaps by developing the social side of ringing. It doesn't just happen.

Use intensive teaching so recruits master bell handling quickly
New ringers to follow structured learning programme
Change your teaching style to suit each ringer
Use public events to drive interest
Celebrate recruits successes
Develop a waiting list
Team spirit



Think outside the box
Train sufficient teachers first
Don't attempt too much - avoid burn out
Avoid new ringers stagnating at Bob Doubles
Introduce simple exercises into practices to develop skills
Be targeted – ensure you attract the right people in the right areas
Changing the mind set requires faith “this is the way we have always done it”

At the Autumn meeting branch members gave the following thoughts on recruitment, training and retention.

Recruitment

Recruitment needs to start with the congregation. It helps to have a face which is known in the church.

Recruitment needs to be pro-active. Advertising and promoting ringing at existing events, eg church open days, can reach more people.

Make it easy to have a go at ringing. Open Days are good, but need to be focussed and follow-up is essential not a normal practice.

A recent Open Evening at Bradwell had been a success. It was held on the normal practice night. It was actively promoted by the vicar during the service. There was no commitment involved, just coming along to find out more.

Age groups – the young learn best, but have other calls on their time. At the end of the day, you have to reach and teach who you can.

Training

Clustering towers together to help each other with training new people is the way forward.

Trainers are doing a good job, but more ringers should be encouraged to have a go at teaching.

New ringers should be encouraged to visit other towers.

Good stander-byers are needed to continually correct and discourage bad habits developing.

Identify role models for teaching and tower captains.

Easier to learn in a group rather than as an individual.

It was felt that the distribution of new ringers from the Big Ring Pull had been patchy.

A lot of training happens after the practice. Cultivate a social side that works for your tower and allows this training to happen.

Plan for the development of experienced ringers so they don't get bored.

Next Steps

Since the Autumn Meeting we have heard that a number of towers have been inspired to try some of these activities out which is great news.

Some of the stories shared have been developed into case studies and can be found in the recruiting resources section of our web site. The pages in this section provide lots of hints and tips on recruitment and training, why not have a look today?

In addition to the effort being put in locally by towers the Branch is looking for a few pilot towers who are willing to work together to test drive some new ideas with the support of officers and other members of the Branch. You can get involved by getting in touch with a member of the RTR team:

Linda Maycroft
Lesley Belcher
Sheila Watts,
Patricia Rosewell

at rtr+northbucksbranch@mail.tidyclub.com

Linda Maycroft

Open Practices

First Friday Practice Nights

December 4th will be the last rounds and calls changes monthly meeting. Michael Nimmo and Wendy Price would like to thank everybody who has attended.

From Friday 8th January and then the first Friday of each month we will be running a Plain Bob and Grand-sire Doubles practice. Please come even if you can only ring rounds and call changes. There will be the opportunity to have plenty of goes and then progress onto learning these methods and also how to call them.

Each practice will be held at Whaddon; to help them progress and in return for their support of Stony Stratford every Sunday.

We look forward to seeing you on the 4th December for the final rounds and calls changes monthly meeting and then from 8th January at Whaddon. All practices start at 7.40pm.

Michael Nimmo

Calverton

Due to a change of service times at Calverton it will no longer be possible to ring the bells for service. To keep the bells ringing we will be holding a practice night every other Sunday between 5pm – 6pm. First practice will be on 8th November

If you would like to attend just turn up, all welcome.

Wendy Price

Recruitment News

Bradwell

Four new ringers have started at St. Lawrence, Bradwell. A poster campaign and notices read in services were good for setting the scene – but a personal appearance and appeal by one or more ringers in a service was really helpful; the side-effect is that you're appealing to people likely to be available on a Sunday. It also establishes a personal connection – potential recruits know your face. Getting them to come for an open evening on a specific date was good as many people could try it and it was specifically oriented towards the recruits. We took email addresses and mobile numbers and then used them to remind people to come and join us just before our next practice: there is a fine line between reminding people and stalking them but hopefully this is the right side of the line! Anyone thinking about it got that personal contact, which was encouraging, rather than motivating themselves to attend their first practice. Finally, we needed to prioritise the learners, allocate them specific time to learn to handle a bell and get them to rounds swiftly. In our case, a band with progressively fewer members meant the oft-heard complaint of "we don't get to ring this method any more because of the time spent on the learners" was not an issue because we had reached a point of not having enough to ring anything except the basics. A decision needs to be made by the whole band though: it is a big time commitment and not just by the one or two people specifically teaching the learners, especially if you have more than a couple of learners: which I think was helpful as they were able to support and learn from each other. It's hard and somehow not the done thing to reach out and include more people in ringing – but it's worked for us and we now have 4 new learners from our initiative.

Ian Green

Stony Stratford

Recently at Stony Stratford we put a notice in our church newsletter for a taster session, which was held on Monday 5th October at 7pm. On the night we were unsure who would turn up or if we would get anyone. To our surprise there were six people waiting outside when we arrived. We now start our practice nights at 7pm to make sure our learners all have a chance to practice before everyone else arrives.

Chris Crompton & Wendy Price

Newton Longville

In June an advert was placed in the village magazine asking for new ringers. In all 7 people responded and 6 of them are still learning. Rounds and call changes are being rung and change ringing is being introduced by ringing the tenor behind. Armistice Day will see the band ringing for Sunday Service for the first time.

Nigel Titley

Well Done to Woughton!



ODG 6-bell Striking Competition

The full results

- 1 High Wycombe 93.8%
- 2 Thatcham 92.8%
- 3 Woughton 87.0%
- 4 Faringdon 86.2%
- 5 Wallingford 85.6%
- 6 Drayton St Leonard 83.8%
- 7 Wokingham All Saints 83.1%
- 8 Caversham 72.3%

Judges: Nick and Lindsey Brett

Saturday 3rd October. The day of the Guild six-bell striking competition. The Woughton band, representing North Bucks, set off and, despite the best efforts of the Rugby World Cup organisers, who have closed every route south through Milton Keynes, and a somewhat idiosyncratic sat-nav, arrive at Chalgrove, ten miles south of Oxford, in good time.

St Mary's, Chalgrove, is hidden away in some very suburban-looking cul-de-sacs, but we finally locate it. It's supposed to have some really important medieval wall-paintings, but we don't get to see them because the entire church is swathed in scaffolding and under restoration, so we can't go inside. Just as well, then, that the weather is fine, the last of an Indian Summer, as all the ringers are milling around outside. We're running a little late because the first band to ring has lost a ringer on the way.

Woughton are ringing last, so there's plenty of time to study the church yard. Some of the gravestones face north. Odd. Even odder is the church clock, with only one hand; dated 1836 even though it was installed in 1802.

Plenty of time to listen to the bells. They're a sixteen cwt tenor, and need to be taken at a steady pace. The temptation, as we hear, is to ring the front three too fast and the back three too slow. The last piece of ringing before we go in is from High Wycombe, and the best we've heard. That's the standard we have to match, we tell ourselves.

The ringing room is modern and airy; with a partition separating it from the spiral stairs of a sliding window like a ticket office, through which the time keeper sticks his head to warn us when our practice rounds are up. The bells go well, and there's no obviously odd struck ones – good for a striking competition but showing up any little errors. Into our 240 of Grandsire; concentrate, don't make any method slips, listen, don't rush the leads.

It's over. We relax. We all think of those little points where we might have done better. Still, off to the village hall to hear the judges. But not before a long wait – the sandwiches run out, but there's plenty of cake to compensate. In come the judges, a few generally nice comments and on to the placings, announced in reverse order.

In 8th place are team ... – thank goodness we're not last. On through 7th, 6th, 5th, 4th places. Woughton still not mentioned – random thought: could we have won? No. we're 3rd, on 87.5%, and High Wycombe have won with 92.5%, with Thatcham 2nd. Both have ex-masters of the Guild ringing for them, so we're only beaten by very experienced bands – we feel it's a good result. No time for a celebratory drink in the pub (owned by the church) though as we've got to get back to MK in time to watch the rugby. Can England put on as good a show as Woughton?

Martin Petchey

Doubles Variations



On Saturday October 17th the North Bucks Branch held their annual training day, learning about ringing doubles variations, an area that can often be overlooked at tower practices. Personally this was a new experience as I am used to ringing triples and major methods. It felt very different.

The training consisted of two sessions. The morning session was held at Downs Barn, followed by Woughton in the afternoon. There was a varied mix of ringers at both sessions. I found the sessions very enlightening and educational. It was the first time I had ever combined doubles methods with bobs and singles of another method. Nevertheless I started to quickly understand it as the more experienced ringers explained how and why this happens. To my surprise it worked. There was a deserved break in the middle of the day for lunch, as the morning ringing proved quite tiring both physically and mentally.

I would like to thank all of the helpers on the course as their instruction proved very helpful and it made me more interested in the many doubles methods and variations that exist, and keen to try some of them out on practice nights.

Lydia Bates



The Arched Window

At both Clifton Reynes and Lavendon, there is a small opening in the west wall of the church. What are these? Perhaps an opening into a ceiling space, maybe a route into a balcony of some sort.

Actually, these are clues that these churches were once somewhat smaller. Before the church was increased in height in the 13th century, Clifton's window would have been at belfry level. This would be interesting enough but in MK Library is a small book titled Bibliotheca Buckinghamiensis which contains an entry from 1890:

"In the west wall of the tower, at about the height of the clerestory windows, is a plain round headed opening, blocked now on the belfry side, flush with the nave plaster, and open towards the belfry in 1834; but no doubt originally open in both directions and intended as a Sanctus belfry. Indeed, into this century, the "Saint's Bell" lay there with its fittings; but about 1830 it fell "by accident" into the nave, and the ringers took up the pieces, sold them at Olney Fair and got drunk with the proceeds. The parish, however, refused to prosecute, for some of the ringers were married men, and their families would have been "upon the rates" in case of a conviction."

It is not unusual for a Sanctus bell to be hung in a window although it is a little curious that this one seems to have remained once its window no longer faced the outside world. Of course, it goes without saying that the present Clifton ringers are much more well behaved.

Doug Hird

Clifton Arched Window



A Variation - but not an Enigma

April Day

Have you ever rung April Day Doubles? Even if you answered “no”, there is an odds-on chance that you already possess all the knowledge needed to ring it successfully.

A Doubles “variation” is what happens when you combine plain leads of one method with one or more calls – bob, single, extreme or omit – belonging to a different one. In the case of April Day the method is Plain Bob and the call is a Grandsire single – and most of us know how to ring both of those, don’t we?

This, in a little more detail, is how it works. When the conductor says “Go April Day!” everybody starts ringing Plain Bob Doubles and they go on doing so until a call is made. This will, probably be “Single!” (though some conductors might say “Bob!”, which in this case would mean exactly the same thing.) All the bells then perform the work that they would have done at a single if Grandsire, not Plain Bob, was being rung. That successfully accomplished, the ringing reverts to Plain Bob, until another single is called.

The correct time to make this call is when the treble is in thirds place on the way down to lead. Here are the rows that would be rung if the first lead-end was (a) plain and (b) Grandsire-singled, and they demonstrate why an earlier-than-usual call is needed.

The same rows are rung until the first handstroke row with treble leading, at which point three bells, in this case 2, 4 and 5, all strike in a place which is different from the one which they would have occupied if the lead had been plain. They therefore require one whole-pull of notice, allowing the preceding pull at backstroke to be adjusted accordingly.

If you are going to be the conductor yourself, you will also need to know at which lead-ends the calls should be made. Notice that one working-bell is unaffected by the single - the one making second’s over the treble. This would be a suitable choice for the “observation”. You could choose to ring either the 3rd, 4th or 5th (but NOT the 2nd) and call a single each time you lead at handstroke, just before making second’s place at the lead-end. After the third single the bells will be back in the plain course, and rounds should occur at the 12th lead-end. (If you are curious to know why “NOT the 2nd!” you could write out the whole touch with that bell as observation, and see for yourself what goes wrong).

That’s about all there is to April Day. Try it!

Terry Page

An April Day Single

(a)	(b)
54321	54321
53412	53412
35142	S 35142
31524	31524
13254	13542
13524	13524
31254	31542
32145	35124

Discover Bell Ringing

This attractive booklet has been produced by ART (Association of Ringing Teachers) as part of their 'Learning the Ropes' scheme. With well presented information and photographs, it is a fascinating read for would-be ringers and also the casual reader.

The well thought out sections and illustrations underline the skills, practice and history of change ringing, making it useful for all levels.

I thoroughly recommend this booklet, crammed with 30 pages of interesting information, to new ringers and to those interested in finding out more about English-style change ringing, as it can do nothing but enhance their knowledge and interest.

Sheila Watts



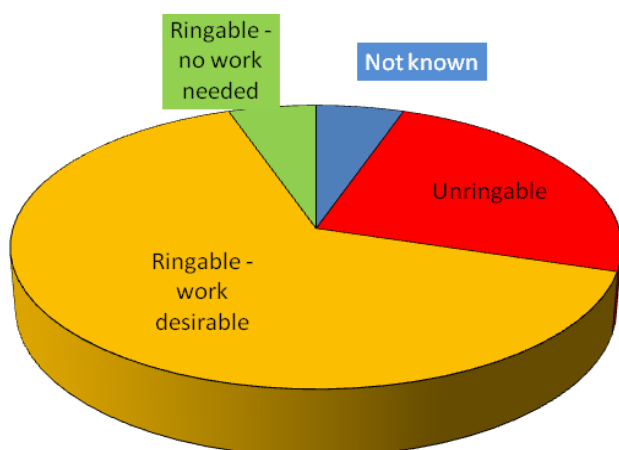
A North Bucks Branch Bell Fund



The Branch has supported bell restoration projects for many years. The earliest record of this in our minutes was a donation of £2 to Stony Stratford in 1921 and there has hardly been a bell project in the branch that hasn't been supported in some way. We have always believed that, if the branch is in a position to help bell projects, then it should.

The concern that many of us have is that we have no governance process in place to manage this. The criteria for grants and their amounts have been developed over the years in response to each request. How can we be fair to all projects? How can we ensure that we don't run out of money?

It is clear that there will always be a need to restore our rings of bells. Frames and fittings wear out and, occasionally, there is an opportunity to add new bells. In fact, only 5% of our rings can be said to be in the best possible condition and that is only because they have only recently had the attention of bell-hangers.



The need ranges between minor repairs to fittings and complete re-hangs but the cost, if we were to count it all up now could be counted in millions.

To help support this, we need to be better organised. As ringers and as a branch. The branch can't do everything but it can make a difference. This proposal is offered as one of the building blocks.

It is proposed that The North Bucks Branch set aside part of the branch account for use as a bell fund.

Scope of the proposed fund:

Grants are to be considered for any work in North Bucks towers on:

- Bells,
- Fittings,
- Ropes – where it is clear that the tower is not in a position to provide ropes and their provision would enable that tower to start ringing,
- Rope guides,
- Frames,
- Sound control,
- Simulators

Grants to be between £50 and 1% of the estimated cost of a project (including VAT), up to a maximum of £450, dependent on the balance in the fund being sufficient at the time.

Management of the proposed fund

1. The fund is to be held within the existing North Bucks Branch account but ring-fenced for the purposes described here.
2. The fund is to be managed by the branch Treasurer.
3. The fund is to be initially funded from the branch account to a sufficient amount to support currently active grant applications.
4. The fund is to be subsequently funded by means of fund raising activities by North Bucks Branch members.
5. The balance and status of active grants to be reported as a separate item at each North Bucks Branch AGM for approval by the meeting.
6. The rules for the fund to be made freely available.
7. The rules for the fund to be changed as need dictates by the proposal and agreement of a change at a branch business meeting.

A North Bucks Branch Bell Fund

8. Grants to be applied for in writing to the branch Secretary no later than one month before the business meeting where the application is to be discussed.
9. Grant applications are to be discussed by the branch officers in order to arrive at a recommendation for the business meeting where the application is to be discussed.
10. Grants to be payable on receipt of an inspection report to signify the successful completion of the project.
11. Projects requiring additional funds should make a new application for an extra grant.
12. Grant applications are to be accompanied by evidence of the support of the local PCC.
13. Grants to remain valid for a period of 3 years from agreement of the grant at a Branch business meeting.

There are of course some points against this venture:

- It will require extra work to raise funds
- It will require extra work to manage the fund
- It will have limited potential in comparison to other funds
- The Guild already has two funds, so would this detract from these?

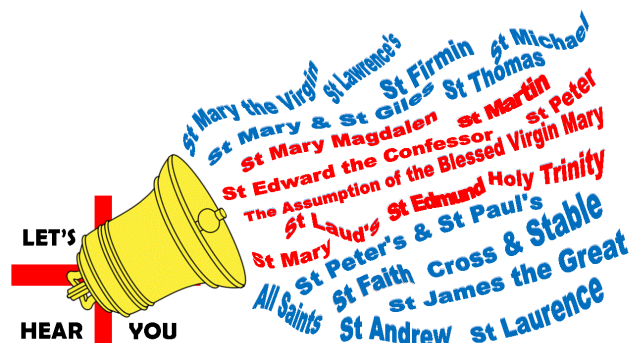
The quality of our rings has a direct effect on the progress and retention of our ringers as well as the quality of the ringing we produce. While improving the management of grants for bell work, we can also raise awareness of this as an issue that needs to be appreciated by all towers and put the branch in a position to be able to provide financial as well as practical assistance.

This proposal will be put to the next Branch AGM in March. However, please feel free to contribute to the development of this sooner via e-mail or over a pint in the traditional manner.

Doug Hird

St George's Day Sponsored Ringing Wave

Let's hear you ring out to raise over £500 vital of funds!



On the Saturday 23rd of April 2016 we will be sending a wave of sound across the Branch to raise money for the Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund and the Association of Ringing Teachers.

The Bell Fund has provided grants totalling £26,785 to our Branch since its inception until the end of 2013, to support much needed remedial work. The fund is a capital fund which means every penny donated is retained in the fund and is invested to create an annual income. This annual income is then distributed in the form of grants to bell projects across our Guild.

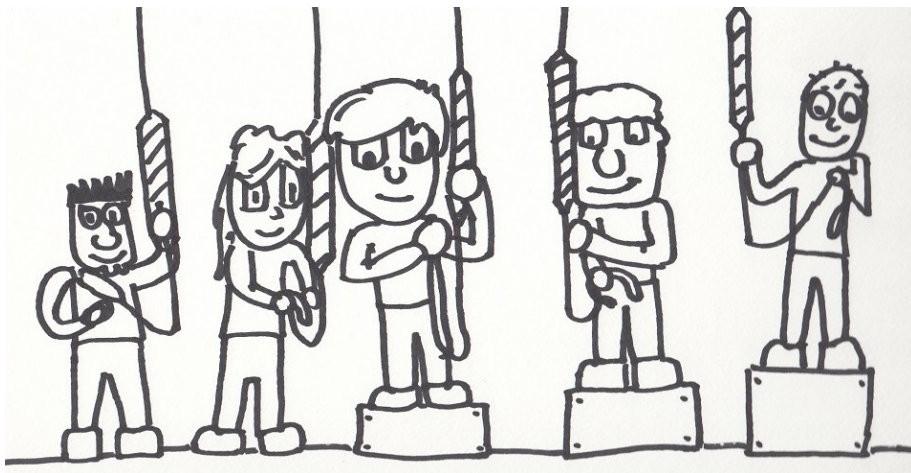
The Association of Ringing Teachers was formed in 2012 with the objective to develop and support the delivery, integrity, and standards in the teaching, instruction and education of the art of change ringing. Many North Bucks members have attended ART courses and have come away with lots of ideas and tools to aid new ringers to develop their skills quickly and efficiently. The Association now needs further funds to continue its vital work.

Sponsorship will be the primary fundraising route and we are asking you to ring for at least 30 minutes either at your own tower or another tower in the branch. We will need bell ringers to ring at churches where this is no band or insufficient numbers of ringers. If bands would prefer not to ask for sponsorship they can choose to run their own fundraising event e.g. coffee morning or raffle. As a branch it would be great if we could raise in excess of £500.

It's time to sign-up. Tower Captains have been asked to check on their church's availability and this will of course affect the route of the wave. In the meantime you can log your interest by signing up on the branch website. Details will continue to evolve as towers are confirmed and further information is added, so make a note to check regularly. Alternatively you can email Linda Maycroft (guildrep1@northbucksbranch.org.uk) to confirm your participation.

Linda Maycroft

The Chairmans' Cup



We rang to win the Chairman's Cup and all the bands were made at the last minute and there wasn't many rules except for:

Has to be 5 minutes of ringing call changes, has to be people who would benefit out of the competition, the RDS's would have to ring to take the blame if it went wrong and young conductors take the credit when it didn't.

It was intended for there to be 3 bands but Buckingham couldn't get a band together so it was just Newport and Milton Keynes in the contest. The judges of the contest were Ted and Becky Fawcett. Both bands had a small problem with the adults not doing as they were told but the conductors kept their concentration and sorted it out and the winners were Newport Deanery.

Adam Hird



Some very old people

Longest Peal on 12 Bells

I would like to bring the attention of the readers of In Touch to a recent bell ringing record.

On Saturday 17th October 2015 a band of 12 ringers started ringing at 7am at the church of SS Peter & Paul, South Petherton, Somerset. They did not stop ringing until 9.30pm having rung 21,216 changes of Cambridge Surprise Maximus making it the longest peal ever rung on 12 bells.

This beat previous achievements of 21,001 Stedman Cinques and 16,368 Cambridge Surprise Maximus rung at All Saints, Worcester in 1983 and St. Phillips Cathedral, Birmingham in 1993 respectively.

14 hours and a half hours is a long time without food, drink and going to the toilet! However some of the ringers had tables set up with food and drink next to them; the tenor ringer had a contraption with a tube attached allowing him to drink water, and I was assured that none of the ringers had to go to the toilet.

In fact, I rang with Paul (Tiebout) the day after the peal and asked him about it. I think his exact words were that "he would not recommend it". Then seeing Paul (Mounsey) the day after that and he said, "that would be the last one" having rung in several long length peals.

Nonetheless, I'm sure you all agree that this was a credible, fantastic, inspirational achievement. No doubt subscribers to the Ringing World will read a more detailed article at some point but I just thought you would all like to know.

Simon Read

Bath & Wells Diocesan Association

South Petherton, Somerset
SS Peter and Paul
Saturday, 17 October 2015
14h 26 (22-3-15 in D)

21,216 Cambridge Surprise Maximus

Composed by David G Hull

- 1 Matthew J Hilling (C)
- 2 John N Hughes-D'Aeth
- 3 Andrew B Mills
- 4 Paul N Mounsey
- 5 John P Loveless
- 6 Martin J Whiteley
- 7 Roy LeMarchal
- 8 Paul J Tiebout
- 9 Robin O Hall
- 10 Frank W Rivett
- 11 Thomas W Griffiths
- 12 Michael P A Wilby

The longest peal yet rung on twelve bells.

Umpires: Timothy F Collins, Michael E C Mears, P Wendy Campbell, Susan D Sparling, Pauline C Champion, Christopher R Field, Andrew J Palk, Philippa M Whittington.

Around the Branch

Branch Dinner

The Branch is planning to hold it's dinner on Saturday 5th March on the evening of the Annual General Meeting. We need someone to organise this event. So, if you are willing and available please could you contact one of Officers. We have a list of possible venues and a handover will be given by this year's organiser so you won't be working in isolation.

The Branch is run for you, its members, by a small group of officers. We are all volunteers and we try hard to organise events that will benefit all members of the Branch throughout the year. A number of officers are doubling up on roles which can put additional constraints on their ability to organise multiple events through out the year. So any offers of help would be most welcome.

London Marathon

I am running the London Marathon 2016. The 26.2 mile race will take place on Sunday 24th April 2016 starting at Greenwich Park. The route then crosses over the Thames at Tower Bridge then loops back around Canary Wharf before heading past several landmarks such as the Tower of London, Embankment and the Houses of Parliament before finally making its way past Buckingham Palace and finishing halfway down The Mall.

I have chosen to run for Mind, a fantastic mental health charity based in the UK. I chose Mind not just because of the help they provide to people suffering from poor mental health, but also because they strive create awareness of the subject of mental health as a whole.

On a personal level I know the importance of help for sufferers of poor mental health. I also believe that creating awareness of mental health can tackle negative social stigmas attached to these sufferers.

Here is a brief summary of the fantastic work Mind do everyday - more detailed information can be found here,

www.mind.org.uk/about-us/what-we-do

Mind is a UK based charity that provides advice and support to empower anyone experiencing a mental health problem. Mind also campaigns to improve services, raise awareness and promote understanding.

If you decide to sponsor me the link to my online sponsorship page is here:

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/simonformind>

This is the best and easiest way to sponsor me, but I do have paper sponsorship forms if you would prefer to do it that way.

I have pledged to raise £1,750 and you can help me reach this through kind donations. Every penny I raise makes a difference. £8.70 gives a life-line to someone in desperate need of support by letting the Mind info-line team take their call. £30 could help Mind work with the Government to promote mental health needs and improve services for years to come.

Thank you for your time.



We suspect Simon won't look like this after the marathon

Simon Read

Shenley & Loughton Tower Outing



The Shenley & Loughton bands go to Northamptonshire

Twelve ringers from Shenley & Loughton had a very enjoyable day in the north of Northamptonshire on the 7th November. Becky Fawcett did an excellent job in organising the outing and finding such a wonderful pub for lunch. The Duke of York Delight Minor was the outing method, bearing in mind the local connection with the House of York.

The first tower was St Mary the Virgin at Lower Benefield. The entrance to the church yard was through a lynch gate which was dwarfed by a majestic 300 year old Holm Oak. The quaint ringing room decorated in sunshine yellow and sky blue was reached by a steep narrow spiral staircase. The tenor was a small 7cwt but all bells rang a bit heavier than expected. A beautiful ring.

The second tower at St Rumbald, Stoke Doyle was a ground floor ring of 5, 1727 maiden bells with the tenor 11 cwt. Recent refurbishment work had been carried out making the bells a real pleasure to ring. While the tower was thought to be original the rest of the church was reconstructed in the early 1700's and had a very Georgian feel about it. There are some beautiful memorials within the church some preceding the restoration. The "Chocolate" Angels were brought back from Italy and mounted on the top of the alter window, although now painted white they were traditionally dark varnished wood, hence the name. Welcome refreshments were laid on by the local ringers.

Next was another ground floor ring of 6 (7cwt) at St Michaels & All Angels, Wadenhoe. The church has an imposing position on the hillside just outside the chocolate box village with the River Nene boarding one side. It's just beautiful! Not surprising with the views afforded by its height the Church is very popular for weddings. Again another lovely set of bells to ring, despite the slightly wet sallies after all it was a rather wet and blustery morning. It was interesting to read about the murders of a newly married couple from the village who were killed by bandits while honeymooning in Italy in 1824.

Lunch then followed at The Kings Head where the service and food was excellent.

After lunch we journeyed to St Marys All Saints at Fortheringhay (a fitting name for us, I thought) which is famous for its House of York connections. The trip to the ringing chamber is not one for people suffering from vertigo and after a spiral tower climb there was 6 feet of roof to traverse before reaching the ringing chamber. The chamber itself was magnificent with huge oak beams and wide oak floor boards, a cream circular carpet was laid in the centre of the room and we had to position the 6 mats very carefully so as not to tread on the pristine carpet. Despite some praise for our ringing up we disappointed the tower captain when a few of the methods attempted fell apart.

St Mary Blessed Virgin at Warmington was next, a ring of 6, 11 cwt. Although the ringing room was more cramped the ringing was a lot better and I think we redeemed ourselves. Our final stop was at St Laurence, Stanwick an imposing church in the heart of the village. A ground floor ring of 6, 6 cwt. Following the ringing we enjoyed the impromptu firework display some of the locals had put on in their gardens.

As well as the outing method we rang, Winchendon Place, St Simons, St Martins, St Clements, Cambridge, Grand-sire, rounds and call changes and Bastow Little court. Our thanks go to Becky and the Northampton towers who made us feel so welcome.

Linda Maycroft

Picture Postcards

Postcards are not always what you might expect. We are all familiar with traditional sea-side scenes but a short visit to an old book shop will often turn out a few surprises. It is not uncommon to find photos of our churches and, sometimes, bells. Local photographers were keen to find interesting images and a visit by the bell-hangers would provide an excellent subject.

The re-hanging of Bletchley's bells in 1924 produced two such images. It is clear that these show the bells when they had been taken out of the tower but what else can they show us?

One answer is provided by the Fenny Stratford newspaper, The North Bucks Times. Each week the newspaper provided a running commentary on the project, from start, through funds raising, to ringing again. The detail on the photos is explained on p8 of the 24th June edition:

"The work of taking down the eight bells in the tower of St. Mary's church, Bletchley, commenced on Thursday and up to Sunday, seven of the bells were out of the tower and ranged along one of the walks in the church yard where they attracted a considerable amount of attention from those attending the Sunday services. The eighth, the tenor bell, was due to come down some time on Monday, and it was hoped that the work of removal would be completed on Tuesday."

So, the photos would probably have been taken on Monday 23rd June. Both show the same scene. The first is taken from the main churchyard gate and the second looks towards the gate,

The inscriptions tell us the bells are arranged: back row: 8, 7, 6, 5; front row: 3, 2, 1, 4. The 5 was to be re-cast by Taylors so this is the last we would see of that bell. The tenor has Gillett's square edged canons (similar to Lathbury's Treble) and the 4 has no canons. This is not mentioned by Cocks in Church bells of Bucks so these must have been removed by Gilletts during their work in 1893. All the headstocks appear to be of that date. Cocks also states that both 7 and 8 had no canons. These photos show that the 7 still had canons so Cocks must have been mistaken. Of the Rudhall bells, only the canons on 2 and 3 were decorated. All the rest were plain. Although the treble and 2 are shown with their headstocks they are not actually attached; the straps are clearly missing.

The clergyman would be the Rev. F. W. Bennitt (Rector), who was a great supporter of ringing in Bletchley. Taylor's records suggest that T. Dexter was at Bletchley on Wednesday and Thursday, 11th and 12th June and he returned with T. Bishop on 8th October to hang the bells. Dexter was the more senior of the two. So there is no guarantee that these are the same as the workmen on the photos. The dates seem in conflict with the newspaper record. Perhaps postcards from other towers will fill the gaps.

Next time you are in the sort of shop that sells such things, have a rummage you never know what you might find.

Doug Hird

With thanks to George Dawson, Archivist for John Taylor & Co for information about the workmen



Thanks to George Dawson, Archivist for John Taylor & Co for information about the workmen.

Peals & Quarter Peals

Peals

Oxford Diocesan Guild

Olney, Buckinghamshire

SS Peter and Paul

Saturday, 19 September 2015 in 3hrs 10min (24cwt)

5007 Stedman Caters

Composed by John Hyden

- 1 Andrew Haseldine (C)
- 2 Julie A Haseldine
- 3 Ruth Stokes
- 4 Lesley Belcher
- 5 David Phillipson
- 6 Alan J Marchbank
- 7 Richard A Horne
- 8 Christopher C Stokes
- 9 Stephen H Stanford
- 10 B Douglas Hird

To celebrate the life of Dot Davies, Mother of Ruth Stokes, who died 16th September 2015 aged 95.

Also as a compliment to David Phillipson who celebrates 50 years as a bell ringer this month.

Peterborough Diocesan Guild

Leckhampstead, Buckinghamshire

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Friday, 25 September 2015 in 3hrs10 (13 cwt)

5040 Doubles

4m: 10 extents each St Simon's, St Martin's and Grandsire, 12 extents Plain Bob.

- 1 Michael Maughan
- 2 Judith M Rogers
- 3 Robin H Rogers
- 4 Murray A Coleman (C)
- 5 Alan Regin

Rung to commemorate the life of Anthony J Fenimore, a ringer at this church and great uncle of Robin Rogers, who died serving this country in the Battle of Loos on the 25th September 1915.

2,000th peal - 3.

1,000th as conductor for the Guild.



Quarter Peals

Stony Stratford, Buckinghamshire

19 Breton

Friday, 21 August 2015 in 27min (8C)

1272 Plain Minimus (3m)

17 Reverse Bob, 18 Double Bob, 18 Plain Bob

- 1-2 Rob Gorton
- 3-4 Duncan Loweth (C)

First of Minimus and most methods in a QP 1-2

Thornborough, Buckinghamshire

St Mary the Virgin

Sunday, 6 September 2015 (11-3-23)

1260 Grandsire Doubles

- 1 George Saunders
- 2 Michael Haynes
- 3 James Saunders (C)
- 4 Charles Knight
- 5 John Hearn

Rung in thanksgiving for the lives of Claire Tarrant and Peter Mackie

Wicken, Northamptonshire

St John the Evangelist

Tuesday, 8 September 2015 (15-1-20)

1344 Spliced Surprise Major

(4M: Superlative, Lincolnshire, Yorkshire, Cambridge)

Composed by Donald F Morrison

- 1 Ruth Stokes
- 2 Julie A Haseldine
- 3 Andrew Spencer
- 4 Nick Gray
- 5 Andrew Haseldine
- 6 Tony Gray
- 7 Christopher C Stokes (C)
- 8 B Douglas Hird

Rung to celebrate HM Queen Elizabeth II becoming the longest reigning British Monarch.

Loughton, Buckinghamshire

All Saints

Wednesday, 9 September 2015 in 44 mins (11-0-8)

1320 Plain Bob Minor

- 1 Hilary Reading
- 2 Terry Page
- 3 Anne McIntyre
- 4 Claire Reading
- 5 Graham Bartholomew
- 6 Gary Reading (C)

- 1 - First of minor
- 6 - First as conductor

Rung to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II becoming the longest reigning British monarch.

Peals & Quarter Peals

Clifton Reynes, Buckinghamshire

St Mary the Virgin

Friday, 2 October 2015 (10–2–14 in A)

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- 1 Charles Knight
- 2 Ruth Stokes
- 3 Julie A Haseldine
- 4 Andrew Haseldine
- 5 Christopher C Stokes (C)
- 6 Michael Davies

Rung in fond memory of Dot Davies, on the day of her funeral. Mother of Ruth Stokes and Michael Davies.

Thornborough, Buckinghamshire

St Mary the Virgin

Sunday, 4 October 2015 in 48m (11–3–23)

1272 Plain Bob Minimus

- 1 Charles Knight
- 2 Hugh Deam (C)
- 3 John Hearn
- 4 Michael Haynes

Rung in memory of The Lord Healey.

Padbury, Buckinghamshire

St Mary the Virgin

Sunday, 11 October 2015 (10½)

1260 Grandsire Doubles

- 1 Victoria Stanworth
- 2 Helen Stanworth
- 3 Catherine Stanworth
- 4 Brian Newman
- 5 Richard Stanworth (C)
- 6 Graham Gulliver

Rung half-muffled in memory of Captain Montagu Vernon Gore-Langton, 1st Irish Guards, died on 9th October 1915.

The third in a series of 15 quarter peals to commemorate the men of Padbury who died in the First World War

Wicken, Northamptonshire

St John the Evangelist

Tuesday, 13 October 2015 (15–1–20)

1344 London Surprise Major

- 1 Raymond A Vickers
- 2 Ruth Stokes
- 3 Lesley Belcher
- 4 David Phillipson
- 5 Doug Hird
- 6 John Stanworth
- 7 Nick Gray
- 8 Christopher C Stokes (C)

Great Brickhill, Buckinghamshire

Thursday, 29 October 2015 in 46 mins (14-0-07)

1260 Grandsire Triples

- 1 John Emmett
- 2 Lyndsey Brett
- 3 Ed Houghton
- 4 Raymond Watkin (C)
- 5 Robert Tregillus
- 6 David Middleton
- 7 Brian Foley
- 8 Ron Battam

Dedicated to our former Tower Captain, Hugh Butler, who died 15 July 2015

Maids Moreton, Buckinghamshire

St Edmund

Sunday, 8 November 2015

1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor

- 1 Sue Lucas
- 2 Ray Vickers
- 3 Margaret Vince
- 4 Ann Fletcher
- 5 Sebastian Lucas
- 6 Andrew Spencer (C)

Rung on Remembrance Sunday in memory of Fred Rainbow and Edmund Webb, former bell ringers at Maids Moreton, killed in action during the First World War in 1915.

Newport Pagnell, Buckinghamshire

SS Peter & Paul

Sunday, 8 November 2015

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- 1 Adam Hird
- 2 Liz Wagstaff
- 3 Scott Ayers
- 4 Nick Chatt
- 5 B Douglas Hird (C)
- 6 Keith Wagstaff

Rung half-muffled before Evensong on Remembrance Sunday

Emberton, Buckinghamshire

All Saints

Monday, 9 November 2015

1260 St Clements Minor

- 1 Wendy A Haslam
- 2 Brian Berry
- 3 Ian Thompson
- 4 Nick Gray
- 5 Roy Keeves
- 6 Tony Gray (c)

Rung half muffled for Remembrance Sunday.

Peals & Quarter Peals

Newport Pagnell, Buckinghamshire

SS Peter & Paul

Wednesday, 11 November 2015

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- 1 Liz Wagstaff
- 2 Mark Vale
- 3 Charles J Knight
- 4 Mick Nimmo
- 5 B Douglas Hird (C)
- 6 Keith Wagstaff

1st inside 2.

Rung half muffled on the middle six.

Road, Northamptonshire

St Mary the Viirgin

Wednesday, 11 November 2015 in 48 Minutes (10-2-17)

1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor

- 1 Lydia Bates
- 2 Lesley Belcher
- 3 Alan Cozens
- 4 Nick Gray
- 5 Roy Keeves
- 6 Tony Gray (C)

First of treble bob 1

Rung in remembrance of the fallen of two world wars and conflicts since. Also for the ODG North Bucks Branch QP week.

Downs Barn, Buckinghamshire

Cross & Stable

Friday, 13 November 2015

1440 Plain Bob Minor

- 1 Adam Hird
- 2 Anne McIntyre
- 3 Graham Bartholomew
- 4 Gary Reading
- 5 Charles J Knight
- 6 B Douglas Hird (C)

Rung as part of North Bucks Branch Quarter Peal Week

Simpson, Milton Keynes

St Thomas the Apostle

Saturday, 14 November 2015 (7-1-7)

1260 Doubles (11 M/V)

Antelope, Litchurch, St Jude, St Laurence, St Austell, St Stephen, St David, St Mary, St Crispin, St Cecilia, Laverstoke

- 1 Brian Baldwin
- 2 Gary Reading
- 3 Ann Birch
- 4 Martin Petchey
- 5 Simon J O Head (C)
- 6 Paul Crombleholme

Most m/v 2, 3, 4; for North Bucks Branch quarter-peal week by participants in a recent Branch course on Doubles Variations

Newport Pagnell, Buckinghamshire

SS Peter & Paul

Sunday, 15 November 2015

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- 1 Keith Wagstaff
- 2 Liz Wagstaff
- 3 Mark Vale
- 4 Charles J Knight
- 5 B Douglas Hird (C)
- 6 Nat Masters

For Evensong

Calverton, Buckinghamshire

All Saints

Sunday, 15 November 2015 in 43 mins (10-1-24)

1260 St Clements Minor

- 1 Ann Birch
- 2 Graham Bartholomew
- 3 Anne McIntyre
- 4 Gary Reading
- 5 John Brookman
- 6 Simon J O Head (C)

1st inside to method - 2, 4

Rung as part of North Bucks Branch Quarter Peal Week

Branch Quarter Peal Week

The second Branch Quarter Peal week led to the ringing of 9 quarters during the week. These included a number of firsts. Well done to those who progressed their ringing during the week and of course a big thanks to those who supported them in their endeavours. The QP week has again provided great learning opportunities and facilitated team building. Of particular note was the quarter of 11 doubles methods and variations rung at Simpson following on from the recent Branch training course on this subject. A few sore heads I believe. As normally happens when organising quarter peals, a few didn't make it but were worth the try. I understand after the attempt at Clifton there was much practicing of singles. I wonder what happened there?

Quarter peal week coincided with Remembrance Sunday and a number of quarters were rung half muffled or dedicated to the fallen of WW1. Maids Moreton rang in memory of Fred Rainbow and Edmund Webb, former bell ringers at Maids Moreton, killed in action during the First World War in 1915.

Lesley Belcher

Draft Minutes of the Autumn Meeting

Held at Bradwell Memorial Hall on Saturday 26th September 2015

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman, Graham Bartholomew, welcomed 23 members to the meeting.

In Memoriam

Members stood in silence to remember Hugh Butler of Whaddon who had passed away in the summer.

Apologies for absence

Received from: Alan, Tine, Alex and John Marchbank, Sheila Watts, Sheila Ware, Sheila Blenkhorn, Roy Keeves, Hilary, Claire, Alice and Sophie Reading, Jean Mattinsley, Zoe Jones, Hilarie Rogers & Ruth Groves.

Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the AGM held at Olney on the 14th March 2015 had been circulated prior to the meeting and were published on the Branch website. There were two amendments to note:

Two of the new members elected at the last meeting (Martin Petchey and Roger Everson) were in fact re-elections so the minutes will be changed to reflect that.

The first sentence will be changed to "The officers had agreed that Doug Hird would chair the meeting in the absence of Brian Newman".

Adoption of the minutes was agreed by a show of hands.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Election of new members

Nominations were received for the following:

Liam Spanner of Shenley
Proposed: Ann Birch, seconded: Lesley Belcher
Emily Guinness of Bradwell
Proposed Ian Green, seconded Christine Abbott
David Baskerville of Newton Longville
Proposed Linda Maycroft, seconded Sheila Watts

Re-elections:

John Clarke of Newton Longville
Proposed Linda Maycroft, seconded Sheila Watts
Nigel Titley of Newton Longville
Proposed Sheila Watts, seconded Linda Maycroft
Alexandra Titley of Newton Longville
Proposed Doug Hird, seconded Linda Maycroft

All were approved by show of hands.

"In Touch" editor

The Chairman informed the meeting that Nick Read had resigned as "In Touch" editor.

There was one nomination to take on the role. Lesley Belcher was proposed by Linda Maycroft and seconded by David Middleton. This was carried by show of hands.

There is now a vacancy for the RDL for the Buckingham Deanery.

Presentations

Chairman's Cup

The competition had been held earlier in the afternoon at Bradwell and was won by the Newport Pagnell Deanery. The Chairman presented the Cup to Doug Hird.

Branch 6-bell Striking Competition

The Chairman presented certificates as follows:

1st Woughton
2nd Branch Officers
3rd Loughton

Brian Baldwin reported that the Striking Competition trophy had been much admired by the parishioners of Woughton.

Guild 6-bell Striking Competition

The Chairman presented a certificate for Highly Commended to Hanslope.

First Quarter Peal Certificates

Graham said that the Officers had proposed that the Branch should award First Quarter Peal Certificates. The meeting was in favour of the idea. It would be advertised in "In Touch" and on the website.

Inception of Branch Bell Fund

Doug Hird gave a presentation introducing the idea of setting up a Branch Bell Fund. Details of this are given on page 11.

Leap Year Ringing

Linda Maycroft gave a presentation on Leap Year Ringing. Details of this are given on page 12.

Recruitment, training and retention

Linda Maycroft gave a presentation on recruitment, training and retention. Details of this are given on page 6.

Vote of Thanks

The Chairman thanked Bradwell for hosting the ringing and meeting, and Andy Jowitt for taking the service.

The full minutes of the Branch Autumn Meeting can be found on the Branch website:

www.northbucksbranch.org.uk/the-branch/meetings/

Who's Who

Chairman - Graham Bartholomew

Phone: 07724 889120

Email: chairman@northbucksbranch.org.uk



Graham Bartholomew

RDL Buckingham - vacant

RDL Milton Keynes - Graham Bartholomew

Phone: 07724 889120

Email: chairman@northbucksbranch.org.uk



Doug Hird

RDL Newport Pagnell - Doug Hird

Phone: 01908 614741

Email: rdlnp@northbucksbranch.org.uk



Gary Reading

Secretary - Gary Reading

Phone: 01908 662483

Email: secretary@northbucksbranch.org.uk



Sheila Watts

Treasurer - Sheila Watts

Phone: 07703 279165

Email: treasurer@northbucksbranch.org.uk



Ann Birch

Minutes Secretary - Ann Birch

Phone: 01908 503971

Email: minutessecretary@northbucksbranch.org.uk

Guild Rep - Linda Maycroft

Email: guildrep1@northbucksbranch.org.uk



Patricia Rosewell

Guild Rep - Patricia Rosewell

Email: guildrep2@northbucks.org.uk

Newsletter Editor - Lesley Belcher

Phone: 01908 260671

Email: newslettereditor@northbucksbranch.org.uk



Linda Maycroft

Archivist - Doug Hird

Phone: 01908 614741

Email: rdlnp@northbucksbranch.org.uk



Lesley Belcher

Next Edition

The deadline for contributions for the next edition of In Touch is **Tuesday 2nd February 2016**.

Please send your contributions to newslettereditor@northbucksbranch.org.uk