



In Touch

August 2011

Autumn Meeting

The Autumn Meeting this year will be held at Old Wolverton on Saturday 17th September 2011.

- 3.30 Ringing
- 4.30 Service
- 5.00 Tea
- 5.45 Business Meeting,
followed by evening ringing until 8.30

Please telephone names for tea to John Mercer 01908 225051 by Monday 12th September.



The new treble at Lillingstone Lovell

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Who's Who 2011—2012

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Branch Website			www.northbucks.org.uk
Guild Website			www.odg.org.uk

Dates for your Diary

August

20th Branch practice at Bletchley 5pm

September

2nd Rounds and Call Change practice at Old Wolverton 7.40pm

17th Autumn Meeting at Old Wolverton 3.30pm

17th Guild Michaelmas Training Day

October

1st Guild 6 bell striking competition in Reading Branch

7th Rounds and Call Change practice at Sherington 7.40pm

15th Branch Practice at Shalstone 5pm

22nd Train the Teachers Day One at Downs Barn

29th Guild Steeple Aston Course

November

4th Rounds and Call Change practice at Stony Stratford 7.40pm

5th Train the Teachers Day Two at Olney

19th Joint Practice with Towcester Branch at Towcester 7.30pm

26th Guild 10 bell striking competition

December

2nd Rounds and Call Change practice at Stoke Goldington 7.40pm

3rd Guild Ten Bell training day at Aston Clinton

17th Christmas Celebration at Fenny Stratford 5pm

From the Chairman . . .

Holiday time again, so if you are just going away, have a good time and for those who have already had theirs, I hope you have some fond memories.

In this edition there are updates on our Big Ring Pull project, but as a member of the finance work stream I would like to thank all those towers who have contributed to the fund. It has been very heartening to see those pledges being honoured; it must be the wedding season! Speaking of which I have noticed that some towers are short of ringers, so if you can help, please do.

Within the Big Ring Pull report you will see details of the Teacher the Teachers course we are running in October and November. This course is being funded by the Big Ring Pull Project and therefore indirectly by members of the branch who have contributed. Please make use of it - it is your course: so if you, or anyone at your tower would like to learn how to teach bell handling in a safe and effective way, then please sign up.

Brian

Deadline for next edition . . .

The deadline for contributions for the next edition of In Touch is **Tuesday 1st November 2011**.

Jonathan

Big Ring Pull - Update



Since the last update in May's In Touch, lots of work has been going on behind the scenes and much has been achieved. Many thanks to all those people who are actively involved in driving the project forward.

Teaching the Teachers

Firstly, we now have confirmed dates and venues for the Teaching the Teachers course to be held within the branch. They are:

Saturday 22nd October at Downs Barn
Saturday 5th November at Olney

The aim is to increase and improve the abilities of current ringers to teach bell handling to new ringers within the branch: it is seen as a prerequisite to being able to teach and retain the new recruits from the recruitment event. The days are being lead by tutors from the Ringing Foundation and the ODG.

Please consider who in your tower could benefit from attending this course: the requirement is that an attendee can ring handle a bell competently. It would be beneficial to have as many towers represented as possible. Places are filling up (14 people are already signed up) and it is on a first come first served basis. Please contact me if you would like to attend or would like some more information. We are aiming to gather all names by September 17th.

For the second of the two training days we need some guinea-pigs - people who have never rung before and are happy to give up a day and be taught to ring. We currently have 4 volunteers, but would like some more: so if you have any friends or relatives who would like to volunteer then please let me know.

More details on the course can be found on the back page of this edition and on the branch website. The course is being paid for by the Big Ring Pull Project, the nominal cost of £10 covers refreshments and lunches.

Training Venue for Training the new recruits

We had previously identified Downs Barn to host the fortnight of training for the new recruits, as it has facilities, a hall, good visibility of the ringing and an easy set of bells to train on. However after discussions with the management of the venue we have identified issues with hire costs and venue availability that make Downs Barn unsuitable.

Reviewing other options we have decided that Newport offers the best alternative. Again there is a large open ringing space, facilities and the opportunity to host any number of training sessions at minimum cost; and the Newport Clergy are fully supportive of our objectives.

The simulator has now arrived and will be fitted at Newport in preparation for the recruit training. This is a branch asset so, although will be initially installed in

Newport, it can be removed reasonably easily and relocated in another branch tower if and when required. The installation is going to take place over the next month or so and includes the making of 8 clapper ties: once tested, we will hold a branch event for everyone to come and experience ringing on a simulator and to see how it can help with teaching in the future.

Finance

We are extremely pleased with the way the money is coming in at present, and would like to thank everyone for their support. Don't forget to turn your pledge into cash when you can – just contact Sheila Watts, Trudy Hutchings or Brian Newman.

We are also grateful to the Oxford Diocesan Guild for agreeing a generous grant at their AGM in May. The Ringing Foundation are also offering their strong support to the Ring Pull Project, and other grant applications are in progress.

A more comprehensive financial update will be included in the next issue of In Touch.

Marketing

The project now has a new logo which will be used on all project and promotional material from now on. We employed a design company to create special files of the logo that can be used for all sizes of printing - for large, banners, posters, T shirts and all publicity.

We have also identified all the marketing actions that will need to take place prior to holding the recruitment event. These activities will commence when we have a firm date to aim for.

Display

In the last edition we confirmed that we are now expecting to hold the recruitment event in the first quarter of 2012. We are still trying to confirm a date with Middleton Hall and hope to have some news on this for the September meeting.

Jonathan Griggs

The Big Ring Pull Quiz

Please see page 11 for the results

Lillingstone Lovell is now six

The next chapter in the long and diverse history of the Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Lillingstone Lovell has just been written.

In 1693 four bells, made by Alexander Rigby, were installed in the Bell Tower. These were augmented to a ring of five by the addition of a new Treble in 1952, which was cast and installed by John Taylor & Company of Loughborough. This five bell ring was, unusually, in the minor key. The full cost of the bell was covered by a donation from the Robarts family of Glebe House, Lillingstone Lovell, on behalf of their son, Timothy, and an inscription commemorating this was included on the bell.

Planning for the future, the installation made provision of a space for the addition of a frame extension for an additional bell. Consequently in 2001 a quote was obtained from John Taylor & Company for the casting and installation of a sixth bell, a new Treble. Unfortunately this project was not progressed to its conclusion.

The present team of bell ringers had occasion to discuss these events and in 2010 a decision was made to resurrect the lapsed project. A revised quote, based on the original 2001 quote, was obtained from John Taylor & Company in August 2010. This was followed up with a quote from Whitechapel Bell Foundry in September 2010 after they had visited the Church and performed a detailed survey.

For professional and financial reasons it was decided to accept the quote from Whitechapel Bell Foundry. The long and arduous task of obtaining a Faculty was commenced and the writing of the new chapter in the history of the Church had begun.

The Foundry were instructed to proceed with the manufacture of the bell and a small party of our bell ringers were invited to Whitechapel Bell Foundry on Friday 6th May, 2011 to witness the casting of the bell scheduled for 3.15pm. It was a memorable experience, watching the molten bronze being poured carefully into the mould for our bell.

We were given a most enlightening tour of the foundry, during which each of the processes involved in the manufacture of bells was explained in detail from the manufacture of the moulds, using a process almost identical to that used in mediaeval times, to the tuning of the bell and the manufacture of the frames and headstocks.

Delivery and installation of the framework and the bell was scheduled by the foundry for week commencing



Some of the project team : L-R Roger Beale, Robin Culley, John Nicholas, Bernard Phillips and Malcolm Jones

20th June. Work was begun in the tower by members of the bell ringing team to make preparations that would ensure easy access for the bell, the wheel and the frame from the Church floor to the ringing floor and from the ringing floor to the bell chamber. Further work was carried out in the bell chamber to eliminate any foreseen problems and make the installation of the bell as easy as possible.

On Wednesday 22nd June at about 8am Whitechapel's bell-hanger arrived to check the site and prepare for the arrival of the bell and framework. The truck with everything on board duly arrived at about 10am and after the traditional British tea break a team of volunteers helped to unload the vehicle and move everything into the Church.

The hoisting of the equipment up into the bell chamber went ahead without incident and the bell-hanger, together with three of us assisting, commenced the installation of the first piece, a galvanized steel girder which would support the side frame.

On the second day the framework was completed and minor adjustments made to position the side frame in exactly the right place. At about 2.45pm the bell, gleaming in the sunlight streaming through the windows, complete with headstock, was hoisted into place and secured in position, square to the frame in order to ensure smooth running of the bearings. Work then progressed to hoist up the two halves of the wheel and secure them to the bell, the clapper, which was located into the bell, and the stay followed by the slider mechanism.

continued overleaf

Lillingstone Lovell - continued

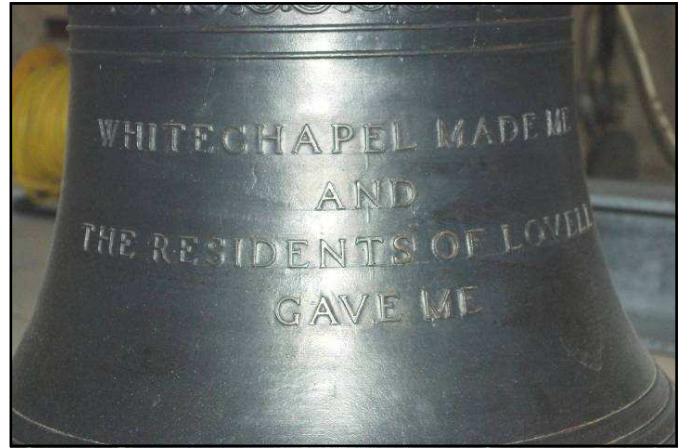
The morning of the third day saw the attachment and adjustment of the rope after which the bell was test rung to ensure everything was as it should be. The action of the bell was delightfully smooth and the sound was music to the ears. By midday the bell-hanger's equipment had been removed from the Church and loaded into his van and the job was complete. The only thing left to do is to gather our team of ringers together to ring the peal of six bells.

And so this chapter in the history of the Church is drawn to a conclusion.

However, despite a number of donations already made by some villagers the cost of the bell still has to be met. By the time you read this the bell ringing team will have held a fundraising barbeque at which it is hoped to encourage even more of our villagers to make donations and have their names engraved on a plaque which will be placed on display on the ringing floor.

Oh, and one last thing – the inscription cast on the bell:

WHITECHAPEL MADE ME
AND
THE RESIDENTS OF LOVELL
GAVE ME



Barry Eglesfield - Distinguished Member

First of all a big thank you to those who put my name forward for the distinguished service award. I did make the comment that if I was worthy of the award, two or three others who recently carried out a remarkable project within the branch should be nominated for an MBE or some commendation for their sterling work.



Fifty years of ringing must seem an absolute lifetime, especially to the younger members of the branch, but no doubt they will be writing a similar article one day.

As you may know, the presentation was made at the Guild AGM at Islip by Robert Newton, Master of the Guild, supported by his deputy Alan Marchbank and a few other members of our branch. All in all it was a most pleasurable day.

In conclusion, I hope I can still be a help to the branch in the future, and indeed The Guild, as I am only a few miles down the road.

Barry Eglesfield

Summer Social and 6 bell striking competition

What a turn-out! About 70 people were there for the summer social and striking competition, which this year was held at Clifton Reynes. I don't know what brought so many people out, but it was heartening to see this number at a ringing event and moreover 9 teams took part in the competition - which must be a record.

Many thanks must go to the Clifton Reynes ringers who put on an excellent tea.

Barry Eglesfield in his new role of distinguished member judged the striking competition. Barry declared the results as follows :

Team	Faults	Position
Shenley	25	3rd
Emberton	41	6th
Newport Pagnell	59	8th
Woughton	30	4th
Padbury	45	7th
Loughton	30	4th
Hanslope	11	1st
Olney	70	9th
Great Linford	15	2nd

Congratulations to Hanslope. Unfortunately, Hanslope are unable to represent the branch in the ODG competition in October due to wedding commitments so Great Linford (being in second place) have been asked if they would like to go forward.

Jonathan Griggs

Interbranch Striking Competition

After a number of years being held at Wicken, this year this friendly competition was held in the North Bucks branch at Hanslope on 2nd July. We welcomed Jon and Kay Chamberlain as judges for the evening. Jon is the immediate past Master of the ODG. Jon and Kay are no strangers to the North Bucks / Towcester area as they lived here when they were first married.

The three sections of the competition were held in the order: Plain Bob Minor, Stedman Triples, Call Changes on eight. Here is a summary of the judges' comments:

Plain Bob Minor:

Band 1 (Towcester) – Didn't use all of their practice time
Band 2 (North Bucks) – Improved as it went on
Winner: Band 2 - North Bucks

Stedman Triples:

Band 1 (North Bucks) – so fast it nearly fell over itself. There was a feeling that it was 'tense' and generally too fast, but there were also long passages of good ringing
Band 2 (Towcester) – more relaxed, much slower and flowed beautifully.

Winner: Band 2 - Towcester

Call Changes on 8:

Band 1 (Towcester) – Started a bit slow, not much room for the tenors, improved as it went on. Good Queens.
Band 2 (North Bucks) – Very nice. Long periods in the middle with no faults at all, but quite a few early on.
Winner: Band 1 - Towcester

The Towcester Branch thus won the competition by 2 sections to 1, so they collected both the Jack Green

Trophy for the overall competition and the George Holland Trophy for the Stedman Triples.

Thank you to all who took part in the competition, especially those who were representing the branch for the first time. I hope it wasn't too daunting for you.

Those taking part were:

Nick Gray, Tony Gray, Doug Hird, Roy Keeves, Alan Marchbank, Alex Marchbank, John Marchbank, Tine Marchbank, Simon Read, Nick Read, Catherine Stanworth, Helen Stanworth, Richard Stanworth, Michael Tinsley, Nathan Tinsley

Richard Stanworth



John Pardoe, Secretary of the Towcester Branch, receives the Jack Green Trophy from Jon and Kay Chamberlain.

Didn't they look young !



This picture is thought to have been taken in the early 1960s possible at Old Wolverton. Do you recognise the ringers ?

Left to right they are: Barry Sharp, Barry Eglesfield, Mick Nimmo, Kingsley Wooton, Nick Gray, James Green

ODG Bell Maintenance course

The ODG Towers & Belfries Committee held an excellent basic bell maintenance course on Saturday 4th June at Long Crendon church.

After an introductory session by Len Palfry, including a health & safety talk, there followed a session led by John Davidge on maintenance procedures. This included going up the tower at Long Crendon to inspect the bells and carry out minor works, e.g. tightening of bolts, correcting bells that were odd-struck etc. Following lunch at the suitably named The Eight Bells pub we split into two groups, one to Nether Winchendon, the other to Shabbington, where, under guidance from the experts, we were allowed to tighten headstocks, frames, stays etc. and repair stiff pulley wheels.

A thoroughly good course with a good mixture of theory and practical and lots of useful handouts, e.g. bell maintenance schedules etc. I believe they are planning to hold another one soon if anyone is interested.

Nick Read

Peals and Quarters

Cross and Stable, Downs Barn

Saturday, 28 May 2011 in 2hrs 33

5026 Bristol Surprise Major

Composed: Mark B Davies (No.1)

- 1 Nicholas C Read
- 2 Nicholas D Brown
- 3 Alexandra J Marchbank
- 4 B Douglas Hird
- 5 Simon Read
- 6 Russell A Brown
- 7 Alan J Marchbank
- 8 Benjamin J Carey (C)

First Peal in the Method - 5

St Mary the Virgin, Padbury

Sunday, 29 May 2011 in 42 mins

1296 Surfleet Surprise Minor

- 1 John B Marchbank
- 2 Alexandra J Marchbank
- 3 Nick Read
- 4 Benjamin J Carey
- 5 Alan J Marchbank
- 6 Simon Read (C)

First quarter in the method - 3 & 6

Rung before the service for the annual Padbury Feast of the Padbury Sick Benefit Society.

St Mary the Virgin, Thornborough

Sunday, 5 June 2011

1260 Doubles - Grandsire, Plain

Bob and St Simons

- 1 Michael Gray
- 2 Chas Knight
- 3 John Hearn
- 4 William J Stungo
- 5 Jonathan Griggs (C)

For Evensong

SS Peter & Paul, Newport Pagnell

Sunday 5 June 2011 in 49 mins

1264 Plain Bob Major

- 1 Kate Hollins
- 2 Nicki King
- 3 John B Marchbank
- 4 Brian Baldwin
- 5 Nick Read
- 6 B Douglas Hird
- 7 Alan J Marchbank
- 8 Simon Read (C)

First quarter of Plain Bob Major - 3

First quarter of major - 1

Rung for the 1st wedding anniversary of Emily and David Rainbow, also to welcome their son Ethan William Rainbow born on the 30th of May 2011, and christened today.

All Saints, Wing

Saturday 11 June 2011 in 51 mins

1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor

- 1 John B Marchbank
- 2 Nick Read
- 3 B Douglas Hird
- 4 Alan J Marchbank
- 5 Michael Tinsley
- 6 Simon Read (C)

For the 90th birthday of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh and for the Queen's official birthday.

SS Peter & Paul, Newport Pagnell

Sunday 19 June 2011 in 51 mins

1320 Bourne Surprise Minor

- 1 Emily Rice
- 2 Nick Read
- 3 Robert Tregillus
- 4 B Douglas Hird
- 5 A John Stanworth
- 6 Simon Read (C)

First of treble bob - 1

First in the method - 2 & 6

Rung to celebrate the silver wedding anniversary of Rachel and Paul Buckley.

St Mary the Virgin, Padbury

Friday 24 June 2011 in 43 minutes

1260 Grandsire Doubles

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

First away from cover - 1

Birthday compliment to Gillian Macdonald and congratulations to Gillian and Charlie on their forthcoming Golden Wedding Anniversary.

St John, Wicken

Saturday 9 July 2011

1296 Cambridge S Minor

- 1 Margaret Vince
- 2 Ann Fletcher
- 3 Ray Vickers
- 4 Laurence Gibson
- 5 Jonathan Spencer
- 6 Andrew Spencer (C)

Rung prior to a church fund raising concert.

St Nicholas, Little Horwood

Saturday 16 July 2011

1260 Grandsire Doubles

- 1 Nathan Tinsley
- 2 Catherine Stanworth
- 3 Nick Read
- 4 Michael Tinsley
- 5 A John Stanworth (C)

Rung prior to the marriage of Becky Stanworth and Bill Graves at Horwood House

SS Peter & Paul, Olney

Sunday 10 July 2011 in 50mins

1282 Cambridge Surprise Royal

- 1 Nick Read
- 2 B Douglas Hird
- 3 Alan J Marchbank
- 4 A John Stanworth
- 5 Catherine Stanworth
- 6 Simon Read (C)
- 7 Nick Gray
- 8 Tony Gray
- 9 Michael Tinsley
- 10 David Phillipson

Rung prior to Deanery Choral Evensong

First of treble bob on 10

First in the method - 6, 7, 8

First as conductor on 10

St Mary the Virgin, Padbury

Sunday 17 July 2011 in 43 mins

1260 Grandsire Doubles

- 1 Vicky Stanworth
- 2 Helen Stanworth
- 3 A John Stanworth
- 4 Catherine Stanworth
- 5 Richard Stanworth (C)
- 6 David J P Stanworth

Rung to celebrate the marriage of Becky Stanworth and Bill Graves on Saturday 16th July 2011

St Laurence, Weston Underwood

Saturday 23 July 2011

1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor

- 1 Samuel J Haslam
- 2 Wendy A Haslam
- 3 Raymond Watkin
- 4 Nick Read
- 5 Simon Read (C)
- 6 Phill M Haslam

First quarter - 1

First of surprise - 2

Rung in thanksgiving for the life of Mabel Lina Reynolds

SS Peter & Paul, Newport Pagnell

Saturday 23 July 2011

1260 Grandsire Triples

- 1 Kate Hollins
- 2 John Marchbank
- 3 Elly Cooper
- 4 Nicki King
- 5 Nick Read
- 6 Simon Read
- 7 B Douglas Hird (C)
- 8 Daniel Morris

For the Ruby Wedding Anniversaries of Gerry and Loretta Ramsay and Alex and Linda Ramsay.

100 Years of Bells in Newport Pagnell

On 26th June, Newport Pagnell Parish Church bell ringers held centenary celebrations celebrating 100 years of the bells being installed in 1911 by Gillett & Johnston, Croydon.

The day started with morning service, followed by a have-a-go session, where anyone interested could come up to the tower and ring a bell under supervision. Well over 40 people attended so it seemed the advertising in local magazines such as the 'Phonebox' had worked! Members of the public were ringing between 10.30am and 1.30pm; refreshments were served whilst they waited to be supervised and taught to ring one 'stroke', if not both 'strokes' of handling a bell.

Supervising and ringing was led by Doug Hird, Scott Ayers, Simon Read and Nick Read. The advantage to ringing is that there are very few physical limitations in ringing a bell as we had a varied of heights, ages, gender and class; as the mayor of Newport Pagnell was ringing backstrokes!

The whole team thought this was a really successful event, with over 40 people giving up their Sunday morning to come and try the art!

Then, most of the bell ringers escaped home to have some lunch before the 6pm service. Prior to this however, four Newport ringers were joined by four visiting ringers from Hanslope to ring a date touch of Plain Bob Major. They all met at 4.15 pm to ring 1911 changes of Plain Bob Major. This was specially composed by a Jon Potter, a friend of the conductor to represent the year when the bells were installed. All ringers then regrouped for the special centenary service which was led by Reverend Beverley Hollins with a guest preacher: Father Gary Ecclestone from Hanslope. Hymns, prayers and the sermon were all linked to bell ringing or specifically Newport's bells; and in some cases the bells were rung during hymns which were in the mutual key of E flat.

This service was well attended by the majority of the bell ringing team, the mayor and regular church people. The organist was Richard Heyes, who led the combined choir of St. Lukes and the parish church choir; they sang the specially chosen anthem by Purcell, Rejoice in the Lord Always (also known as the Bell Anthem). The service ended with the organist playing Carillon de Westminster by Louis Vierne, whilst the cake was prepared and tea and coffee were made. The cake was cut by the mayor of Newport Pagnell.

Overall, it was a very successful day. This was mainly due to good organisation by the bell ringing team, in particular Elly Cooper, Doug Hird and Reverend Beverley Hollins. Our aim was not to recruit, but increase the town's awareness of bell ringing, and we hope that we have changed some people's view of bell ringing for the better!

Please see www.newportpagnellbells.co.uk/centenary for more information and pictures.

Simon Read



The birthday cake. Picture by Elly Cooper Photography

SS Peter & Paul, Newport Pagnell

Sunday 26 June 2011 in 1hr 14mins

1911 Plain Bob Major

Composed: J H Potter

- 1 Elly Cooper
- 2 Alan Cozens
- 3 Nick Read
- 4 Tony Gray
- 5 Nick Gray
- 6 Roy Keeves
- 7 B Douglas Hird
- 8 Simon Read (C)

This date touch was rung before the centenary service celebrating 100 years of the bells of Newport Pagnell Parish Church being recast and installed by Gillett & Johnston, Croydon in 1911. Also, rung for the guest preacher of the service, Father Gary Ecclestone, Vicar of St. James Hanslope and SS Simon and Jude Castlethorpe, to celebrate his ordination as a deacon twelve years ago today.

Longest length: 1

Composition

W	V	F	B	M	H	23456
						3*
2*				2	2+	3572468
			-	3		3247568
	3	-	-		4*	2734568
						23456

- 3* = - s -
 2* = s -
 2+ = - s
 4* = - s - -

First seven changes as below (starting at backstroke):

<u>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8</u>	<u>Place Notation</u>
1 2 4 3 5 7 6 8	1258
2 1 3 4 7 5 6 8	78
2 3 1 7 4 5 8 6	16
3 2 1 7 5 4 6 8	34
3 1 2 5 7 6 4 8	18
1 3 5 2 7 6 4 8	5678
<u>1 3 5 7 2 4 6 8</u>	1238

Tower News

Stoke Goldington and Weston Underwood

Many years have passed since the bells of Stoke Goldington and Weston Underwood have been rung regularly for services and other events by their village residents.

A small group of ringers from other local villages are keen to help get the bells of Stoke and Weston ringing regularly again. On Saturday 18th June we held a 'Have a Go' session at Stoke Goldington. There was an opportunity for the villagers to see the bells being rung, have a go, and time to chat over refreshments. Practical sessions were run by Roy Keeves, Jonathan Griggs and Phil Haslam, starting with a demonstration of ringing on all six bells – thank you to the ringers who made this possible. Over refreshments, we were asked many interesting questions and it was good to have support from ringers at Emberton, Hanslope and Olney.

We were delighted at the positive response from the villages, and twelve people have now taken up the challenge of learning to ring their bells, with a long term view of forming a village band. Practice sessions will initially be on Saturday mornings, with concentrated tuition on tied bells.

Our thanks to Owen Warren, tower captain at Stoke for many years, for his support.

Sheila Ware & Sheila Watts

Beachampton

The bells have now been lowered into their pits and the fittings removed and taken to White's works at Appleton for refurbishment. It was hoped to adapt the wheels for re-use with the new headstocks, but when dismantled in the tower they all but disintegrated. In any case they would not have fitted through the trapdoor. It appears that the new wheels will have to be dismantled in order to fit through the trap door and then be assembled in the tower. The installation work, including quarter turning of the bells, is expected to take place in about a month's time.

Hugh Butler & Richard Stanworth



Some of the new ringers at Stoke Goldington

A significant visitor at Emberton

We were delighted to be joined at Evensong ringing in June by a ringer from Bowdon, Cheshire. Susan Stratton had strong historic connections with the village. Her Great Great Grandfather was the Revd. Campbell Hulton, Curate and Rector in the village from 1849 to 1877. In his time at Emberton he was responsible for a major restoration of both the building and the bells.

Sheila Watts

Grants

Did you know that financial assistance is available from the branch for training and bell maintenance ?

If you would like a grant from the branch for assistance with bell maintenance in your tower then please notify the secretary. Applications are discussed and agreed at the next branch meeting.

Assistance for individuals wishing to attend training courses is also available. Up to 50% of the cost of the course can be claimed with a maximum of £50. Please contact the secretary for more details (see page 2).

Helen Stanworth

Rounds and Call Changes Practices

There have been two learner practices so far over the past two months, both have been well attended.

Calverton

One person learnt to lead. One young ringer rang three different bells. The group rang rounds; two ringers improved call change ringing.

Whaddon

Two ringers improved in rounds. One learner improved in handling and ringing rounds. Four people improved in call changes. Two people improved in ringing down.

The next four practices will be at:

Old Wolverton	2nd September
Sherrington	7th October
Stony Stratford	4th November
Stoke Goldington	2nd December

All start at 7.40pm. We look forward to seeing you at the practices; anyone is welcome to attend as long as they can handle a bell.

Mick Nimmo

Outing Reports

Newport, Olney and Sherington

On Saturday the 16th of April the Newport, Olney and Sherington towers went on a ringing outing in Kent. Thanks to Doug Hird we had an amazing day. The weather was beautiful and held up all day.

The first tower was at Cheshunt it was a ring of 8. We all rang and most of us tried methods, but the rest were content with rounds. The next activity was the photo - we all lined up outside the church and had our picture taken, some took a little more persuasion - then it was back on the bus.

The next stop was Edenbridge, a ring of 8 which had a ringing room with a gap in the middle looking down into the porch, the view for weddings must be beautiful! We rang some methods and call changes, which obviously turned out great, and before we knew it, it was time to move on again.

By this time the bus was looking a little bit of a mess, but of course around the younger people there was not a drop of litter to be seen! Soon enough we were at the third church, Tunbridge Wells, a rather odd ring of bells. Not the easiest of rings as someone found out as the stay on the third bell broke and we were left with a rope flying around the room. But we persevered and kept ringing, even though someone had to hold the bell to stop it going over.

The next tower we visited was the church at Staplehurst where Rev. Beverly had been married. She had joined us from her parents house in the village. It was a beautiful ring of ten. We all tried our hardest and it sounded lovely. We all looked at the gate which is the oldest gate in England. Yet again it was time to go, with a brief mention of food and a quick picture we were on the road again.

The next village we stopped at, Wrotham, was the final one and we decided this was where we should eat. So whilst some people went to the pub, the younger group found a park to play in. After about 30 minutes of running crazily around the park some of us retired to the pub for a quick snack before the next ring. I think we must have saved the best until last. This last ring was amazing! I think everyone agreed it was just like Newport and they would like to ring there again. It truly sounded beautiful and we did the little village proud. All too soon, we were on the bus home and everyone seemed to be falling asleep. When I say everyone . . . I mean me.

I'd like to say thank you to Doug Hird and all the towers for making it such a lovely day, which I am sure we will never forget.

Ella Sheaf

Emberton

This year we decided to do something a little different, and after some discussion Phil Haslam (our Ringing Master) suggested that he could organise a morning of Clay Pigeon shooting, followed by an afternoon of ringing. Once the date was decided and various friends invited from other towers, we all began to look forward to a July outing with a difference.

We met up at Riseley and after a preliminary talk, two teams (youth versus others) were decided and we set off for the shooting range (Sheila and Sheila in a buggy)! Everybody enjoyed themselves enormously and some were surprised at how skilful they were. It seemed right that our organiser, Phil, won the overall competition! Our thanks to the staff at the shooting range who made the whole morning an interesting and entertaining experience.

After a picnic lunch we met up at Thurleigh Church to ring their bells, then on to Milton Ernest. Our last tower was Bromham, where sadly it was a 'lockout' because of a breakdown of communications with the local ringers, but we all enjoyed the beautiful surroundings.

Our thanks to Phil for organising a lovely day, and we all look forward to our next outing!

Sheila Watts

Young Ringers Outing

On Saturday 2nd July the North Bucks Branch had a Young Ringers' Outing around the Newport Deanery area, which was open to young ringers of any ability. We started at Newport Pagnell with a handful of ringers, although enough to ring a plain course of Plain Bob Major; however, we gained more ringers throughout the day whilst ringing at Emberton, Clifton Reynes and Lavendon, allowing us to ring call changes up to surprise minor.

Unfortunately we had a lock out at Olney, but this meant that the majority of the ringers could get some fish and chips and head off to the inter-branch striking competition at Hanslope.

It was important that this didn't become a tower outing, but of course this was not the case as ringers attended from Newport Pagnell, Emberton, Great Linford, Padbury and Olney.

Simon Read

... And a holiday



....and Roxy came too!

We hope that the annual ringing holiday will now be high on the list of Roxy's priorities (she's the Collie)! It should be after all the fuss and attention she received in Wiltshire this year.

The Haslam family organised a very enjoyable week of ringing for our group, based at Devizes. The photo shows our growing group of younger ringers, and it was good to see many old ringing friends again from Norfolk, Bristol, Birmingham, Rugby etc., as well as 'day' visitors from North Bucks. We rang at nineteen towers – a tower on the way to Wiltshire, a Sunday service tower (some of us particularly enjoyed joining the locals on their Rogation walk, ending in the pub), and three full days of ringing.

Sheila Watts

Minutes of Business Meeting held at Hanslope on 2nd July 2011

A short business meeting was held for the election of one new member.

Election of New Members: Chris Harrington, proposed by Mark Vale, seconded by Nat Masters. Chris was elected without dissent - Welcome !

The Big Ring Pull Quiz - Results

A big thank you to everyone who took part in the fund raising Quiz for the Big Ring-Pull. I am especially indebted to those who took bundles of quizzes away and sold them for me! Two hundred copies were sold in all, raising £200 for the fund (the prizes were donated).

Twenty three fully completed entries were returned, with a large number of those enclosing stamped addressed envelopes for a copy of the answers. Five people had the answers all correct, so we called on Alison Fowler, (the Branch Auditor and an Emberton ringer), to pick the first and second places 'out of a hat'.

'Runners up' were Sheila Blenkhorn; Chris Hill; and Thelma & Bill Shacklady.

First prize (£20) went to Michael Bayley of Amersham (who we believe was a visiting ringer at Shenley). Second prize (£10) went to the Colson family from Olney.

Sheila Watts

ODG Training Courses

There are a number of Guild training events coming up, details of which should be on your tower noticeboard; they have also been circulated via the branch egroup.

Steeple Aston Training Day

Saturday 29th October

This course provides tuition & practice on basic methods from plain hunt to Plain Bob Major. Priority will be given to members who have not attended before. Further details and an application form can be obtained from Richard Stanworth or email steepleastoncourse@odg.org.uk
Closing Date for applications is 21st September.

Ten Bell Training Day at Aston Clinton

Saturday 3rd December

This course provides tuition and practice for those wishing to progress with ringing on ten bells. It will be held at the Aston Clinton Ringing Centre. Further details will be published later in the year.



Teaching bell-handling

A 2-day course for new and experienced teachers

Day 1 - Saturday 22nd October at Downs Barn

(techniques and practical demonstrations)

Day 2 - Saturday 5th November at Olney

(extended practical teaching session)

The branch are running this course in conjunction with the Ringing Foundation and the Oxford Diocesan Guild. The aim is to give both experienced teachers and new teachers the opportunity to learn modern techniques to improve the teaching of bell handling, to benefit all towers in the branch. The course is the ITTS (Integrated Teacher Training Scheme) module 1 - for more details of the course see North Bucks ITTS Course document at www.northbucks.org.uk

One person from each tower should if possible attend, so that these skills and techniques can be used across the branch.

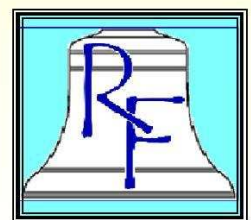
Nominal cost - £10

includes lunch and refreshments on both days,
all remaining costs to be met by The Big Ring Pull

PLACES ARE LIMITED

Names to Jonathan Griggs

01908 511883 asap



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