



# In Touch

North Bucks Branch . [www.northbucksbranch.org.uk](http://www.northbucksbranch.org.uk) . May/June 2016

## Editorial

Welcome to the slightly delayed May / June edition of In Touch.

My thanks to Lesley Belcher for her time as editor, and I hope that I can at least match the high standard she set.

Thank you to all who have contributed, who's input make this newsletter possible; without your contributions this would be a sad little effort indeed.

As ever it seems to have been a busy spell between the last edition in February and now, and there are features on much of what has happened in what feels a very short three months or so, so I hope you enjoy the latest offering of your In Touch.

*Phillip Starr  
Interim Editor—In Touch*

## In this edition...

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*News of up coming events throughout!*

## Dates for your diary...

Sat 18 Jun 2016	17:00 to 20:30	Striking Competition and Summer Social	Wavendon	Confirmed
Mon 27 Jun 2016	19:30 to 21:00	8/10 bell practice	Olney	
Fri 1 Jul 2016	19:40 to 21:00	Bob doubles, grandsire doubles, plain hunt and call change	Whaddon	
Sat 16 Jul 2016	15:30 to 20:00	Joint Practice and Striking Competition	Downs Barn	Confirmed
Mon 25 Jul 2016	19:30 to 21:00	8/10 bell practice	Olney	
Sat 20 Aug 2016	16:00 to 18:00	Branch Practice (& WW1 commemoration)	Maids Moreton	To be confirmed
Mon 22 Aug 2016	19:30 to 21:00	8/10 bell practice	Olney	
Fri 2 Sep 2016	19:40 to 21:00	Bob doubles, grandsire doubles, plain hunt and call change	Whaddon	
Sat 17 Sep 2016	15:00 onwards	Branch Practice, Chairman's' Cup & Autumn meeting	Bletchley	Confirmed

## Next edition...

Please have all submissions to [newslettereditor@northbucksbranch.org.uk](mailto:newslettereditor@northbucksbranch.org.uk) no later than Monday 8th of August to be included in the next in touch.

## From towers to trenches, we remember them...

### Alfred Robinson - Olney

A basket maker turned soldier, such was the nature of the First World War that every young man no matter his military skill or experience was called upon to service his King and country. Alfred was one such young man who joined up and lost his life in Mesopotamia.

Alfred enlisted in Northampton and served as a Private in the Royal Army Medical Corps within the 40th Field Ambulance. Exactly two years on from the assassination of the Archduke Franz Ferdinand, at the aged of 20 Alfred "died" - 28th June 1916. Alfred is buried in Amara War Cemetery in modern day Iraq in plot XX11. B. 1.

A Field Ambulance was a medical unit and each army division was served by three Field Ambulances, each containing 224 men and 10 officers. The job descriptions of a Field Ambulance Private varied from cook, washerman, orderly to wagon orderly and stretcher bearer. The 40th Field Ambulance was assigned to the 13th (Western) Division who began a move to Mesopotamia on the 12th of February 1916. The division was involved in the attempts to relieve Kut which were unsuccessful.

Before enlisting, Alfred lived in Olney with his parents at 30 Weston Road. His father William was employed as a basket maker and was originally from Harrold in Bedfordshire where he was born. His mother Eliza was born in Scaldwell, Northamptonshire and the couple had 5 children of which 3 were still living in 1911. The 1911 census reveals that 30 Weston Road contained 4 rooms including the kitchen and sons Alfred aged 15 and Ernest aged 9 were living at home. It was during this period that Alfred was ringing at St Peters and St Pauls, Olney.

In 1901 the family, residing at 30 Weston Road, included parents, elder brother William J aged 19 also a Wicker basket maker, Alfred age 5 and his cousin 12 year old Eliza Dickens. Ten years earlier the 1891 census records reveal that the family was still residing at 30 Weston Road and father William was employed as a basket maker, their son William J was just 9 years old and Eliza their niece was aged 2. Going back a further 10 year the 1881 census records reveal the young couple living further down the road at number 46, William aged 24 and employed as a basket maker and his wife is age 20, at this point there are no children.

### Arthur Jones – Maids Moreton

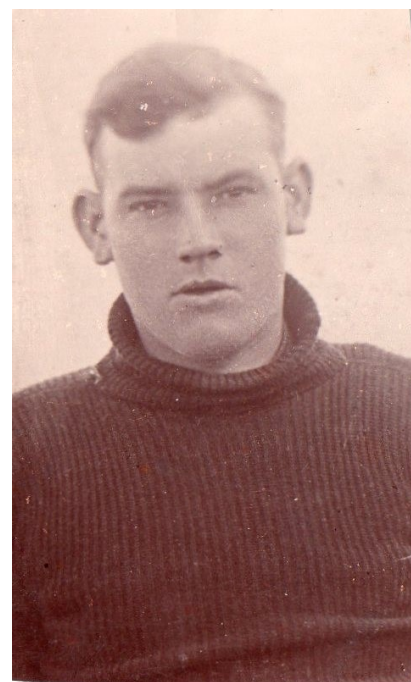
Temperatures in England in the summer of 1911 rose to a record breaking 100 degrees Fahrenheit, indeed the summer of 1911 was to become one of the hottest of the twentieth century. Even then concern was mounting at the military ambition of the German Kaiser, a subject Winston Churchill, then home secretary was said to have discussed with his peers.

Amongst the labourers working on the farms in rural Buckinghamshire during that long, dry and hot summer were brothers Herbert and Arthur Jones. Both Arthur and his younger brother Tom were ringers at St Edmunds, Maids Moreton perhaps other members of the family including Herbert were also ringers.

There were four of the seven children born to George and Eliza Jones living at home in Duck Lake, Maids Moreton when the 1911 census was taken. Unfortunately one had died before the census was taken. Father George was employed by the Coal Hawker as a labourer (description supplied by son Herbert who completed the form on behalf of his father). In the 1901 census his occupation was described as Horse Keeper to Coal Merchant. The family had lived in the street known as Duck Lake since at least 1891 in one of the Robbins Cottages. The home had 4 rooms including the kitchen.

On the 1st July 1916 Arthur found himself serving with the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Oxford & Bucks Light Infantry in the infamous Battle of the Somme, his battalion were on duty in the Zillebeke trenches near Ypres, on the second day of the battle Arthur died of wounds and was one of 12 men and officers to die during the 3 week period the Battalion were on duty in that area.

Arthur was buried in the Ypres Reservoir Cemetery. The cemetery register records the following information "*Jones Pte A. W., 12719 6<sup>th</sup> Bn. Oxf. and Bucks. Light Inf. Died of wounds 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1916. Age 25. Son of George and Eliza Jones of Ducks' Lake, Maids Moreton, Buckingham. I. C. 23.*" The records also show that the family requested the words "Peace Perfect Peace" to be added to the grave stone.



Picture of Arthur Jones

### **Frederick Thomas Willis - Hanslope**

Except for the words "He was also a member of the band of church bellringers " within the Bucks Standard newspaper report we would not have known that Frederick was a ringer at St James the Great Church, Hanslope. The remainder of the article reads: "Private Frederick Thomas Willis, Bucks Battalion, Oxford & Bucks L. I. The only son of Mrs Cook of Hanslope, was we much regret to learn killed in action in France on the night of the 19<sup>th</sup>". Frederick was born in Hanslope on the 19<sup>th</sup> February 1893 and was baptised at St James the Great Church on the 30<sup>th</sup> July 1893. He was the eldest child and only son of Mary Jane and Thomas Willis, he had two younger sisters Elsie and Amy.

In 1901 his mother Mary was a 33 year old widow living with her son Frederick and two daughters at Church End, Hanslope, no occupation was given for her on the census record. Following Thomas's death his mother remarried to Frederick W Cook in 1905 and a year later added another daughter to the family - Minnie Cook. In 1911 Frederick Willis he was 18 years of age and was employed as a Body Maker at the L & N W railway and was living with his Mother and stepfather in house on the High Street, Hanslope which had 5 rooms excluding the kitchen.

A few years later Frederick enlisted at Aylesbury and served in the 2<sup>nd</sup> first Bucks Battalion of the Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry, he was Killed in Action on the 19<sup>th</sup> July 1916. The long long trail website advises that the service of the 2<sup>nd</sup> First Battalion was the same as the 2<sup>nd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion. A history of the 2<sup>nd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion shows that an offensive to hold German reserves opposite XI Corps was ordered for the 19<sup>th</sup> July, although this objective was achieved the memoirs relate the cost " *That object achieved, but at the cost of severe casualties to the divisions engaged, which were launched in daylight after artillery preparations, which results proved to have been inadequate, against a trench-system strongly manned and garrisoned by very numerous machine guns.*" It is probable that Frederick died during this attack.

The sacrifice of 23 year old Frederick is recorded on panel 83 to 85 of the Loos Memorial. The memorial bears of the names of 20,000 men who have no known grave, who fell in the area from the River Lye to the old southern boundary of the First Army, east and west of Grenay.

### **George Reginald Brown - Chicheley**

Life for the Browns of Chicheley could not have been easy Martha was widowed in 1892 when her husband Thomas Charles Brown, known as Charles died aged about 37. At this time Martha had 6 children including George Reginald who was under two and was either expecting her youngest son Matthew or had just given birth to him. The 1901 census reveals that the Martha was surviving on "parish relief" supplemented with the wages of the older children. The boys William, Ernest and John were employed as ordinary agricultural labourers and Beatrice aged 13 as a general domestic servant. Daughter Sarah was employed as a live in domestic general servant by 73 year old widow Jane Tarry of 12 St John's Street, Newport Pagnell.

The 1911 census reveals that there were a total of 8 children born to Martha, one had passed away. Youngest son Matthew completed the census return confirming four of Martha's sons were single and living at home. William and John were employed as "cowman on Farm" and George and Matthew were agricultural labourers. The family home was very small and had 3 rooms excluding the kitchen.

George was one of the first lads from the village to enlist and did so at Bedford, he joined the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Bedford Regiment. The war diaries for the Bedford Regiment show that in late July 1916 the regiment was stationed at Pommiers redoubt near Mametz. The diaries show that 22 NCOs and men were killed on the 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> July and over 200 were injured, George was amongst those that died. It is likely that he fought in some of the infamous battles of the First World War including "Second battle of Ypres" where the regiment fought at Hill 60 in 1915 and the Battle of the Somme in 1916 with attacks on High Wood and Longueval during July.

On the 18th August 1916 the Buckingham Standard reported " *The Army council have sent a letter of condolence to Mrs. W. Brown (widow of Charles Brown) of Chicheley, following the death in action of her fourth son Private Reginald Brown, of the Bedfordshire Regiment. He was killed on July 31st, and would have been 26 years of age had he lived until last Friday. Private Brown was the first of Chicheley's band of patriots to volunteer for service when the war broke out, at which time he was employed in the stables at Chicheley Hall. Having been at the front for 17 months he had seen much hard fighting, and his last letter to his mother was written on the eve of his death. He was much respected in his native village and was formerly a member of the church choir and also a bellringer.*"

George's body has never been recovered and his name is recorded on the Thiepval Memorial, the memorial to the Missing of the Somme which bears the names of 72,000 officers and men.

*Linda Maycroft*



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## OXFORD DAY TRIP, SATURDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> APRIL 2016.

It was a lovely day in Oxford; the sun shone, it was slightly chilly and the bells rang. Thirty-four people attended with three non-ringers.

We had a great time exploring the different towers, with their hidden doors, secret stair cases, stone steps, metal stairs and vertical ladders to climb. Crawling under and climbing over beams to reach the ringing rooms. Finding our way into Lincoln College and seeing places that very few people get to see.

At St. Giles we could watch the bellows working behind the organ as the organist drowned us out with Widor's Toccata and Fugue in D minor.

There was time for lunch, a cup of tea and we found a lovely ice cream shop with some interesting flavours to try. The range of ringing was from Rounds and Call Changes, up to Grandsire Cinques and Grandsire Caters and included many old favourites like Bristol, Cambridge and Stedman. Everyone had the opportunity to ring at each tower, whatever their ability, and we enjoyed ringing on such prestigious bells.

A thoroughly enjoyable day - just watch out next time for the gentleman who will take a fancy to any bag that is unattended (Roy Keeves)!

A big thank you to Hilary and Gary for organising the event. Thank you also to Michele Winter and Ryan Mills for the unlocking and locking up of all of the towers. Thanks to Claire, Claire and Lucy who joined us from York minster, and finally thanks to Barry, Doug and Graham for their leadership and management.

*Tracey Fields*



*Photograph taken by Steve Thomason outside St. Giles.*



### **Distinguished Member—Brian Baldwin**

Congratulations to Brian Baldwin who was elected as a Distinguished Member by the Oxford Diocesan Guild at its AGM on Saturday 21st May.

Brian has been the tower captain at Woughton-on-the-Green for forty years and has made many contributions to ringing in the North Bucks Branch during this time, most recently nurturing a new band at Wavendon after the Big Ring Pull.

*Gary Reading*

### **A Maids Moreton Celebration**

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May saw a celebration of ringing, food and drink at Maids Moreton Church, bringing together the local band, its new ringers and various trainers.

What were we celebrating? Well, the last edition of In Touch contained a report of a very successful Open Day which elicited a lot of interest in ringing. In all we had twelve recruits who were available to learn in February and a lucky 13<sup>th</sup> learner was picked up from Shenley. Whilst obviously a fantastic response, it also resulted in much scratching of heads in the planning meeting in the pub – how on earth were we going to capitalise on this bounty? The traditional way of teaching wasn't going to work so we decided to do something completely different; we'd take intensive teaching to the extreme and commit to getting everyone up to ringing rounds on three within a month. This being a leap year February gave us 29 days!

Armed with two rings of bells (Stowe and Maids Moreton) and the availabilities of the new recruits (who committed 10 hours of their time during the month) two days of phone calls drummed up 16 bell handling teachers who could cover the 130 hours of teaching required. As well as people from North Bucks we had teachers coming from Towcester Branch, the Bedfordshire Association and the Chiltern Branch of the ODG. A big thank you to all our teachers for travelling so far, so often, to help us out. Each ringer was taught using the Learning the Ropes scheme which allowed progress to be monitored and teachers to quickly understand what had been taught and what needed to be worked on during each session. Finally, there was an unlimited supply of cakes, biscuits and liquid refreshments available thanks to Georgie and Laurence.



During the last week of the month bells were untied. Seven of our learners could ring rounds on six unaided and during the following weeks further one-on-one sessions were arranged to help those who needed a bit longer to get the hang of it. Out of our thirteen recruits, one has decided that ringing is not for them whilst two others joined us on Saturday who are taking a break for unexpected personal reasons. We are looking forward to them rejoining the band when circumstances allow.

The bells are ringing every week at Stowe and Maids Moreton allowing the keenies to have two practices a week and others to attend at least one practice, depending on their work and family schedules. Practices are busy and lively. Missing a couple of weeks it was wonderful to see how much progress everyone is still making. All are now ringing rounds on six, with a number practising call changes. Witness the recent St George's Day wave; two of our new recruits rang call changes continuously for 30 minutes.

To the future. Plans are fluid but there will be a gradual introduction to the bells of Buckingham in order to get a regular practice going there again. In addition, there are plans to re-start practices at Whittlebury and even for an outing in the Autumn. To think, we brought the handbells along to the Open Day to fill the vast amounts of time we thought no-one would be there ... how pleasantly wrong we were.

*Lesley Belcher*

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## A Trip to Dordrecht

In February I was very fortunate to accompany my son Simon and the St Paul's Cathedral Guild of Ringers and friends on their Peal weekend to Dordrecht, Netherlands.

In a small building (t'Klokhuis) next to the main church in Dordrecht is the only English style ring of bells in the Netherlands. They are a light ring of eight bells (Tenor 1-2-7 in G) but because of the innovative way they are hung they feel more like 5 or 6 cwt with a peal speed of approx. 2hrs 35mins. The nearest comparison I can make are bells of Downs Barn, Milton Keynes but obviously lighter. By adding weights to the bell wheels (see picture below) this has helped to make the bells feel heavier. Whilst the bells have conventional stays the sliders are of rope which reduces the noise a conventional slider would make and also means the stay comes in contact with something with a `bit more give' I guess to reduce broken stays.

The set of eight bells were cast as part of a set of bells for a carillon but were discarded by the founder. A Dutch bellringer, Paul da Kok, purchased them from the foundry and decided to install them with great care and innovation for full circle ringing in the town of Dordrecht in the Netherlands.



**Picture of the bells**



**Picture of `t'Klokhuis'**

The building they are housed in `t'Klokhuis' is a few metres from the foot of the tower of the main church in Dordrecht. In the building, next to the ground floor ringing-chamber is a small area for refreshments etc. including a small kitchen and toilet.

`t'Klokhuis' has been set up as a ringing centre for groups of ringers looking for a break where they can combine ringing with socialising and sightseeing in the beautiful Dutch town of Dordrecht and the surrounding area. Paul and his son, Harm Jan de Kok, are excellent hosts providing food, drink and hospitality at the ringing centre together with sharing their knowledge of the city and local area. Apart from the formal timetable of peals rung on the weekend whilst we were there, a number of informal quarter peals were rung, often late in the evening and after the bellringers had been suitably lubricated!

The bells are almost inaudible from the outside so do not serve to `call the people to worship'. Although the building housing the `t'Klokhuis' ringing centre is next to the church it has no formal connection with the church. Even the main church towers in the Netherlands are under the jurisdiction of the local council not the church. I was informed this dates back to the time when Napoleon commandeered all church towers for military purposes, after which they were never handed back to the church!

The main church tower in Dordrecht is a massive structure dating from 1339 rising about 75 meters (about 250 feet) above the town.

Continued overleaf...



## Picture of Tower

The tower houses the largest Carillon of Europe, 16 bells having recently been added to the carillon and now the carillon consists of a total of 67 bells, the heaviest bell weighing 9.5 tons. During our visit we were fortunate enough to watch the Carilloner perform a recital including a rendition of 'Rule Britannia' (for a recording of this please go to YouTube and search 'Dordrecht Carilloner Rule Britannia')



The bells used on a Sunday to 'call people to worship' are the four heaviest bells of the carillon (swung by electric motors) which boom out across the city from the massive tower. Views from the top of the tower give a splendid view of the city and surrounding areas.

### View from top of tower

The 't'Klokhuis' ringing centre is an excellent facility for change ringers in a beautiful Dutch city. Perhaps the ideal location for a branch outing/visit?

*Nick Read*

## NEWS FROM EMBERTON

### A visit from the local School

In March, we hosted a visit by the children of Emberton School, as part of their theme "What's on our Doorstep". The children (aged 4-7 years) were full of enthusiasm learning about the bells and how and why they are rung. After some colouring activities, and looking closely at our small bell in the ringing chamber cast by Bowen of London, they all had a go at chiming the treble and tenor.



### Doubles Workshop

Encouraged by the success of other towers, we decided to arrange a Ringing Workshop to focus on Doubles. This was particularly with Jackie, Jill and Maureen in mind, as it is sometimes tricky to give everyone enough practice on our regular Tuesday evening.

We booked All Saints' Church for Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April, laid on the refreshments, and started bright and early on 16<sup>th</sup> April with nine helpers to assist. It was a busy two hours, but we

all agreed afterwards it had been a good session, with progress being made. We then rounded off the morning with a convivial lunch at The Cowpers Oak at Weston Underwood.

### Branch Rope Splicing Workshop Saturday 7 May at Emberton

Having found there was a need for more people who could splice bell ropes in the Branch, Alan Marchbank put us in touch with Len Palfrey, who is a member of the Guild Towers and Belfries Committee.

Nine delegates signed up for our Rope Splicing Course, and we met at All Saints, Emberton, for some tuition. Doug Hird had kindly supplied some rope for practice, and on Len's advice we were all armed with marlin spikes and fids (and a first aid kit)!

Len demonstrated a short splice and then we all set to work..... He was fully employed helping us, and after a lot of laughter and some frustration, in the end we were all successful! After enjoying a good lunch at the Cowpers Oak, Weston Underwood, we returned and Len demonstrated a long splice for us to try at home.

Our thanks to everyone who came and made the day so entertaining, and particular thanks to Len Palfrey for being such a good tutor.



*Sheila Watts*

## Great Linford

Firstly thanks to you all for providing the grant towards the cost of our new ropes. I have to say ropes are not cheap! (were they ever or am I just getting old?)

I researched the choices quite extensively before deciding on Mendip ropes and selecting man-made tops with hemp tail-ends.

The tops are made from Dyneema, a 3 strand rope which is surrounded by a braid, so it looks a lot like a climbing rope (or an old fashioned electric iron flex). The Dyneema is sold as "lasts forever" and the ropes came with extra top-end to allow for splicing new tails on in the future. The ropes are free of stretch. Hemp tails is a return to the material I remember from the '70s and I hope marks an end to the soft, crumbling demise experienced too often with flax tail-ends – I lets see.

Being smooth on the outside, Dyneema is very smooth-running and almost silent in use - very strange when you are use to the "buzz" created by a normal rope running through bosses and over pulley sheaves.

*Alan Marchbank*

## Easter at St Andrews, Gt Linford

After the very quiet and sombre Holy Week, Easter Sunday started early and with bells!  
The start of British Summer Time coinciding with Easter Day made it tough to get out of bed (at what felt like 5am) to be at church for the 6:30 BST for the start of the Dawn Service, but six ringers were there!  
The Service started in darkness with only candlelight for the congregation to see by. The sun lit the east window just as the Resurrection was proclaimed at 6:50 and bells rang out to welcome the Dawn and Easter Day.

Communion followed and at about 7:20 a nice touch of Grandsire Doubles concluded the Service, preceding a simple breakfast which was enjoyed by all.

It's not the first time we have rung following a Dawn service, but is the first time we have included bells as part of the service to announce the Resurrection

*Alan Marchbank*

## Inter-Branch Joint Practice and Striking Competition



### FANCY A BBQ?

**When?** Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July

**Where?** Cross & Stable, Downs Barn

**Why?** The Inter-Branch Joint Practice and Striking Competition with Towcester

The provisional timetable for the afternoon is:

3:30pm - 5:00pm Joint Practice

4:30pm - 6:00pm BBQ – price tbc

6:00pm - 8:00pm Striking Competition

Put the date in your diary now. More details to follow.

Any queries to [hilary@thereadings.co.uk](mailto:hilary@thereadings.co.uk)



## Guild 8-bell completion — Chieveley

The Guild 8-bell competition was held this year at Chieveley a few miles this side of Newbury. These are a manageable ring of eight, if a bit loud with some odd-struck bells. At least we could hear them to work round that.

The plan was to have virtually no plan. After assessing the level of challenge posed by going for a quarter of Little Bob Major at Newport one Sunday, an effort was made to reinforce the band by adding experience. The result was a band that needed minimal conductor input with the method or striking. Some preparation was needed with calling the touch. It was the standard Bob Major touch of wrong, 3 before, middle and home, doubled up with singles half way and end. We don't ring Little Bob that much though and the calls come close together, especially when compared to Surprise Major. So it is easy to miss one. It was useful to write out the whole thing to appreciate that.

On the day, we were drawn last so we didn't have to rush down. However, those that did were greeted by a splendid ringers' tea laid on by the locals. We were dragged away from that to have our photo taken before ringing. Perhaps they thought we were going to run off afterwards but we still had cake to eat.

The ringing went as well as could be expected. There were only a couple of minor method mistakes and a bit of confusion half way when the loudness of the bells got the better of the conductor. The first target is to bring the touch round so that was a good start.

Returning to our cakes we waited for the judges, Alan Shepherd and John Harrison, to deliver the results :-

Ringing order	Band	Placing	Faults	Judges' Comments
1	High Wycombe	3rd	20	The ringing sounded uneasy and didn't settle but there were several good patches.
2	Tilehurst	7th	34	Rounds good but lost the rhythm going into changes and never really settled. Second half better than the first.
3	St Aldate's Oxford	5th	28	Settled down well and was going well until the fire-up. It recovered but didn't really settle down again.
4	Newbury Branch	2nd	18	Good rounds but unsettled going into changes. Second half better than first.
5	Banbury Branch	6th	29	Consistent but not confident. Lots of rushed leads. Second half not as good as the first half.
6	ODG Youth Team	8th	44	Band obviously not comfortable with the method. The result would have been much better without the faults from method mistakes. The last few leads settled down well.
7	EBSB Branch	1st	14	Confident ringing. The last few leads were very good.
8	North Bucks	4th	23	Good ringing except for the crunch at the half-way single. It didn't really settle afterwards.

Being a North Bucks band, we finished with a quick drink in the pub. The only branch to do so.

Thanks to all the band for taking part and for Alan being first reserve.

*Doug Hird*

## The Ringing Wave



*Let's hear you!*

**That was the challenge and the bells from across North Bucks certainly responded. On the Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April bell ringers from all of over the branch turned out to ring the bells of 33 towers in a ringing wave of sound. They rang out to celebrate England's patron saint St George and to raise funds for ART and the ODG's Bell Fund.**

The day began at Thornborough the branches only steel ring of 5 bells, at 9.30am and the ringers completed 30 minutes of ringing.

15 minutes later the bells in Buckingham could be heard. As the ringers at Thornborough stood their bells the visitors to the National Trust's Capability Brown Gardens at Stowe had an extra special treat when the bells at the local parish church rang out promptly at 10 o'clock. So the pattern was set, the beautiful bells at Shallstone were next to ring and oh what a beautiful ring of 5 they are. The bells at Lillingstone Lovell were next followed by some special ringing at Maids Moreton, where the branches newest recruits who joined following the very successful New Year Open Day rang the bells, well done to each one of them!

Leckhamstead and Beachampton followed before the sound of Church bells reached Milton Keynes, and the rolling ring weaved its way around them incorporating the surrounding villages as it headed east towards the M1: Bradwell, Loughton, Shenley Church End, Whaddon, Newton Longville, Calverton (following a wedding that took place within the church), Great Brickhill, Downs Barn, Simpson, Woughton-on-the Green, Wavendon, Milton Keynes Village and Great Linford.

Finally the sound of bells crossed the busy M1 to Newport Pagnell before travelling on through North Crawley, Chicheley, Sherington, Emberton (where the Mayoress of Milton Keynes paid the ringers a special visit), Clifton Reynes, Lavendon before reaching Olney, the home of the famous pancake race.

While no one is quite certain how the world famous Pancake Race at Olney started a couple of the stories are linked to the church bells: One story tells of a harassed housewife, hearing the shiving bell, dashing to the Church still clutching her frying pan containing a pancake. Another tells that the gift of pancakes may have been a bribe to the Ringer, or Sexton that he might ring the bell sooner; for ringing the bell signalled the beginning of the day's holiday and enjoyment, no less than to summon the people to the service at which they would be shriven of their sins before the long Lenten feast.

After Olney the wave of sound turned back west travelling through Weston Underwood, Tryingham, Stoke Goldington before arriving at Hanslope. Hanslope's historic tower can be seen from miles around, indeed if you are lucky enough to climb the tower on a clear day, you can see all the way to the Dunstable Downs. The day's ringing ended at 7.45pm but in true bell ringing style the ringers retired to the local pub for a celebratory drink!

An amazing £743 has so been collection. Thank you to everyone who helped organise such a successful day – Well done!!!!

*Linda Maycroft*

# Images from around the North Bucks Branch Ringing Wave



## Great Brickhill

Here is a photo of the ringers at Great Brickhill who took part in the ringing wave for St George's Day. We successfully completed a Quarter Peal of Plain Bob Minor.

*Rosemary Howell*

## GATE Group – Stoke Goldington and Weston Underwood

Our thanks to Linda Maycroft for providing a band to ring at Weston Underwood. We are told the village enjoyed hearing them being rung. At Stoke Goldington five of the local band, with the support of ringing friends, all took part and a full half hour of continuous ringing was achieved.

*Sheila Ware*



## Emberton

Well, we did our bit for St George's Wave on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, and had some fun doing it! We decided it was going to be a 'whole band' experience, rather than just six of us ringing continuously. So nearly everyone from the band was able to turn up and all had a ring to contribute towards the Wave. Phil kept four bells ringing constantly (either the back four or the front four), and asked others to join in. After the obligatory photo (of us waving....) some then went on to support other towers later in the Wave.

*Sheila Watts*

## Lillingstone Lovall

Back Row L to R: Michael Dancer, Aidan Butcher, Tim Lowe  
Front Row L to R: Malcolm Jones, Bernard Phillips, Robin Culley

*Malcolm Jones*



## Leckhampstead Church

*Nicki Stutchbury*

## Stowe

*Bob Christopher*





**St. Lawrence, Bradwell**

All went well, we rang rounds for our learner and finished with a nice 120 of plain Bob doubles.

*Emily Guinness*



**Maids Moreton**

A confession – Maids Moreton stuck to call changes BUT the two youngsters in the picture (Ethan Wray and Beth Hallett) lasted the full 30 minutes, having only been recruited in February as a result of Maids Moreton’s much publicised New Year’s Open Day. We are very, very grateful to the ART members and others who helped so much after that event.

*Bob Christopher*



**Shenley**

*John Brookman*



**Newport Pagnell**

*Doug Hird*



**Sherington**

*Doug Hird*

**Hanslope**

*Gary Reading*





**Milton Keynes Village**



**Loughton**  
*Anne McIntyre*



**North Crawley**  
*Anne McIntyre*



**Shalstone**  
*Anne McIntyre*



**Thornborough**  
*Anne McIntyre*



**Weston Underwood**  
*Anne McIntyre*

#####

Bob Doubles, Grandsire Doubles, Plain Hunt and Call Changes Practice,

1st Friday of every month

St. Mary's, Whaddon

19:40—20:00

All welcome!

*\*\*\*The next practice is Friday 1st July\*\*\**

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HANSLOPE

The main focus of activity continues to be our Bell Restoration Project. Our latest event is detailed below.

HANSLOPE OPEN GARDENS & FESTIVAL OF FLOWERS

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June from 10.30 am to 5.30 pm & Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June from 1.30 pm to 5.30pm

Car parking, entry tickets and refreshments at the Village Hall, Newport Road, Hanslope

Tickets £6.00 each - valid for all weekend

There will be fifteen gardens open around the village and over twenty flower displays in the church

Please do come along and support us, it promises to be a magnificent event. All the money raised over the weekend will go to the Hanslope Bell Restoration Project.

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Branch Summer Social and Striking Competition at Wavendon

18 Jun 2016 17:00 - 20:30

St Mary's, Walton Road, Wavendon, Buckinghamshire, MK17 8LW

Branch Summer Social and Striking Competition at Wavendon

DATE 18 Jun 2016 TIME 17:00 - 20:30 LOCATION St Mary's, Walton Road, Wavendon, Buckinghamshire, MK17 8LW ADD TO CALENDAR

This year's summer social and striking competition is at Wavendon (6 bells). It would be good to see as many towers as possible enter a band, just ring what you are happy with - call changes or a method.

- 17:00 to 18:00 - Ringing for all along with tea and cakes
18:00 to 20:30 - Striking Competition

Names for tea to Patricia Rosewell, email guildrep2@northbucksbranch.org.uk, mobile 07740 774624 by Friday 11th June.

The rules for the six-bell striking competition can be found here.





## Quarter Peals

### **Calverton, Buckinghamshire**

Saturday, 12 March 2016

#### **1260 Stedman Doubles**

1. Roy Keeves
2. Nicholas Gray
3. Philip M Haslam
4. Harvey Welch
5. Anthony Gray (C)
6. Ian Thompson

*First in method 4*

### **Hanslope, Buckinghamshire**

St James the Great

Sunday, 17 April 2016 in 47 mins (22 cwt)

#### **1260 Plain Bob Triples**

1. Tracy Fields
  2. Lydia Bates
  3. Brian Berry
  4. Alan Cozens
  5. Lesley Belcher
  6. Nick Gray
  7. Tony Gray [C]
  8. Roy Keeves
- First on 8 bells: 1

*Rung for Sunday service and as an 80th birthday compliment to Alan & Shirley Cozens*

### **Padbury**

Sunday, 13 March 2016

#### **1260 Grandsire Doubles**

1. Nicki Stuchbury
2. Helen Stanworth
3. Richard Stanworth (C)
4. John Stanworth
5. David Goodger
6. Graham Gulliver

*Rung half-muffled in memory of Private Sidney George Beckett, 6th Battalion, Oxford & Bucks Light Infantry, killed in action, 5th March 1916.*

### **Padbury**

Sunday, 17 April 2016

#### **1260 Grandsire Doubles**

1. Vicky Stanworth
2. Helen Stanworth
3. Catherine Stanworth
4. John Stanworth
5. Richard Stanworth (C)
6. Michael Tinsley

*Rung open in celebration of the life of Elizabeth Mary Stanworth, 19 May 1920 - 17 March 2016. Mother of 5, grandmother of 1,3 and 4*

**Hanslope, Buckinghamshire**

St James the Great  
Thursday, 5 May 2016

**1296 Cambridge Minor**

1. Roy Keeves
2. Gary Reading
3. Brian Berry
4. Ian Thompson
5. Mick Nimmo
6. Tony Gray [C]

*Rung for Ascension Day*

**Old Wolverton**

Holy Trinity  
22nd April 2016

**600 Plain Bob Doubles and 660 Grandshire Doubles**

1. Wendy Price
2. Ian Thompson
3. Roy Keeves
4. James Woodcock
5. Michael Nimmo (C)
6. David Moore

*Rung to celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of  
HM Queen Elizabeth II*

**St Mary's Church, Shenley Church End**

On Thursday 21st April 2016

**A Quarter Peal of 1260 St Clements College Bob Minor**

1. Linda Maycroft
2. Anne McIntyre
3. Becky Fawcett
4. Edward Fawcett
5. Graham Bartholomew
6. John Brookman (C)  
(1<sup>st</sup> in Minor as C)

*Rung to celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of  
HM Queen Elizabeth II*



*Shenley ringers who completed a quarter peal for Her Majesty the Queen on her 90th Birthday  
Back row L-R— John Brookman, Linda Maycroft  
Front row L-R—Anne McIntyre, Becky Fawcett, Edward Fawcett, Graham Bartholomew*