



# In Touch

North Bucks Branch - [www.northbucksbranch.org.uk](http://www.northbucksbranch.org.uk)

May / June 2017

## Editorial

Welcome to the summer edition of In Touch.

This is the shortest issue I have yet produced, possibly due to some non-ringing challenges; time and energy were shorter than I would have liked, and this meant that I was not able to send out the usual reminders.

My thanks, as ever, go to those who were able to contribute articles for your newsletter.

*Phillip Starr*  
Editor - In Touch

## Dates for your diary...

Date	Time	Type	Event	Location
Mon 26 Jun 2017	19:30 to 21:00	Local	8/10 bell Practice	Olney
Fri 7 Jul 2017	19:40 to 21:00	Local	Doubles, Plain Hunt and Call Changes Practice	Whaddon
Sat 22 Jul 2017	tbc	Joint	Joint Practice, Picnic and Striking Competition	Towcester
Mon 24 Jul 2017	19:30 to 21:00	Local	8/10 bell Practice	Olney
Fri 4 Aug 2017	19:40 to 21:00	Local	Doubles, Plain Hunt and Call Changes Practice	Whaddon
Sat 19 Aug 2017	16:00 to 17:30	Branch	Branch Practice	Calverton
Mon 28 Aug 2017	19:30 to 21:00	Local	8/10 bell Practice	Olney
Fri 1 Sep 2017	19:40 to 21:00	Local	Doubles, Plain Hunt and Call Changes Practice	Whaddon
Sat 2 Sep 2017	10:00 to 17:15	Branch	Outing	Northampton
Sat 16 Sep 2017	16:00 to 19:00	Branch	Branch Practice and Autumn Meeting	Emberton
Mon 25 Sep 2017	19:30 to 21:00	Local	8/10 bell Practice	Olney
Fri 6 Oct 2017	19:40 to 21:00	Local	Doubles, Plain Hunt and Call Changes Practice	Whaddon

## Branch Outing 2017

The branch outing this year will be to Northampton, and is planned for Saturday 2 September. It is hoped to visit four (two ten-bell and two eight-bell) towers in the town centre all within a short walking distance of each other, plus an additional (six-bell) tower which is a short drive away.

Please put the date in your diary now. More details of the towers and times to follow.

*Gary Reading*

## Next edition...

Please ensure that you send all submissions to [newslettereditor@northbucksbranch.org.uk](mailto:newslettereditor@northbucksbranch.org.uk) no later than **Friday 25th August 2017** to be included in the next edition of In Touch. Don't be afraid to send them in well before this date, as my email account has plenty of space!

Whilst endeavours will be made to send out reminders, your support in keeping to this deadline is appreciated.

## The learner and bob doubles practice nights

This was started by me with the help of Wendy Price, after the big ring pull event.

The idea was put to the branch but they said there was no need for it, how wrong they were. We travelled around the different towers ringing on the first Friday of every month ringing rounds and call changes. We tried to make sure everyone had at least 20 minutes ringing. We had an average attendance of 11 people and the ringing started to improve.

As this got better we started plain hunt on five bells, then bob doubles. We always held the December practice at Whaddon, and they kindly supplied us with wine and mince pies after the practice, which was greatly appreciated. A few years after speaking to branch officials about the standard of ringing across the branch and especially at Whaddon, I thought how could I help. Should I do the right thing and support Whaddon and finish the learner practice or did I leave Whaddon to sort itself out. I did not think it was right to let the ringers down that turned out every month for the learner practice but still felt I should help Whaddon. After a while we decided to move the Friday night practice to Whaddon as this solved the problem - we could continue the learner practice and at the same time support and improve the ringing at Whaddon.

The challenge was set when I was told by a branch officer "If you're not going to do something about it keep quiet".

At the practice nights now we ring Stedman and Bob Minor, we also have new learners who are at rounds, call changes and plain hunt level. Everyone gets at least 3 rings per evening as people will only improve with time on the rope. We are now averaging 16 people at these practices, and we still enjoy wine and mince pies in December.

For something the branch did not want, it has turned out well. It is just run by people who think learners need as much time on the rope as possible and by holding these practice nights it gives them this. This has also improved the ringing of the Whaddon ringers and if it was not for Derek White the bells would be silent.

On the 29<sup>th</sup> April it was Derek and Susan White's Golden Wedding anniversary. On the day we rang a very well struck quarter peal with two of the Whaddon ringers and four friends, and then had drinks and nibbles with Derek and Susan.

*Mick Nimmo*

## 50th Wedding Anniversary Quarter Peal

Derek White, Captain at St. Mary's Whaddon

Saturday the 29th of March saw the 50th Wedding anniversary of Derek and Susan White. They met while Derek worked for the Milk Marketing Board and Sue (as she is known to her friends) lived on a farm in the Claydons, North Buckinghamshire, and they were married in 1967 at East Claydon.

To mark this very special event, a quarter peal was arranged, and a group of those ringers best known to Derek asked to participate at St. Marys, Whaddon.

Afterwards, a fine spread had been laid on at the lovely house of the White's to refresh the ringers, and joined by a number of the White's friends, to raise a toast to the couple on such a landmark occasion, and to wish them many more years of happiness.

1260 Bob Doubles in 48mins

1. Robin Starr
2. Wendy Price
3. David Moore
4. Malcolm Hooton
5. Mick Nimmo
6. Phillip Starr

Derek's tireless long service to ringing at Whaddon has ensured that the bells have continued to ring for many years, despite the small population of the village.

Again, our best wishes to Derek and Sue.

*Phillip Starr*

## Quarter Peals

St John the Evangelist, Wicken, Northamptonshire

Tuesday 28th February 2017  
(15-1-20 in F)

1280 Uxbridge Surprise Major

1. Ruth Stokes
2. Margaret Bulleid
3. Richard Haseldine
4. Lesley Belcher
5. Andrew Spencer
6. Nick Gray
7. Chris Bulleid
8. Christopher C Stokes ( C )

*Nick Gray*

Cross and Stable, Downs Barn

Friday 31st March 2017

1260 Doubles in 38mins  
(5 m/v 240 each Plain Bob, St. Simons Bob, St. Martins Bob, April Day and 300 Grandsire)

1. Hilary Reading
2. Graham Bartholomew
3. Claire Reading
4. John Brookman
5. Alan J Marchbank ( C )

*Most methods 2.*

*Alan Marchbank*

St. Andrews, Gt. Linford

Monday 27th February 2017

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

1. Carol Thomason
2. Tine Marchbank
3. Nick Read
4. Steve Thomason
5. Alan J Marchbank ( C )
6. Graham Bartholomew

*Rung before the service of licensing of Rev Chukwuemeka Iwuaga as Associate Minister of Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership*

*Alan Marchbank*

St. Marys, Shenley Church End

Sunday 16th April 2017

1260 Mixed Doubles

1. Linda Maycroft
2. Becky Fawcett
3. Ann Birch
4. John Brookman
5. Edward L Fawcett ( C )

*Rung by the Sunday service ringers for Easter, also part of the MK50 celebrations, and remembering George William Maycroft, grandfather of 1, on the anniversary of his birth in 1915*

St John the Evangelist, Wicken, Northamptonshire

Tuesday 21st March 2017  
(15-1-20 in F)

1260 Stedman Triples

1. Christopher C Stokes
2. Ruth Stokes
3. Richard Haseldine
4. Andrew Spencer
5. Gary Reading
6. Nick Gray
7. Stephen H Stanford ( C )
8. Tony Gray

*Rung as a birthday complement to 6.  
First quarter in method for 5.*

*Nick Gray*

St. James the Great, Hanslope, Buckinghamshire

Sunday 19th March 2017

1250 Yorkshire Surprise Major in 50mins

1. Roy Keeves
2. Alan Cozens
3. Graham Paul
4. Anthony Gray
5. Anthony G Osborne
6. Nicholas Gray
7. Richard Haseldine ( C )
8. Philip Haslam

*For morning service, and as a Diamond Wedding Anniversary compliment to Shirley and Alan Cozens married at this church on the 16th of March 1957.*

*Sheila Blenkhorn*



*These are a selection of the successes that have taken place in our branch, as submitted to the editor. All of the peals and quarter peals can be found on the branch website.*

*Phillip Starr - Editor, In Touch*