



OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH BUCKS BRANCH

In Touch

August 2007

Autumn Meeting



**Saturday 8th
September 2007**

**SS Peter & Paul
Buckingham**

3.30pm Ringing

4.30 pm Service

5.15 pm Tea

6.00 pm Business Meeting

Followed by evening ringing

Names for tea by
Wednesday 5th September
to Andrew Spencer
Tel: 01280 817989

Chairman

Mr Richard Stanworth
Email. chairman@northbucks.org.uk

Secretary

Mrs Helen Stanworth
Email. secretary@northbucks.org.uk

Treasurer / In Touch Editor

Mrs Sheila Watts
Email. treasurer@northbucks.org.uk /
intoucheditor@northbucks.org.uk

Ringing Master

Mr Barry Eglesfield
Email. ringingmaster1@northbucks.org.uk

Assistant Ringing Master

Post Vacant

Training Officer

Miss Christine Cable
Email. training@northbucks.org.uk

Guild Representatives

Mr Alan Marchbank
Email. guildrep1@northbucks.org.uk

Brian Newman

Email. guildrep2@northbucks.org.uk

Archivist

Mr Doug Hird
Email. archivist@northbucks.org.uk

Secretarial Snippets

Grants

Applications for grants for assistance from individuals for training or from towers for work or for the provision of things that keep bells ringing shall be submitted to the Secretary. Details of applications received will be sent out to towers as soon as possible after receipt. All applications received and sent out at least one month before a meeting will be considered at the next general meeting of the Branch.

Grants will be given towards training courses as follows: 50% of the cost up to a maximum of £50. Applications for grants should be made in writing to the Secretary. It would help us if you apply before you attend the course.

Videos

Bellhandling—a tutor's companion (produced by the Central Council)

Look to and Learn (produced by the Kent County Association)

Teaching Demonstration (recording of Steve Coleman teaching)

These videos may be borrowed from the Secretary free of charge. However, a deposit of £5 will be required against safe return of the video.

Email Distribution of Notices etc

If there are any tower correspondents who haven't given their email address to the Secretary and would like to receive electronic notices, then please send an email to the Secretary (secretary@northbucks.org.uk). If you are not sure if she has your email address, then send details to her anyway.

Business Meetings & Election of New Members

Please note that any Branch practice may be convened as a business meeting if deemed necessary by the officers present, subject to there being sufficient members present. These will mainly be for the election of new members. The Secretary will have membership nomination forms at Branch practices as well as meetings. Under these arrangements, new members may be elected at any Branch practice or meeting.

Our Grateful Thanks...

....to all those who contributed towards this issue of *In Touch*.

The deadline for the next *In Touch* is:
Wednesday 7th November 2007

Sheila Watts & Sheila Ware, Editors

Chairman's Jottings

Communication with members continues to be high on our agenda. In April, some of the Branch officers met with Jon Chamberlain, the Guild Master, to discuss some of the ideas coming out of the Guild proposals for improving communications. These ideas were also discussed at our subsequent officers' meeting.

The Guild suffers from a long chain of distribution: Guild secretary > Branch secretary > tower correspondent > member. Delay at each stage means that information doesn't always get through. This is very much a 19th century way of doing things. We need to move into the 21st century.

As an organisation we know very little about our members, compared with other organisations of a similar size. We would like to set up direct communication with every member. With the majority of members now having email this becomes possible without the high cost of postage and the labour involved in stuffing envelopes. However, we must also ensure that we do not miss out those without email. Any system of communication directly with members must include them as well.

In order to make this work we need to put the membership information on a proper footing and get up to date contact details for all members. With this in mind the officers are working on a suitable membership application form to collect the information needed about members. We will then be asking you all to fill in a form so that we can start to communicate with you directly and keep you up to date with Branch and Guild activities.

There will be an opportunity to discuss this at the Autumn Meeting at Buckingham. Do come along and support the Branch and take part in the meeting.

With best wishes.

Richard Stanworth
Branch Chairman

Oxford Guild Ringing Masters congregate at Great Milton

(with thanks to Jon Chamberlain and *The Ringing World*)

The Oxford Diocesan Guild covers over 2200 square miles and to improve communications between the 15 branches a Branch Ringing Masters' Get-together was held on 28th April.



When Great Milton welcomed us to their light and airy ringing chamber they told us the village was looking forward to campanological fireworks. Pat Cox was disappointed to hear that we may be good at organising others but ringing ourselves; well that's another matter.

A pleasant morning's ringing in the standard methods was enjoyed on the easy going bells followed by the real business of the day, a convivial pub lunch.

Note: North Bucks Ringing Master, Barry Eglesfield, centre back row!

This method came up in the local paper in the 1800s, rung by the Emberton band. The blue line had remained a mystery until I found a clue in one of the copies of *The Ringing World* from the 1950s. Here The Dream was mentioned in passing in an article about *Campanogia Improved* (1733). So a real *Homer Simpson* moment occurred when I remembered that I have had a modern copy of this for several years.



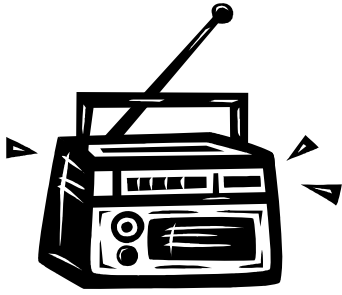
The method is described thus:

THE Treble in this peal has a direct hunting Course, and when it leaveth the fifth and fourth coming down, the two Bells that are there continue dodging till it cometh up and hinders the two Hunts are together before, which happens in Course every forty changes; the Bobs are every Time the Half-hunt is in second or thirds Place (if the whole Hunt lead) and then the Bells in second and third's Places lie still.

Translated:

The method starts off with plain hunting until the next lead end (a bit before it really as things start happening before the lead end). The plain leads of this method are Grandsire bobs. The bobs are Grandsire singles. The calls are bobs every other lead - but, following every other bob, the first rows revert back to plain hunting until the next lead end. So there are really two calls.

12345		12453		12534	
21435	Plain Hunt start	21543	Plain Hunt start	21354	Plain Hunt start
24153		25134		23145	
42513		52314		32415	
45231		53241		34251	
54321		35421		43521	
53412		34512		45312	
35142		43152		54132	
31524		41325		51423	
13542		14352		15432	
15324		13425		14523	
51342		31452		41532	
53124		34125		45123	
35214		43215		54213	
32541		42351		52431	
23451		24531		25341	
24315		25413		23514	
42135		52143		32154	
41253	Bob	51234	Bob	31245	Bob
14235		15243		13254	
14253		15234		13245	
41235		51243		31254	
42153		52134		32145	
24513		25314		23415	
25431		23541		24351	
52341		32451		42531	
53214		34215		45213	
35124		43125		54123	
31542		41352		51432	
13524		14325		15423	
15342		13452		14532	
51324		31425		41523	
53142		34152		45132	
35412		43512		54312	
34521		45321		53421	
43251		54231		35241	
42315		52413		32514	
24135		25143		23154	
21453	Bob	21534	Bob	21345	Bob
12435		12543		12354	
12453		12534		12345	



GOOD MORNING SUNDAY

from Sheila Blenkhorn

On the morning of Sunday 5th August, I was dozing in bed and half listening to the BBC Radio 2 programme *Good Morning Sunday* introduced by Aled Jones when I heard him mention bellringing; presumably it was in the light of the fact that during the preceding week the bellropes had been cut at Long Bredy in Dorset. Anyway Aled was asking how people felt about bells and bellringing - Did they like them or not? - Should they be banned? 'Email or text me and let me know', he said - and so I did. I dashed off a quick email just outlining my thoughts on the bells in our village. I came back in and said to Roy that I had sent it but there was probably little chance that Aled would

read it out. Well I had hardly got those words out of my mouth when Aled said 'we've had a lot of response about bellringing - Sheila Blenkhorn says ...' and he read out my email!!

We ring our bells at least twice every week for Sunday service and on our practice night. The bells are part of our village life at weddings and funerals, on New Year's Eve and other village events. For example we are ringing next month at the start of our annual village Street Fayre. I can only remember one occasion many years ago when someone complained about the bells but if for some reason we do NOT ring, we get people stopping us in the village and asking us why this was as they missed hearing the sound of the bells.

My only slight regret is that in my haste to send it in I did not put the name of the village, ie Hanslope, into the actual text of the email and although Aled read out my name he did not say where I came from. Still the important thing is that I voiced my opinion and incidentally, of all the replies we heard read out on air, we did not hear any that were against bellringing.

Can you help?

Scott Ayers saw this photo in the local paper in early July, and our Archivist put it on the North Bucks e-group asking for help with identification. Please contact Doug if you can assist.

Doug says:

"It claims to be from 'Linford, Newport Pagnell'. There are 35 people, some with handbells, in the garden of a nice looking house. The owner and his wife appear to be in the centre, and Revd F E Robinson. I think there are some recognisable faces from Olney, Hanslope and Bletchley. It looks like it was taken around 1900."



Inter-Guild Striking Competition Challenge Trophy

Richard Stanworth

This year was the 20th year of the competition for the Inter Guild Striking Competition Challenge Trophy, or 'Inter Branch' as it has become known. The idea for the competition came from Jack Green who was the Towcester Branch Chairman at the time. It was he who made and presented the trophy, which is why it is also known as the Jack Green Trophy. This was first competed for in 1988, probably at Wicken. Originally the venue alternated between Branches each year, although I have been unable to find details prior to 1993. It has certainly been held at Hanslope, Buckingham, and Olney in North Bucks. I seem to remember that one year the event was hosted by the Towcester Branch, but held at Buckingham, as Wicken bells were out of action because of repairs to the tower. Since 2001 the competition has been held at Wicken. So how has each side got on in the competition?

The event is divided into three sections, and the trophy is presented to the Branch which wins the most sections. In the 6-Bell section either doubles or minor is rung but, since the advent of the George Holland Memorial Trophy for Stedman, the test piece has been minor of some sort. North Bucks have won this section on 12 occasions, and Towcester 8 times. In the call change section, which is always call changes on eight bells, the honours are even, with each Branch winning 10 times.

In the 8-bell section, the test piece has been either triples or major. However, since this section was combined with the George Holland Trophy in 1997, the test piece has always been Stedman Triples. North Bucks have definitely struggled in this section, winning only 3 times and Towcester 17 times.

Overall this has led to a pretty even contest over the years, with the trophy being won by North Bucks on 9 occasions and Towcester 11 times. The overall scores for sections won over the 20 years are North Bucks 25; Towcester 35. In only 4 years out of the 20 has the score been 3-0 to the winners, usually the score has been 2-1.

Does home tower have its advantages? On the last 3 occasions that the competition was held at a North Bucks Tower, North Bucks won the trophy. However in the last 7 years that the competition has been at Wicken, North Bucks have won 3 times, and Towcester 4 times.

The George Holland Memorial Trophy for Stedman was presented by George's daughter in 1995 and has been competed for on the same day ever since. For the first 2 years it was held as a separate competition. However, this added to the time taken for the competitions. It was also noted that the bands ringing the Stedman always seemed to be the bands that had rung in the 8-bell section of the inter Branch competition. It was therefore agreed in 1997 that they be combined and the same piece of ringing would be judged for both the 8-bell section of the Inter Branch competition and the George Holland Trophy. In the 13 years that this has been running, North Bucks have won 3 times and the Towcester Branch 10 times.



John Stanworth, Towcester Branch, receives the trophies for 2007

Over the Border! Towcester Branch Calendar 2007

25 August	1/4 peal week - start
1 September	1/4 peal week - end
15 September	<i>Guild Summer Festival & 8-bell Contest, Peterborough Branch</i>
29 September	Autumn Mtg & 6-bell Contest, TBA
20 October	Quiz & Fish 'n' Chip Supper, Stoke Bruerne CC, 19:00 - 22:00
3 November	Joint Practice with North Bucks, Towcester, 19:30 - 21:00
1 December	Annual Dinner, The Walnut Tree, Blisworth, 7:00 for 7:30
26 January	AGM, Blakesley, 15:00 - 20:00
23 February	Practice, Blisworth, 19:30 - 21:00

Have you seen
Olney's new website?

olneybells.co.uk

Quarters

Dunstable, Priory Church of St Peter
Sunday 6 May 2007
1280 Yorkshire Surprise Major (49 mins)

- 1 Christina Tribble
 - 2 Alexandra J Marchbank
 - 3 Alan Shepherd
 - 4 James Maltby
 - 5 Barry R Eglesfield
 - 6 Richard Horne
 - 7 Ed Houghton
 - 8 Alan J Marchbank (C)
- 15th birthday compliment to Alexandra J Marchbank

Emberton, All Saints
Sunday 13 May 2007

- 1320 Plain Bob Minor
- 1 Lauren J Haslam
 - 2 Phil Haslam
 - 3 Alexandra J Marchbank
 - 4 Wendy Haslam
 - 5 David Jones
 - 6 Alan J Marchbank (C)
- Rung open in thanksgiving for the life of Denby Philip Murduck, a ringer at this tower.
1st Quarter—Lauren J Haslam

Stony Stratford, St Giles
Tuesday 22 May 2007
1280 Yorkshire Surprise Major

- 1 David Moore
 - 2 Ann Fletcher
 - 3 G John Collett
 - 4 Raymond Watkins
 - 5 Malcolm Hooton
 - 6 Alan Cozens
 - 7 Ruth Stokes
 - 8 Chris Stokes
- 1st Surprise—1
Rung as a 75th birthday compliment for G J Collett.

Calverton, All Saints
Wednesday 23 May 2007
1296 Cambridge & London Surprise Minor
(720 London, 576 Cambridge)

- 1 Helen Stanworth
 - 2 Alan J Marchbank
 - 3 Simon Head
 - 4 John Stanworth
 - 5 Barry R Eglesfield
 - 6 Richard Stanworth (C)
- In celebration of the life of Ann Bethell.

Newton Longville, St Faith
Friday 1 June 2007
1280 Bristol Surprise Major

- 1 Christina Tribble
- 2 Alan Shepherd
- 3 Peter Tribble
- 4 Alexandra J Marchbank
- 5 Robert Tregellus
- 6 Simon Head
- 7 Alan J Marchbank
- 8 Barry R Eglesfield (C)

First of Bristol—6

Beachampton, Assumption of the BVM
Thursday 7 June 2007

- 1260 Doubles (Stedman, St Simons, Grandsire)
- 1 Alexandra J Marchbank
 - 2 Ruth Stokes
 - 3 Alan J Marchbank
 - 4 Christopher C Stokes
 - 5 Barry R Eglesfield (C)
- In celebration of the life of Phillip (Bo) Hargreaves

Whaddon, St Mary
Sunday 10 June 2007

- 1260 Doubles (Stedman, St Simons, St Martins, Grandsire)
- 1 Barry R Eglesfield
 - 2 Alexandra J Marchbank
 - 3 David Joyce
 - 4 Christine Cable
 - 5 Alan J Marchbank (C)
 - 6 Hugh Butler
- In celebration of the lives of Mrs Anne Stringer, sister of ringer of 6th, and Mr Derek J Bandy, resident of Whaddon

Great Linford, St Andrew
Sunday 24 June 2007
1260 Doubles (Plain Bob, St Simons, St Martins, Grandsire)

- 1 John B Marchbank
 - 2 Christine Marchbank
 - 3 Alexandra J Marchbank
 - 4 James Maltby
 - 5 Alan J Marchbank (C)
 - 6 Brian Newman
- Preceding Evening Worship celebrating 100 years of Scouting

Great Linford, St Andrew
Sunday 8 July 2007

- 1260 Plain Bob Minor
- 1 John B Marchbank
 - 2 James Maltby
 - 3 Alexandra J Marchbank
 - 4 Barry R Eglesfield
 - 5 Simon Head
 - 6 Alan J Marchbank (C)
- Towards better striking!

More Quarters

Padbury, St Mary the Virgin

Sunday 8 July 2007

1260 Plain Bob Minor

- 1 Helen Stanworth
- 2 Catherine Stanworth
- 3 Gillian Macdonald
- 4 John Stanworth
- 5 Michael Tinsley
- 6 Richard Stanworth (C)

First Quarter—3

For the baptism of Poppy and Michelle Perry, and marriage of Andrew Thatcher and Katherine Foster

Great Linford, St Andrew

Tuesday 10 July 2007

1260 Plain Bob Minor

- 1 John B Marchbank
- 2 Lesley Belcher
- 3 Alexandra J Marchbank
- 4 John Stanworth
- 5 Edith M Robinson
- 6 Alan J Marchbank (C)

Having met with just 6 for Practice Night

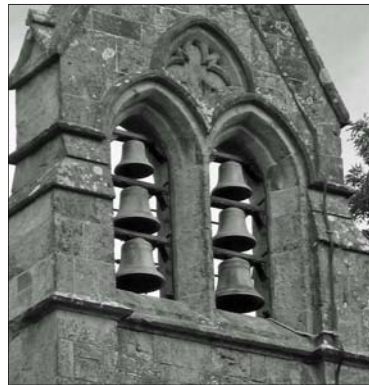
Padbury, St Mary the Virgin

Monday 30 July 2007

1260 Plain Bob Minor

- 1 Victoria Stanworth
- 2 Barry Eglesfield
- 3 Catherine Stanworth
- 4 Michael Tinsley
- 5 Phil Dunn
- 6 John Stanworth (C)

For Helen and Richard Stanworth's 30th Wedding Anniversary



Parish Church of St Lawrence, Isle of Wight

Roy Keeves and Sheila Blenkhorn first spotted this gem in the Isle of Wight, and the

Editors recently visited and took the photo.

The unusual carillon of bells was installed for the visit of Her Majesty The Queen Mother, who took a close interest in the building.

The Church was built in 1876 and has some fine stained glass taken from the demolished Chapel of the local large Victorian hospital for 'diseases of the chest'.



Lillingstone Lovell, Assumption of the BVM

Tuesday 31 July 2007

1260 Doubles (Reverse Canterbury & Plain Bob)

- 1 Malcolm Jones
- 2 John Nicholas
- 3 Roy Jones
- 4 Bernard Phillips
- 5 David Moore (C)

In celebration of the Scouting Centenary

Loughton, All Saints

Wednesday 1 August 2007

1296 Cambridge Minor (39 mins)

- 1 Rosemary Scott (ex-Guide)
- 2 Ann McIntyre (ex-Guide)
- 3 Bob Winstanley
- 4 Terry Page (ex-Scout)
- 5 Derek Stainsby
- 6 Simon Head (C)

Rung to celebrate the Centenary of the Scouting Movement. Also congratulations to Rosemary Scott (and husband Peter) in winning the "Best Newcomer" award in the annual Milton Keynes Garden Competition.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

NORTH BUCKS BRANCH

Minutes of Business Meeting held at North Crawley on 18th May 2007

The Chairman called a short business meeting to consider the grant application from Dean Meakins, as advised in the notice sent out to towers; and for the election of a new member.

Apologies for Absence

Received from Sheila Watts. There were eight members present.

Election of New Member

A nomination had been received proposing one new member. He was elected without dissent.

Tower	Name	Proposed by	Seconded by
Stony Stratford	Kieran Salter	David Scrutton	John Collett

Grant Application

Notice had been given to towers that Dean Meakins from Bradwell Tower had a place on the Radley One-Day Course, and had applied for a grant from the Branch. The normal grant towards a training course is 50% of the cost up to a maximum of £50. A 50% grant would be £10. Alan Marchbank proposed that a grant of £10 be made to Dean Meakins. This was seconded by Helen Stanworth and the motion was carried on a show of hands. A grant of £10 will be made to Dean Meakins towards the cost of the training course.

The Chairman thanked those present for attending and then closed the meeting

Minutes of Business Meeting held at Emberton on 15th June 2007

The Chairman called a short business meeting for the election of new members. There were about 37 members present.

Election of New Members

Nominations had been received proposing the following new members. All were elected without dissent.

Tower	Name	Proposed by	Seconded by
Olney	Rev Philip Davies	David Phillipson	Charles Knight
	Mrs Elizabeth Sheaf		
	Matthew Sheaf		
	Graham Dilley		

Great Linford	Mrs Helen Dilley	Edie Robinson	Vicky Stanworth
	Dr Lesley Belcher		

The Chairman thanked those present for attending, Karen Goss for serving tea during the striking competition, Alan Shepherd for judging the competition, and then closed the meeting.

ODG Eight-bell Competiton

Held at Kidlington on bank holiday Monday, 7 May, the method this year was Bob Triples. North Bucks entered two teams and were placed 5th and 6th out of nine teams. Oxford City emerged as a new winner.



North Bucks Branch—Calendar 2007

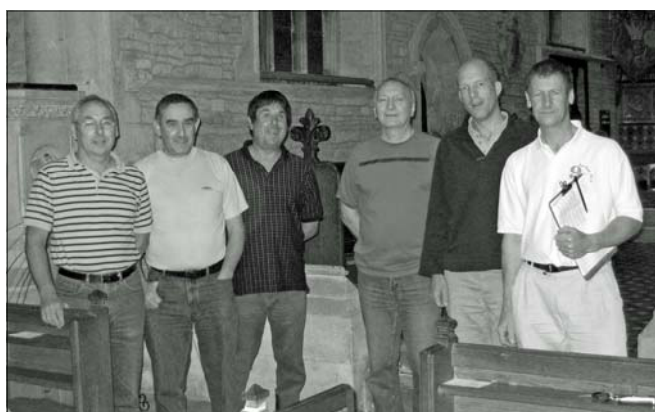
AUGUST	17	7.30	Branch Practice Special Method: Double Norwich	Newton Longville
SEPTEMBER	8	3.30	Autumn Meeting	Buckingham
OCTOBER	6		<i>Six Bell Striking Competition</i>	<i>Chipping Norton Branch</i>
	19*	7.30	Branch Practice Special Method: Allendale Surprise Minor	Wavendon
NOVEMBER	3		<i>Steeple Aston Course</i>	<i>Steeple Aston</i>
	7		In Touch deadline	
	10*	7.30	Joint Practice with Towcester Branch	Towcester
	24		<i>Ten Bell Striking Competition</i>	<i>Aston Clinton</i>
	24		<i>Autumn General Committee Meeting</i>	<i>Marsworth</i>
DECEMBER	15*	4.30	Christmas Celebration	TBA

Items marked * were unconfirmed as at 7 August 2007
Events in *italics* are Guild events, etc.

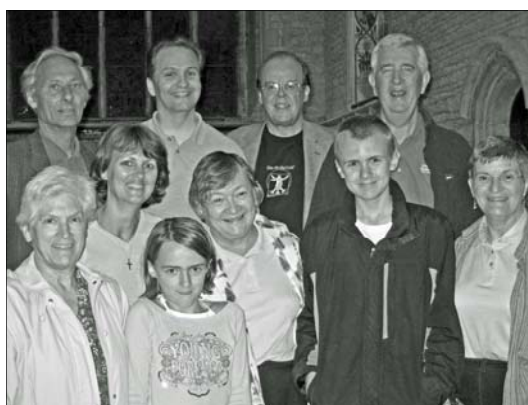
Branch 6-bell Competition

All Saints, Emberton, hosted this year's 6-bell Striking Competition, with an impressive nine teams taking part. Alan Shepherd, tower captain at Dunstable, was the Judge and all were grateful to Karen Goss from Emberton for the refreshments. Congratulations to Olney for taking part for the first time with a new band.

Position	Faults	Tower
1	5	Hanslope—Business like ringing—good from start. Only half points lost, and no clips.
2	15	Great Linford B—Good even compass—quite a few general clips.
3	18	'Fun Team' - Good even compass—faster. Fell over one another, especially dodges.
4	22½	Woughton—Took time to settle. Sticky patch in middle, but end good.
5	30	Shenley & Loughton—Good even ringing.
6	31	Bradwell—Fairly consistent throughout.
7	37	Great Linford A—Faults 1st two leads, then settled and got better.
8	46½	Emberton—Consistent, tenor very good.
9	105	Olney—A valiant effort for a band of learners; very encouraging.



Winning Hanslope Band, with the Judge



The New Band from Olney