



# In Touch

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

## Editorial

Hello and a warm welcome to the August and September edition of In Touch.

Included is your news from around the branch, and further afield, including the ever useful dates for your diary, and a wide array of interesting and informative articles submitted by fellow branch members.

If you have anything to share with branch, no matter how small or great, please let me know; every effort will be made to include your article.

As ever, a thank you to all who have contributed, whose input make this newsletter possible; without your contributions this would be a sad little effort indeed.

Please read on and enjoy...

*Phillip Starr*  
Editor—In Touch

## Dates for your diary...

Date	Time	Event	Location
Fri 2 Sep 2016	19:40 to 21:00	Bob doubles, grandsire doubles, plain hunt and call changes practice	Whaddon
Sat 17 Sep 2016	15:30 to 19:30	Branch Practice, Chairmans' Cup & Autumn Meeting	Bletchley
Mon 26 Sep 2016	19:30 to 21:00	8/10 bell practice	Olney
Fri 7 Oct 2016	19:40 to 21:00	Bob doubles, grandsire doubles, plain hunt and call changes practice	Whaddon
Sat 15 Oct 2016	TBC	Branch Training Course	TBC
Mon 24 Oct 2016	19:30 to 21:00	8/10 bell practice	Olney
Fri 4 Nov 2016	19:40 to 21:00	Bob doubles, grandsire doubles, plain hunt and call changes practice	Whaddon
05 Nov 2016 to 13 Nov 2016		Branch Quarter Peal Week	
Mon 28 Nov 2016	19:30 to 21:00	8/10 bell practice	Olney
Fri 2 Dec 2016	19:40 to 21:00	Bob doubles, grandsire doubles, plain hunt and call changes practice	Whaddon
Sat 10 Dec 2016	TBC	Branch Practice and Christmas Social	Lillingstone Lovell

## Next edition...

Please have all submissions to [newslettereditor@northbucksbranch.org.uk](mailto:newslettereditor@northbucksbranch.org.uk) no later than Friday 4th of November to be included in the next In Touch.

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## RAISING FUNDS FOR THE BRANCH BELL FUND

The Branch Bell Fund has now been set up, and already one grant has been paid. Two further grants have been awarded and are awaiting finishing of the projects before being paid.

At our Annual General Meeting in March, members discussed how new funds might be raised to top up the fund, to enable it to grow and be able to assist more towers in the future. A suggestion was made that a levy of £2 should be put on the annual adult Guild membership subscription, so the levy of £2 goes directly to the Branch Bell Fund. The Branch Officers have discussed this proposal, and with your agreement, would like to implement it with the 2017 subscription. The junior subscription would remain unchanged.

Based on current adult membership levels, this would add approximately £380 to the Branch Bell Fund each year. It should be noted that the Guild set their subscription level annually in November, and it has been £8 since 2013. (So every time the Guild subscription goes up, the £2 levy will continue to be applied.)

If the proposal is adopted, the breakdown of the subscription (at current Guild levels) will be:

	<b>Amount</b>	<b>To Guild</b>	<b>To Branch (running costs)</b>	<b>To Branch (Bell Fund)</b>
<b>Current Adult subscription</b>	£8.00	£5.00	£3.00	£0.00
<b>Proposed Adult subscription</b>	£10.00	£5.00	£3.00	£2.00
<b>Junior subscription (no change)</b>	£6.00	£5.00	£1.00	£0.00

This proposal will be discussed at the Branch September meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> September, which is open to all. Please come along!

*Sheila Watts*

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## Ringling Workshop – ringing plain methods

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October

If you're interested in ringing or conducting plain methods beyond Plain Bob then why not come to our Branch Workshop on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October.

The workshop will give you plenty of practice at ringing new methods with experienced ringers.

For those who would like to consolidate their learning after the workshop we will endeavour to organise follow-up quarter peals during the Branch Quarter Peal week in November.

For more information or to register your interest please contact Ann Birch ([ann.birch23@gmail.com](mailto:ann.birch23@gmail.com)) or Lesley Belcher ([lesley.belcher@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:lesley.belcher@tiscali.co.uk))

*Lesley Belcher*

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## Bob Winstanley

For those of you who knew Bob Winstanley you might be interested to read a few paragraphs describing his ringing life, which Derek Stainsby asked him to write, knowing that he had no close living relatives:

*Bob was awarded a scholarship in modern history at St. Edmund Hall, Oxford, but first completed National Service in the RAF (as a Senior Aircraftman Fire Engine Driver Shorthand Typist). While at university he started ringing both on the six at Eastham in Wirral and on the two beginners' sixes at St. Thomas and St. Mary Magdalen with the OUSCR. He retained happy memories of Bill Jackson's ringing up and down in peal practices and of outings by bicycle or punt. His regret was that he was not capable of benefitting from the leadership of Bill or of Steven Ivin, who achieved a great improvement in the university band's surprise major.*

*After joining Boots as a computer system designer (an area in which he remained for the rest of his very varied career) he took over a struggling band at West Bridgford, Nottingham, and rang at most of the local towers until he returned to the Wirral as an IT manager for a departmental store group. He found that he most enjoyed the training aspects of his work and took an opportunity to join a new computer training group at Rolls Royce in Derby; his ringing was now based at the old 8 at Melbourne, where the ropes fell among the choir stalls. After the crisis at Rolls he was able to remain in the Derby area and it was in this period that he rang most of his 130 peals with Jack Chadwick's band, culminating with 8-spliced major.*

*Alas he lost a long struggle to avoid working in London and moved home to Milton Keynes, just when Bob Smith set up his works at Melbourne and Rev. Frederick Ross became parish priest, so he missed the conversion of the ring to the 12 in front of the chancel arch. His towers were now the sixes at Loughton and Shenley and at certain periods he joined Derek Stainsby in helping out the practices at towers such as Whaddon. His ringing suffered from extended periods when he was working in Germany (shipping documentation), Holland (tiny local banks) or Poland (chocolate manufacture) up to his retirement in 1997.*

*By good fortune he was able to join the Chiltern Midweek band, run by that organiser's organiser Micky Ridgway, and to enjoy their two outing days each month plus a number of ringing holidays. Regular quarters were also rung at Dunstable Priory, Tring and Woburn. He set himself a private aim of ringing 1000 post-retirement quarter peals but unfortunately suffered from Parkinson's disease, which together with a bad shoulder brought his score to a halt a little short of 900 and eventually forced him to give up ringing altogether. His other activities in retirement included icon painting and organising the restoration of the 1540 church at Tattenhoe.*

*Derek Stainsby and Gary Reading*

## Ringling World National Youth Competition

The Ringling World National Youth Competition took place in London on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July. This year I was invited to be an assistant judge at the competition, working alongside David Pipe, Julia Cater and Simon Linford with five other assistant judges from all over the country, including Simon Read, another North Bucks ringer. Having competed in the 2013 and 2014 competitions, I was excited to be back for another year of what promised to be a fun-filled day.

With a record 24 teams of young ringers from all over the country taking part, three heats of qualifiers took place in the morning at Garlickhythe, Pimlico, and Dunstan-in-the-West, with the top two teams from each qualifier making it through to the final in the afternoon at St Olave, Hart Street. When the teams were not ringing their test piece they were able to enjoy open ringing at many towers across London and handbells, tea, and cakes at St Mary le Bow throughout the day.

Having never judged a striking competition before I was a little apprehensive as we sat in the organ loft at Garlickhythe waiting for the first team to start their test piece. It was a tiring morning, but we were well looked after, with tea, coffee and sandwiches provided as we sat and listened to each team. After the judging in the morning, I was tasked with writing up the comments for each of the teams, to be delivered later in the afternoon.

The results from both the qualifiers and the final were announced at St Mary le Bow at 5:30pm. Crowds gathered expectantly, and one by one the assistant judges stood up and gave their comments and announced the results. Standing up and giving the comments was definitely the hardest part of the day! The Bedfordshire Young Ringers were the overall winners, with the ODG team coming second to them in the method ringing category.

I thoroughly enjoyed the experience of helping to judge a national striking competition, it's something I'm sure I'll look back on in my ringing career!

*Claire Reading*

## Duke of Edinburgh's award – another reason for young people to keep ringing



Let's face it, bell ringing isn't the coolest hobby for teenagers and for some can become a closet hobby known only to a very few trusted companions. The youngsters of today will be our tower captains and ringing teachers of tomorrow so how can we keep them interested when there are so many other demands on their time.



At Shenley, we have 3 teenagers, at different stages of development who all joined at different times for different reasons but they all have one thing in common, they are all using their time learning to ring or progress in ringing towards their Duke Of Edinburgh Award.

There are two ways that bell ringing can be used for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, one as a skill and the other as a volunteering activity e.g. ringing for Sunday service, other services and weddings. The latter for some is an area where they can often struggle to find suitable opportunities so if they can already ring this is an easy option for them; for those just starting out they could undertake bell ringing as a skill in Bronze then switch to volunteering when undertaking the Silver award.

The Duke of Edinburgh has three levels: Bronze, Silver and Gold, as the young person progresses through the levels they need to spend longer at each activity.

As a Tower Captain you need to work with the young person to set a goal which is achievable yet challenging and this goal will depend on the time and capability of the individual. Our young Silver award ringer as well as ringing to support the church services set herself a goal of ringing a quarter of Cambridge, which she achieved, and learning London; this has spurred older members of the tower to brush up on London with the aim of completing a QP later in the year, it will be a first in method for many of them. Where as our newest member's goal was to learn how to ring and he is now ringing for Sunday service, which has been great over the summer holiday when maintaining ringing can be a bit more challenging.

Young people respond well to variety and encouragement, they especially enjoy the games that ART programmes promote e.g. Mexican wave, stand after x stikes, especially if they stand their bell and a more experience ringer fails! If they are having fun they will keep coming and the Duke of Edinburgh Award is just the icing on the cake.

To find out more about the Duke of Edinburgh scheme visit: <http://www.dofe.org/choosing-activities>

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## Hanslope Tower

The main focus at Hanslope continues to be our Bell Restoration Project. It has become something of a race against the clock to try and raise all the money that is required before the bells and fittings deteriorate to such a point that we have to stop ringing.

We are now nudging up towards £45,000, so we are over half way to our target of approx £80,000.

The village held a very successful Open Gardens and Flower Festival event in June. A total of £2,639.00 was raised over the whole weekend from ticket sales plus refreshments and a plant stall; and all the money raised went to the Bell project.

Our next fund raising events are both being held in Hanslope Church:-

- Saturday 15 October, 2.00pm Afternoon tea with entertainment by Hart & Soul Choir
- Saturday 12 November – Concert by Milton Keynes Brass Band

If anyone would like tickets for either of these events, please contact me. [01908 510105]

Every July, our church holds a Church Open weekend when the church and grounds are filled with many stalls and side shows. The other main attraction of this weekend is that it is the only time when our church tower is open for visitors to climb up and see the view from the battlements.

It is a very popular event, especially when the weather is fine as it was on that weekend, and the 100+ steps does not seem to deter the steady stream of people of all ages who come to climb the tower on both days. This year was no exception, but we had a rather dramatic end to the day on Sunday. It was late in the afternoon and the last few people were going up the tower including an elderly gentleman and his two grown up sons.

A short time later, we had a message to say that one of the sons had collapsed up on the battlements. Fortunately our retired village GP was in the church so he was summoned to attend the casualty and went up the tower, no mean feat for a man in his seventies who had health problems himself.

He decided that the man needed further medical attention so the emergency services were summoned. Soon after this a car arrived with a lady paramedic who was laden with heavy equipment and monitors which all had to be taken up the tower.

Within about ten minutes, a fire engine with extendable ladder, an ambulance and then another fire engine had arrived and parked on the Market Square as none of the vehicles were able to get up the drive to the church. From all these vehicles, various personnel went up the tower until there was a total of nine members of the emergency services up there. Various options were discussed to get the man down the tower, including the use of a body board either to lower him over the side of the tower or possibly through the trap doors in the floors of the tower.

However, by this time it was ascertained that the man had not had a heart attack, as had been at first suspected, and that he had probably fainted due to unaccustomed exertion and the heat. In the event, the man recovered sufficiently to enable him to descend the tower in a sling harness with ropes attached which were held by firemen on the steps behind him to brace him in case of further collapse.

He was later taken to hospital for a precautionary check-up and was then sent home with no lasting effects from his ordeal. Quite an unforeseen ending to the weekend but it was reassuring to see how well the emergency services dealt with what could have been a much more serious incident if it really had been a heart attack.

*Sheila Blenkhorn*



The branch recently hosted a successful ART bell ringing teacher training course at Newport Pagnell, our thanks go to Lesley Belcher who organised the day and liaised with ART to find a great presenter to take members through the course.

If you missed this session and would like to learn more about teaching bell ringing then you may be interested in attending one of the ART courses coming up soon:

3<sup>rd</sup> September – Module 1 at All Saints, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire

1<sup>st</sup> October – Module 2C at Northampton, Northamptonshire

1<sup>st</sup> October – Module 2F at Marsworth Buckinghamshire

15<sup>th</sup> October – Modules 2C at Abingdon, Oxfordshire

15<sup>th</sup> October – Module 1 at Cherry Hinton, Cambridgeshire

To put everything you've learnt into practice you'll need to have someone to teach and a mentor to help you discuss and review your progress as a teacher. Here's a quick overview of what each course covers:

### **Module 1: Teaching Bell Handling**

*Provides you with the skills and techniques necessary to take a ringer from their first lesson to having competent bell control. You will learn through a mixture of practical and classroom sessions:*

- *the theory of teaching a skill,*
- *how to break down bell handling into easy stages that the learner can master,*
- *how to adapt to different learning types,*
- *the different levels of instruction, and*  
*the benefits of intensive teaching.*

### **Module 2F Teaching from Rounds to Plain Hunt**

*Provides you with the skills and techniques necessary to build really good foundation ringing skills in your ringers. The course is designed for anyone involved in teaching a new band where the teacher can personally ring at least plain hunt. Theory sessions will cover:*

- *the importance of approaching teaching in easy, understandable stages,*
- *the critical importance of using effective feedback,*
- *the theory of coaching, and*  
*how to form a strong band.*

*This theory is supported by practical sessions that show how to develop these skills, including how to teach call changes, an exploration of kaleidoscope ringing, and different ways to introduce ringers to covering and plain hunt.*



## Module 2C Teaching Elementary Change Ringing

*Provides you with the skills and techniques necessary to teach from rounds to basic change ringing. As in Module 2F you will learn the importance of approaching teaching in easy, understandable stages, the importance of using effective feedback, the theory of coaching and how to form a strong band.*

*The practical sessions will quickly cover some of the techniques taught in Module 2F, but will concentrate on the development of change ringing skills using exercises and unusual methods to aid learning. The transition from plain hunt to Bob Doubles and/or Bob Minor will be broken down into a number of simpler, shorter steps, making the jump into change ringing both more gradual and understandable to the new ringer.*

Grants are available from the branch towards the cost of the course; applicants should contact the branch Secretary or the Treasurer. It's really easy to book your place using the ART online booking facility just type <https://smartringer.org/public/daycourses> into your browser and select the course you wish to attend and fill in the form.

*Linda Maycroft*

## Learning to ring – how to conquer an erratic rope

Being able to move your hands vertically is one of the secrets of good bell handling, if your rope never seems to go where you want it, your hands are probably not moving vertically. Sounds simple enough but when in life do you ever move your hands vertically, it's not something we get much practice at.

There is a simple exercise that can help.

Untie the rope of a bell that is down and let it hang vertically.

Stand in front of it in the normal ringing position and form a ring around the rope with your hands, so that the thumbs and forefingers are touching at the tips. Depending on the size of your hands, they will make a circle of 4" - 6" across, with the rope in the middle.

Slowly move your hands upwards, making sure that they don't touch the rope. Keep going until your arms are at full stretch. If you can't do this without touching the rope, then perhaps you are standing too far from the rope. Check that it is hanging only a couple of hand breadths in front of your nose, or alternatively try pushing your elbows out at right angles with your body as you bring your hands down, that might help.

Now move your hands slowly down until they are fully extended, still taking care not to touch the rope.

Your hands should now be well below your waist (unless you have very short arms).

When you have got this far, you know that you can move your arms accurately in a vertical line by concentrating.

Now you have to build on that so you can do it without concentrating.

Move your hands back up again to full stretch, then down again.

Each time try to move your hands a little faster, but still make sure you don't touch the rope.

When you can do it with your hands moving quickly, try closing your eyes. Keep practising this until you can do it easily, and you still don't touch the rope. You have now taught yourself what vertical hand movement feels like.

*Adapted from an article in Ringing World 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1999.*

You can repeat this exercise as often as you need, and you don't even need to be in the tower. You could hang up a long piece of rope or cord at home just as well.

*Linda Maycroft*



Now you need to translate your newly found skill into normal ringing. Don't be despondent if at first your old habits reappear. It takes time to unlearn things as well as to learn them. When you are ringing, there are many other things to occupy your mind, but keep reminding your body what the vertical movement feels like, and it should gradually become easier.

A useful ART video on this subject can be viewed on you tube, why not have a look <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yXYnM8gbRyM>

## Teaching Change Ringing – ART Module 2 Course at Olney

On Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June, I attended a Module 2 course at St Peter & St Paul's Church in Olney. Whilst driving over to Olney I was a little apprehensive as although I've been ringing for a number of years, I haven't found learning to ring methods very easy, taking a long time to master and grasp a new method. However, I was confident that my bell handling would not let me down! As a young learner many years ago, my Grandad (as my then Tower Captain) taught me how to handle a bell with confidence.

On arrival at Olney, I was met by Lesley Belcher, who gave me a one of her big smiles which immediately put me at ease, she then told me that although I had asked to attend the course as an observer, she had actually put me down to do the full course! Thanks Lesley, you did the right thing as I didn't have time to panic! I signed in and was given my course pack and then glanced up to see a few familiar faces from a nearby tower.

Our tutor Frank, welcomed us to the course and he gave a brief introduction of what we would be covering. Before I knew it we were then on our way up a very long flight of steps (which by the end of the day, I came to know very well indeed, beautiful view over the surrounding countryside, from one of the windows near the top!) Once in the ringing chamber, I glanced around, having only usually rung on six bells I quickly noticed that this tower had 10 bells, panic moment, how would I cope with 10 bells, but then the person next to me pointed out that we would only be using the front 6... phew! A call for six volunteers to ring the bells up, so in my usual confident way, I stand up and grab a rope, and off we went. My next first was that I had never rung in a tower with a simulator, this was good fun.

Once the bells were up, Frank began his teaching, we rang rounds, followed by some small exercises that involved certain bells being asked to turn round and face the wall whilst ringing so that you had to really listen to your bell and then we were put in groups of three and told to pass the rope to each other whilst maintaining the ringing. This was very useful and in my group of 3, Peter, Lawrence & myself handled this exercise very well. We also tried ringing using a Mexican Wave sequence where neighbouring bells change places for one whole pull, this was fun!

After this practical session we returned down the very long flight of steps for coffee which was then followed by a theory session, including things like running a good practice. Frank highlighted ways in which we could make our sessions more interesting and fun which in the long run would help us retain our new ringers. At 12 o'clock it was time to return to the bell chamber for another practical exercise, this time skill building for Plain Hunt. Frank mentioned different tips for helping the new ringer learn this skill, counting places and rope sight.

Next up was lunch, a lovely spread put on by the ladies of Olney church and much enjoyed by all of us hungry ringers who seemed to have worked up an appetite (must have been those steps!) During lunch we mingled and chatted to each other and then onto the next session, this time another practical session so yes, you guessed it, back up the long flight of steps! Easy steps to Bob Doubles, Frank introduced the ringing of either Bastow Little Court Doubles, Cloisters Doubles or Bayles Doubles prior to going into Bob Doubles. This was interesting and somewhat challenging at times but so worth learning and definitely good for helping a new ringer.

Next up another theory session "Running a Successful tower" Frank stressed that as Tower Captains we should plan our practice in advance, set goals for people, suggest what to learn next and what to learn in the future. He referred to a "Prime Ring" which is to make sure that all your ringers get a go at ringing something of their choice. Be a flexible teacher, maybe try taking your learners to a tower where there is a simulator, monitor your learners progress and give feedback, offer advice on how to improve, this in turn will help them to achieve. Above all be a good communicator, encourage and motivate them. At the end of the course Frank explained about SmART Ringer and that we would be emailed our passwords shortly.

I thoroughly enjoyed this course and feel that I will be able to pass on this knowledge to others in the towers that I ring at.

PS Just to let you know that last night at Lovell, Peter, myself and David G (who was acting tower captain for the evening) tried out Cloisters Doubles with all of us and we moved around the different bells. It was really useful and in particular one of our older ringers who has only been ringing for a few years, really enjoyed it. He has never rung inside to a method before, choosing instead to drum the tenor or ring the treble to plain hunt. He told me that it was the first time he had counted his places and also his first time for dodging! So I'm really pleased that we did it and I think everyone learnt something from it.

*Nicki Stuchbury, Lillingstone Lovel*



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

I was lucky enough to be able to visit the Thiepval memorial in July during a trip to place some flowers on the grave of my Great Great Uncle who was killed during Battle of the Somme 100 years ago. The magnitude of numbers of young men's names on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing who lost their lives during the Battle of the Somme was overwhelming and I count myself lucky that we know where Uncle Tommy was buried and that generations of us have been over to France to pay our respects and lay our floral tributes. Over 50,000 of the 72,000 names recorded on the memorial do actually have a grave which is marked with a headstone. The inscription composed by Rudyard Kipling "A soldier of the Great War. Known Unto God" is engraved on each stone. In this edition of In touch we remember the life of just one of the names recorded on this memorial.



*Linda Maycroft*

### **Walter George Jones – Maids Moreton**

In the first quarter of 1911 celebrations of the wedding of Walter Jones and Nellie Pargeter were in full swing. The happy couple could not imagine that in just over 5 years Nellie would join the growing number of war widows and Walter's name would join 72,000 others engraved on The Thiepval Memorial, the Memorial to the Missing of the Somme.

Walter was born in 1888 in Maids Moreton to George and Bessie Jones, he was the second of five children. Elder sister Eva was born in 1886, younger sister Nellie was born in 1893 followed by Charlie Jones in 1894 and Victoria in 1898.

The 1891 census shows that father George was employed as a brick layers labourer and the family lived in Well More. The census of 1901 shows the family had moved to Main Street and father George was away from home, eldest daughter Eva had also left the family home. Walter had left school and at the age of 13 was employed as a "Waggoneers Boy on farm".

By 1911 only son Charlie was still living at home, father George was at this time running his own carting contracting business employing his son Charlie and the family had moved into Church Street. Walter by this time was married to Nellie and working as a carpenter, the young couple lived in Main Street with Nellie's mother and younger sister.

## Frederick Ernest Garner - Stony Stratford

In the tiny English county of Rutland is the small market town of Oakham, once the home of a considerable wool trade and home to an army of weavers. The railway came to Oakland in 1848 and brought with it new additions to the population. Among the new arrivals were Tom and Eliza Garner from Leicestershire, Tom was employed as a signalman at the Oakham railway station in 1881 and was still employed as such in the 1911 census. Interestingly the signal box at Oakham is grade 2 listed and was copied by Airfix modellers.

The couple had 8 children; 6 of whom had survived to the 1911 census. Of the six only Caroline Emily age 23 and Frederick Ernest age 21 were living at home. Caroline was self-employed as a dressmaker and Frederick was employed by Rutland County Council as an Assistance Schoolmaster.

It is presumed that he learnt to ring at All Saints, Oakham which is a ring of 8 bells cast by Gilbert and Johnston in 1910. At some point Frederick found himself in Stony Stratford and joined the local band of bellringers.


He enlisted in Oakham and served with the Royal Army Medical Corps in the 91st Field Ambulance. His service records advise that Frederick was 26 years and 10 days when he enlisted and was 5 feet 8 ¼ inches in height with a 38inch chest. He gave his next of kin as Rose Garner of 14 Ashwell Road, Oakham. The couple were married at All Saints Church Oakham on the 15th May 1913 and they had no children.

His service began on the 4th November and he was initially stationed at Sheffield. He joined the BEF on the 26th January 1916 and died from Tuberculosis 267 days later. He was buried in the Longuenesse (St Omer) Souvenir Cemetery in plot IV.A.66.



Rudyard Kipling chose the inscription – "A Soldier of the Great War. Known Unto God" – for the headstones of those who could not be identified. There are more than 50,000 unidentified burials on the Somme.  
« Un Soldat de la Grande Guerre. Connu de Dieu Seule », cette inscription fut choisie par Rudyard Kipling pour les pierres tombales de ceux qui n'ont pu être identifiés. Il y a plus de 50 000 sépultures non identifiées dans la Somme.

## Quarter Peals

<p style="text-align: center;">Oxford Diocesan Guild</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Friday 10th June 2016 in 47 mins (12 cwt)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Stony Stratford, Buckinghamshire</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SS Mary and Giles</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1260 Grandsire Triples</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) David Moore</li> <li>2) Ian Thompson</li> <li>3) Gary Reading</li> <li>4) Mick Nimmo</li> <li>5) Brian Berry</li> <li>6) Nick Gray</li> <li>7) Tony Gray (C)</li> <li>8) John Mercer</li> </ol> <p style="text-align: center;">Rung for the start of Stony Stratford flower week</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Peterborough Guild</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday 2nd August 2016 in 46 Minutes</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Whiston, Northamptonshire</p> <p style="text-align: center;">St Mary's The Virgin</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1260 Grandsire Doubles</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Rob Walker</li> <li>2) Harry Curts</li> <li>3) Mick Nimmo</li> <li>4) Roy Keeves</li> <li>5) Harvey Welch (C)</li> </ol> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>First quarter peal in this tower: 1</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Oxford Diocesan Guild</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Saturday 4th June 2016</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2hrs 57mins (15-01-20 in F)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">St. John the Evangelist, Wicken, Northamptonshire</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5040 Grandsire Triples Composed by JJ Parker (12 part)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Lesley J Belcher</li> <li>2) Julie A Haseldine</li> <li>3) Ruth Stokes</li> <li>4) Gary Reading</li> <li>5) B Douglas Hird</li> <li>6) Christopher C Stokes</li> <li>7) Andrew Haseldine (C)</li> <li>8) Alan J Marchbank</li> </ol> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>First in peal: 4</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Oxford Diocesan Guild</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Monday 5th September 2016 in 46mins</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor (13cwt)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">St. Peters, Stoke Goldington</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Audrey C Jones</li> <li>2) Wendy A Haslam</li> <li>3) Ian Thompson</li> <li>4) Phil M Haslam</li> <li>5) Harvey J Welch</li> <li>6) Anthony Gray (C)</li> </ol> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>First surprise: 5</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>In association with Roy Keeves</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Rung in thanksgiving for the life of David Sharp of Stoke Goldington, a friend of the ringers.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Below: A photo of the successful band.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Celebrating the success of our members</b></p> <p>All peals, quarter peals, handbells and other touches are available at our website <a href="http://www.northbucks.org.uk/perf">www.northbucks.org.uk/perf</a></p> <p>If you would like your peal, quarter peal or other performance included in In Touch, please email the details to <a href="mailto:newslettereditor@northbucksbranch.org.uk">newslettereditor@northbucksbranch.org.uk</a></p>	

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## **BRANCH BELL FUND RULES**

*The final version of the proposed bell fund rules, to be ratified at the September meeting, are included below for information:-*

### **Scope of the Fund**

1. Grants will be considered for any work in North Bucks towers on:

Bells (including augmentation), Fittings, Frames, Sound control, Simulators, Rope guides, and the provision of Ropes.

### **Grants**

1. Grants will be for £50 plus 1% of the project costs including VAT, with a maximum of £450, dependent on the balance in the Fund being sufficient at the time. If VAT can be claimed back, the grant is £50 plus 1% of the project costs excluding VAT. Minimum size of project eligible is £200.
2. Grants will remain valid for three years from agreement of the grant at a Branch meeting. The tower may apply again for a grant after that time.
3. Grants will be payable on completion of the project, following approval by the Branch Officers, and on receipt of a paid invoice, as appropriate.
4. Grants will not be awarded retrospectively.

### **Management of the Fund**

1. The Fund is held within the existing North Bucks Branch account, but ring-fenced for the purposes described here.
2. The Fund is managed by the Branch Treasurer, and will be audited annually by an independent examiner.
3. The balance and status of active grants will be reported as a separate item at each North Bucks Branch AGM for information.
4. The rules of the Fund will be made freely available, and can be changed as need dictates by the proposal and agreement of a change at a Branch meeting.
5. Grants to be applied for in writing to the Branch Secretary.
6. Grant applications will be discussed by the Branch Officers, who will arrive at a recommendation for the meeting where the application is to be discussed.



11th August 2016

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## Who's Who in the North Bucks Branch...

### **Chairman - Graham Bartholomew**

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### **RDL Milton Keynes - Graham Bartholomew**

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