



In Touch

North Bucks Branch - www.northbucksbranch.org.uk

August / September 2017

Dates for your diary...

Date	Time	Type	Event	Location
Sat 2 Sep 2017	10:00 to 17:15	Branch	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
Sat 21 Oct 2017	tbc	Branch	Branch Workshop	tbc
Mon 23 Oct 2017	19:30 to 21:00	Local	8/10 bell Practice	Olney
Fri 3 Nov 2017	19:40 to 21:00	Local	Doubles, Plain Hunt and Call Changes Practice	Whaddon
Sat 4 Nov 2017	10:00 to 17:00	Branch	Ringing for MK50	North Bucks Branch
Sat 18 Nov 2017	16:00 to 17:30	Branch	Branch Practice	Biggleswade
Sat 25 Nov 2017	tbc	ODG	Ten Bell Striking Competition	Olney
Sat 25 Nov 2017	13:00 to 17:00	ODG	Autumn General Committee Meeting	Great Brickhill
Mon 27 Nov 2017	19:30 to 21:00	Local	8/10 bell Practice	Olney
Fri 1 Dec 2017	19:40 to 21:00	Local	Doubles, Plain Hunt and Call Changes Practice	Whaddon
Sat 9 Dec 2017	tbc	Branch	Branch Practice and Christmas Social	tbc

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 no later than **Friday 1st December 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.

Inter-branch Joint Practice, Picnic and Striking Competition

This year the inter-branch Joint Practice, Picnic and Striking Competition was organised by Towcester Branch. It was held at Towcester and consisted of a joint practice, picnic tea in the Chantry House, followed by the striking competition.

As usual, the competition had three sections: Rounds and Call Changes on eight, Bob Minor and Stedman Triples. The winner of the most sections wins the main trophy, and the winner of the Stedman Triples receives the George Holland trophy. This year it was agreed that Hawkear would be used to judge the striking.



The results of the competition were as follows:

Section	Winner
Rounds and Call Changes	North Bucks
Bob Minor	Towcester
Stedman	Towcester

So the main trophy and the George Holland trophy were both won by Towcester Branch.

Many thanks to Towcester Branch for organising the day.

Gary Reading

MK50 Birthday Ringing update

Earlier this year, a challenge was started to ring a Quarter Peal in every tower that was included in the boundaries of the New Town of Milton Keynes in 1967 (11 towers).

So far, 4 successful quarters have been achieved as part of this event:

- 🔔 Shenley led the way when an occasion presented itself for a quarter of mixed doubles at Easter
- 🔔 Woughton celebrated with a very appropriate quarter of 'Woughton-on-the-Green Doubles'
- 🔔 Grandsire Triples at Bletchley was next where the ringing (and the conductor) competed with the clatter in the church as it was set up for the MK50 Tea Party
- 🔔 Milton Keynes Village – always an interesting experience for ringing the treble here and, fitting to the church, a quarter of All Saints Doubles was completed

Additionally, as part of MK50 ringing in the Branch, a quarter of Grandsire Triples has been successfully completed at Newport Pagnell.

We have lots more ringing to go!

If you are ringing a quarter for the MK50 Anniversary, please could you link it on BellBoard; there is a Group set up on BellBoard (ODG – MK50 Birthday). **After** submitting the quarter to the Ringing World, please link your quarter to the Group (this can be done by clicking the 'pencil' tab in 'Amend')

Anne McIntyre



Old North Berks Branch of the ODG
Young Ringers Ringing
Tuesday 5 Sept 2017, 14:00 – 16:00



14:00 St Giles Oxford bell ringing (8) 14 0 0 (OX2 6HT)

15:00 refreshments, quiz, handbells (tunes, changes) in the church

16:00 Event ends

Any young ringers who can handle a bell safely by themselves will be welcome. (Parents and more experienced ringers are welcome too.)

St Giles Fair will be taking place outside the church. You are welcome to enjoy the fair before and after our event. St Giles church will be open to visitors who will be interested to see us ringing the handbells. Young ringers will only be allowed to leave the church during the event if they are supervised by a parent or guardian.

Donations of £5.00 per young ringer will be collected

Please let us know if you are coming.

Please complete a permission form if not previously provided.

Susan and Brian Read
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ONB website www.onb.odg.org.uk.

Lest we forget:

William Jones 1883 - 1917

William Jones was the fourth Loughton man to die in the Great War and was commemorated with a quarter peal on the 100th anniversary of his death.

William George Jones was born in Shenley in 1883, the eldest son of John James and Sarah (nee Payne) Jones. He had 3 brothers and 5 sisters – Emma, Lilly, Albert, Arthur, Fred, Beatrice, Dorothy and Bertha.

The family, who were farm labourers, came from Nash, via Shenley Church End, to Loughton. William's father was a milkman on a farm.

William married Mary Ann Flexman in 1906 and they had 5 children – Florence, William, Harold, Beatrice and Edward, and by 1911 they had moved to Old Bradwell, and by the time war broke out were living at 11 Paggs Court, Newport Pagnell.

William enlisted at Wolverton in the Bedfordshire Regt (transferring later to the Ox and Bucks Light Infantry).

The 2nd Battalion was initially stationed at Aldershot and was mobilised for war in August 1914, landing at Boulogne and becoming engaged in various actions on the Western Front including The Battle of Mons and the subsequent retreat, The Battle of the Marne, The Battle of the Aisne, First Battle of Ypres. And in 1915 Winter Operations 1914-15, The Battle of Festubert, The Battle of Loos, In 1916 William would have seen action in The Battle of Delville Wood, The Battle of the Ancre, and other Operations on the Ancre.

In the first 3 months of 1917 there was an unofficial truce and little fighting so it is probable that William was in a field hospital suffering from wounds inflicted during the Battles of the Somme in 1916 eventually succumbing on 1st March 1917.

He was 34 when he died of wounds and is buried in the Etaples Military Cemetery. He is commemorated on both the Loughton and Newport Pagnell war memorials. He was awarded, posthumously, the Victory Medal, the British War Medal and the 1915 Star.

Anne McIntyre

Double Celebration at Emberton



We had two Significant Birthdays to celebrate in the tower in early August – Harvey (from Yardley Hastings) was 21, and Dennis (from Emberton) was 85. During a Tuesday practice we enjoyed some prosecco and nibbles, and viewed the rather spectacular birthday cake with fountain candles, being lit!

Sheila Watts

Method (Or Rather "Variation") Of The Month

On Monday 7th August this year, an extent of 120 St. Simon's Doubles with Gloster Extremes as replacements for the standard bobs was rung at a joint practice of the Loughton and Shenley bands.

"Big deal!" I hear someone saying, followed probably by "So what?" Well, this particular Doubles variation is known as August, and ringing it marked completion of a project started 12 months earlier, when an extent of September Doubles (Reverse Canterbury Pleasure, using Glevum Extremes) had been rung at a similar joint practice. If "September", we thought, "why not October, and November, and ...?"

A bit of research on Internet websites established the fact that a full year of monthly-named Doubles variations would not involve much learning of new methods and calls, and ought to be well within the bands' capabilities. Plain Bob, St. Osmund, St. Simon's, Winchendon Place, Huntley Place and Reverse Canterbury Place had all been mastered previously, so only Shipway's Place, St Julian and St. James would need to be added to the list. Alternative calls might be more problematic, though: apart from the Glevum Extreme already mentioned above, we were going to need others – Minster, Wainfleet, Gloster and Otto Extremes, and Shipway bobs. The only "repertoire" call in the whole annual cycle was a Grandsire Single, one of two calls in April Doubles.

All of these methods and calls were listed (as place notation) and/or drawn (as "blue lines") on the web-pages listed at the end of this report. Compositions were not so readily available, the customary three-calls-with-the-observation-bell-unaffected failing to produce a true extent in most cases. And would enough ringers be prepared to study and master those exotic, in some cases asymmetric, alternative calls? What we needed was a cunning plan ...

It went something like this: towards the end of each month Terry would figure out and prove an extent of the variation needed for the next one. Using Abel software he would print it out, scan it and send the image by email to Gary; a reminder message sent by Gary around the turn of the month to all participating ringers would carry the scan as an attachment. When enough ringers (usually only 3) had learned the method with its alternative call(s) an extent would be attempted, conducted either by Terry or Gary. This would be repeated every month, until all 12 variations had been rung.

So did we succeed? Well, almost. When our last June practice had passed by without an extent having been accomplished we resorted to a trick sometimes used by politicians when thwarted by an inconvenient deadline: we held our first July practice on a date re-designated as 33rd of June, when the attempt was successful.

We hope that other 5- or 6-bell towers will wish to emulate, or perhaps exceed, our modest achievement. Twelve appropriately dated quarter peals, perhaps? Or a single QP of 1440 changes, containing one extent of each variation? May the Force be with you!

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An appended table lists the methods and variations you will need - information from:

- 🔔 <http://www.cambridgeringing.info/Methods/Doubles/METHVAR.htm> (methods)
- 🔔 <http://www.cambridgeringing.info/Methods/Doubles/calls.htm> (alternative calls)
- 🔔 True extents of any or all of the variations are available on request as .jpg images from terry_page@btinternet.com

VARIATION	BASE METHOD		CALL(S)	
January	100	Shipway's P	q	Minster E
February	100	Shipway's P	p	Wainfleet E
March	1	Plain Bob	jp	Gloster E
April	100	Shipway's P	s/c	Shipway's B / Grandsire S
May	13	St Osmund B	jp	Gloster E
June	117	St Julian	c	Grandsire S
July	122	St James B	p	Wainfleet E
August	7	St Simon's B	jp	Gloster E
September	131	Reverse Canterbury P	kq	Glevum E
October	134	Winchendon P	kq	Glevum E
November	100	Shipway's P	mq	Otto E
December	151	Huntley P	kq	Glevum E

The methods are numbered as in *Plain Doubles Methods and Variations*, CCCBR 1980, and calls letter-coded as at <http://www.cambridgeringing.info/Methods/Doubles/calls.htm>

Terry Page

Branch Minutes Secretary

The branch still has a vacancy for a minutes secretary.

This role involves organising the various branch meetings which occur throughout the year. Duties include preparing a meetings pack (agenda, etc) prior to each meeting, taking the minutes of each meeting, and ensuring the minutes of each meeting agreed.

Throughout the year there is only one Annual General Meeting, one Autumn Meeting and typically four officers' meeting, so this is not a particularly onerous role. It is also opportunity to help with the running of the branch and organising events.

Please contact the secretary: Gary Reading, email secretary@northbucksbranch.org.uk if you are interested in taking on this role.

Peals

S Mary and Giles, Stony Stratford
Tuesday, 27 June 2017 in 2h 49m (12-1-16 in F)
5088 Evesham Surprise Major, composed by BYROC (Gen)

- 1 Raymond A Vickers
- 2 Julie A Haseldine
- 3 Ruth Stokes
- 4 Lesley J Belcher
- 5 Richard Haseldine
- 6 Andrew Haseldine
- 7 Stephen H Stanford
- 8 Christopher C Stokes (C)

Rung in thanksgiving for the life of Larry Sedgley Francis, a lifelong worshiper at this Church.

Wendy Price

Quarter Peals

All Saints, Loughton
Sunday, 22 January 2017 in 47m (11-0-8 in G)
1260 Plain Bob Doubles

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

First as C in method - 5
Rung to celebrate the 87th birthday of Derek Stainsby today

Anne McIntyre



All Saints, Milton Keynes Village
Friday, 7 July 2017 in 47m (9-0-0 in G)
1260 All Saints Place Doubles

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

Part of the 'Ringing for MK50 first in method 2 and 3

Anne McIntyre

Holy Trinity, Old Wolverton
Friday, 11 August 2017 in 43m
1260 Grandsire Doubles

- 43 Minutes
- 1 John Mercer
 - 2 Wendy Price
 - 3 Michael Nimmo (C)
 - 4 Liz Wagstaff
 - 5 Adrian Gates
 - 6 Roger Everson

Rang in memory of Pat Gates. Mother of Adrian and churchwarden of this church.

Wendy Price

St Mary the Virgin, Padbury, Buckinghamshire
Saturday, 29 July 2017 in 47m (10½ in Ab)
1440 Cambridge Surprise Minor, composed by Donald F Morrison (arr) No. 4900

- 1 Helen Stanworth
- 2 Catherine M Stanworth
- 3 Barbara A King
- 4 Celia J K Wood
- 5 Richard S Stanworth
- 6 A John Stanworth (C)

Rung to celebrate the Ruby wedding anniversary of Richard and Helen Stanworth.

Richard Stanworth

St Mary, Bletchley
Sunday, 25 June 2017 in 47mins (15-2-6 in F)
1260 Grandsire Triples

- 1 Nicola Beckley
- 2 Anne McIntyre
- 3 Liz Wagstaff
- 4 Graham Bartholomew
- 5 Martin Petchey
- 6 Gary Reading
- 7 Simon J O Head (C)
- 8 David Beckley

Rung before the MK50 Community Party at St Mary's, Bletchley and as part of the Ringing for MK50 Birthday Celebrations

Anne McIntyre

All Saints, Loughton
Sunday, 15 January 2017 (11-0-8 in G)
1260 Julie McDonnell Doubles

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

First in method: 2, 3 and 4.

Anne McIntyre

SS Peter and Paul, Newport Pagnell
Sunday, 20 August 2017 in 50 mins (21-2-16 in E□)
1260 Grandsire Triples

- 1 Anne McIntyre
- 2 Claire Reading
- 3 Martin Petchey
- 4 Ann Birch
- 5 Graham Bartholomew
- 6 Gary Reading
- 7 Simon J O Head (C)
- 8 Keith Wagstaff

*Rung for Evensong and as part of the Ringing for MK50 Birthday Celebrations
1st of Grandsire Triples – 2*

Anne McIntyre

All Saints, Loughton
Wednesday, 1 March 2017 in 43m (11-0-8 in G)
1260 St Clement's College Bob Minor

- 1 Robin Starr
- 2 Anne McIntyre
- 3 Ann Birch
- 4 Terry Page
- 5 Gary Reading
- 6 Simon J O Head (C)

Rung to commemorate the death 100 years ago today, of Pte William George Jones of 2nd Bn Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry, the fourth Loughton man to die in the Great War, who died of wounds aged 34 in Pas de Calais, France leaving a widow and 4 young children.



Anne McIntyre

Who's Who of Branch Officers

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