

Secretary's Report 2017 to 2018

The Branch Annual General Meeting was held at Weston Underwood at the beginning of March. Ringing at the Church was followed by a short service, and then a fine ringers' tea was provided in the village hall. The AGM was held after this. Sixteen new members were proposed, seconded and elected to the Branch and Guild. Three officers stood down, two new officers were elected, and all the other officers were re-elected. Of particular note: our treasurer Sheila Watts stood down after an amazing nineteen years in the role.

In June the branch summer social and 6-bell striking competition was held at Newton Longville. There was ringing for all along with tea and cakes, followed by the striking competition. This year the striking competition was won by Shenley and Loughton, who went on to come 9th in the guild 6-bell striking competition in October.

The inter-branch joint practice, picnic and striking competition with Towcester branch was held in July. There was a joint practice at Towcester, with a 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. This year Hawkear was used for the first time 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

The branch outing to Northampton was held at the beginning of September, with ringing at five churches, four of which were in easy walking distance of each other. A fine day was had, although the outing was not as well attended as in previous years.

The branch practice and autumn meeting was held in September at Emberton. The branch practice was followed by tea and cakes, and then the autumn meeting.

The branch practice and Christmas social was held in December at Shenley. There was ringing in the tower and also handbell ringing in the vestry room, followed by tea and a quiz.

As part of the Milton Keynes 50th birthday celebrations a challenge was started to ring a quarter peal in every tower that was within the boundaries of the new town of Milton Keynes in 1967. Eleven successful quarters were rung as part of this event.

As well as all of this we have been holding monthly branch practices, a monthly 8/10 bell practice, and a monthly doubles, plain hunt call and changes practice.

The annual process of checking the tower and tower contact information was completed. The branch records were updated, and these were used to provide up-to-

date information for the 2017 Guild Report and to update the website. Thank you to everyone who responded.

Reports of the Branch's activities were provided for inclusion in the Guild Report and for inclusion in the two editions of Odd Bob.

The Officers of the Branch met on four occasions during the year to co-ordinate and plan branch activities.

There were 20 new members elected to the branch in 2017 and 3 re-elections.

The Branch has a total of 219 (215 the previous year) members. The total number of towers in the branch is 59, of which 17 are unringable. The number of towers in the Branch with members is 33.