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





August 2015

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St Lawrences Church, Bradwell Village

3.00pm General Ringing & Service Touch 4.30pm Service 5pm Chairman's cup Competition during which light refreshments will be served

Bradwell Memorial Hall:

6pm Autumn Meeting with breakout groups for recruitment project 7.45pm Fish and Chip supper and Quiz

To mark the 100th anniversary of the deaths of North Bucks ringers Mr EJ Webb (Maids Moreton), Mr WG Spires (Bradwell) and MR AJ Fennemore (Leckhamstead) who died in WW1 our Autumn meeting will start at the St Lawrences, Bradwell Village and end at Bradwell Memorial hall on Saturday 26th September.

A fish and chip supper together with a quiz will be held after the meeting and all branch members and their families are invited to join. Please bring your own soft drinks, Tea and coffee and squash will be available for a small donation.

To book your choice of supper please complete the order form emailed to all branch members on 10th August (or see branch website) and return it to any of your branch representatives listed or email it to Linda Maycroft at Imaycroft@googlemail.com or Post to Linda Maycroft. 3 Trevithick Lane, Shenley Lodge, Milton Keynes MK5 7EE by Wednesday 15th September please.

Forthcoming Events

Date and Time Fri 4th Sept – 7.40 to 9.00pm Sat 26th Sept Fri 2nd Oct – 7.40 to 9.00pm Sat 17th Oct Fri 6th Nov – 7.40 to 9.00pm Sat 7th Nov Fri 4th Dec – 7.40 to 9.00pm Sat 19th Dec

- Event Bob doubles, plain hunt and call changes practice Branch Half Yearly Meeting Bob doubles, plain hunt and call changes practice Branch Training Course Bob doubles, plain hunt and call changes practice Branch Quarter Peal Week begins Bob doubles, plain hunt and call changes practice Branch Practice & Christmas Social
- Location Passenham Bradwell (see above) Chicheley Various (see page 2) Sherington Various Whaddon Stony Stratford (tbc)

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Who's Who 2014—2015

Chairman	Graham Bartholomew	Loughton	07724 889120	chairman@northbucksbranch.org.uk
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	Vacant			
Newsletter Editor	Vacant			newslettereditor@northbucksbranch.org.uk
Branch Websites	www.northbucksbranch.org.uk <i>or</i> www.northbucks.org.uk (archive)		Guild Website	www.odg.org.uk

Training

Branch Training Day - Saturday 17th October

This year's Branch Training Day will be held on Saturday 17th October and the topic for the course will be Doubles Variations. We plan to run two courses on the day - one will be an Introduction to Doubles Variations aimed at ringers who have little or no experience of ringing Doubles Variations; and the other will be aimed at those who have some previous experience and would like to learn more or learn how to conduct Doubles Variations. The format for the day will be as in previous years with a morning and an afternoon session with pub lunch in between.

Further details of venues, timings and programme will be sent out in due course, but please put the date in your diary now. In the meantime, in order to help us with planning the day I would be grateful if you could e-mail or telephone me if you think you would like to come on the course. This will help give us an idea of the level of interest so that we can plan accordingly. It won't commit you to attending!

Doubles Variations are great fun to ring and once a ringer has learnt the basics there are endless combinations to have a go at. If you can ring a touch of Bob Doubles and Grandsire Doubles, then you are already ready to start ringing Variations. If you have experience of Variations, then come along and learn some more.

Ann Birch

Email: <u>minutessecretary@northbucksbranch.org.uk</u> Tel: 01908 503971

Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers

TOWERS & BELFRIES COMMITTEE

BASIC BELL MAINTENANCE COURSE

Based at Newbury

SATURDAY 31st October 2015

10 am to 4 pm Cost £10

- Hands-on practice of inspection & fault finding on real bells
- Regular maintenance
- Working safely amongst bells
- Questions answered

Contact AnthonyWilliamson <u>anthony.williamson@tiscali.co.uk</u> (01993 891 680)

Tea & coffee available - pub lunch or bring packed lunch

Deadline for next edition ...

The deadline for contributions for the next edition of *In Touch* is **Tuesday 3rd November 2015.**

Contributions to <u>newslettereditor@northbucksbranch.org.uk</u> please.

Branch News

St Mary's Church, Whaddon – Striking Competition

The 20th of June saw St. Mary's at Whaddon have the hosting the annual Branch striking competition. While the Branch did their usual excellent organising and advertising, the ringers roped in as much help as they could muster to try and make the event as relaxed as possible, and to provide the competitors and listeners with much needed refreshments.

Prior to the day, the ropes were all adjusted to make them as even as possible. However, like many towers, the bells have their own unique quirks, and the second decided to rise higher than the others. We think that where it rests in the frame must be damper than the others, or maybe we have a mischievous ghost! This was only realised when the bells were rung up shortly before the competition, and so time did not allow for the rope to be adjusted. Fortunately Whaddon is possession of several boxes, which the competitors could make use of.



With the rules laid out and order of ceremony decided, it was time for the refreshments to be unveiled. We hope those who were able to attend would agree that no-one was left hungry by the few morsels that were provided; there was even enough for more than a few doggy bags, and we ate well on a fine selection of cakes, sandwiches, fruits and sausage rolls, not to mention the copious tea and coffee that was on offer.

The ringers of Whaddon would like to offer sincere thanks to all of those who contributed their time and catering talents to this event, including some who are not ringers, but wanted to make the Guild members welcome to Whaddon. I do not think my photos do justice to their hard work!

> Phillip Starr St Mary's ringers

Remarks from the Judges

Robert and Pat Newton thanked the Branch for inviting them to judge, and commented that the teams were to be congratulated on a very creditable standard of ringing. Well done to all.

The judges had familiarised themselves with the bells by joining the general ringing over tea, and thought that an unevenness of sound inside the ringing chamber would make it difficult for the lighter bells to strike well. The ropes were of varying lengths, and the 2nd so short they would surely have no problem cutting in! Listening outside, the tenor seemed odd struck, being slow at hand. Many bands had some difficulty with this, and the tenor is a very important bell! 1 and 2 found difficulty partly because tenor was late. Pat and Robert hoped their comments would be constructive and helpful.

Team A. Woughton – Grandsire Doubles, 43 faults

Interesting that their practice method was different to that chosen for the test piece! Good positive ringing, with leading sometimes rather on the brisk side. Generally a good piece.

Team B. Loughton - Plain Bob Doubles, 56 faults

This ringing was rather a cautious piece. A little hesitant, and ringing round each other a bit.

Team C. Olney – Plain Bob Minor, 85 faults

It was a bold decision for this band to ring Minor. There was some difficulty in the rounds, and then some quite inaccurate parts in the test piece. A good patch half way through, but this was not maintained.

Team D. Shenley – Plain Bob Doubles, 64 faults

There was a good positive rhythm to this ringing. Most faults were picked up round the half lead and lead end.

Team E. Hanslope - Plain Bob Doubles, 93 faults

This test piece suffered from a rather irregular rhythm, with the striking varying a bit. One handstroke lead was very wide.

Team F. Branch Officers – Cambridge, 54 faults

A good positive effort from this band. As with Team C, a bold and brave choice. There was a hint of a method mistake at one point. An enjoyable piece of ringing, but they should have rung doubles to win!

The Results:



The wining team

- 2. Branch Officers
- 3. Loughton
- 4. Shenley
- 5. Olney
- 6. Hanslope

Branch News contd.

Your branch needs you - Recruitment Training and Retention

Can you believe it has now been 3 ¹/₂ years since the Big Ring Pull project delivered it's recruitment drive in Middleton Hall Milton Keynes. The BRP was a great success we still have two towers where the bells were silent before the BRP that are now regularly rung and 20 of the 42 people who attended the intensive 2 week training course in Newport Pagnell have continued to ring and are progressing well with their ringing development.



With membership now beginning to fall, it's time for us to concentrate ourselves on recruitment, training and retention once again. As membership is only one part of the story we are conducting a tower census and the results of this will be shared at the Autumn Meeting. A quartet of officers (Linda, Lesley, Shelia and Patricia) has been looking into the best practices and learns from across the ringing community in respect of recruitment, training and retention. What this research has demonstrated is that we need to need to develop a constant yet flexible self-sustainable model for recruitment training and retention that appeals to a 21st Century society.

We have some initial ideas that we would like to share and develop with you, so please join us at this year's Autumn Meeting on the 26th September at Bradwell Memorial Hall.

We're looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible there.

Linda, Lesley, Patricia & Sheila



OVER TO YOU – A MESSAGE FROM THE GUILD MASTER

I hope you have all enjoyed a good summer. Here are just a couple of things to consider:

Young Ringers' Practices

The band which rang in the Ringing World National Youth Competition in July was a credit to the Guild, to their towers and to themselves. They scored Aand were joint second in the method ringing section. It was a real pleasure to hear them ring. We are planning to continue the monthly practices on the 4th Sunday of the month, at different locations around the Guild. The focus will be on triples and major.

We hope that some new faces will be ready to join those who came to the practices last year.

Message to Branch Officers and Tower Captains – please let me know, either now or over time, of any young ringers who can ring triples (depending on numbers, we may be able to include some who are presently plain hunting on 7) and who are able to commit to this with all the other things that young people do (not least school work!).

Ringing for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

I would just like to echo the message sent out by the Guild Secretary about the fact that, around 5.30 pm on Wednesday 9 September, the Queen will become the longest-reigning British monarch in history. Although Her Majesty has asked that no fuss be made of this event it is still an excellent reason to ring, and to publicise the reason for the ringing.

Your branch

I have visited each branch now but that won't stop me visiting again! I do enjoy going out to other towers and joining in with your ringing. Do let me know of anything special that is happening in your area.

With best wishes,

Hilarie

Branch News contd.



From Towers to Trenches, we remember them.....

In this edition of in touch we will remember the lives of two bell ringers from North Bucks who died on the same day, 25th September 2015 in the line of duty.

George William Spiers - Bradwell

The deathly silence is broken by buglers at 8pm sharp, the familiar notes of the last post echo around the Menin Gate in Ypres. The last post is played each evening since the tradition began in 1928 as a tribute to the memory of the many soldiers who fought and fell in the Ypres Salient so many years ago. The Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing bears the names of 54,389 officers and men from the United Kingdom and Commonwealth Forces (except New Zealand and Newfoundland). Among the names engraved on stone G in bay 39 is Spiers WG [sic] a search in the memorial's register provides a little more detail "SPIERS [sic] Pte William George 18411. 5th Bn Oxf Bucks Light Inf. 25th Sept., 1915."

William was the 4th known child of Arthur and Elizabeth Spiers and was born in the summer of 1896 in Old Bradwell possibly Loughton Road where the family lived in 1891. Arthur was employed as a labourer on a local farm and was born and bred locally in Old Bradwell. Mother, Elizabeth nee Lennard was born in Little Horwood and the couple were married in 1888. In 1901, the family were living "next to" the "post office", Arthur was aged 36 while his wife was 3 years his senior. The children Hilda age 11, Sarah age 10, Arthur age 8 and William age 5 were presumably all attending the local school.

Fast forward to 1911, the census record completed by Mrs Arthur Spires shows that father, Arthur was employed as a "Cowman on farm", while his daughter Sarah was employed in a printing works and his elder sons Arthur and William had been taken on as apprentices with a brick layer and house painter respectively. Hilda was perhaps one of the two children to have died before the 1911 census. The home they lived in was still near the post office and contained 4 rooms including kitchen but excluding any scullery, landing, lobby, closet or bathroom. Around this time William rang the bells at ST Lawrence, Bradwell. While the service records for William do not appear to have survived The Blitz it is likely that he was killed on the first day of the Battle of Loos (25th Sept – 18 Oct 1915). The web site Lightbobs.com has transcribed a copy of the 5th Battalion's action during the First World War, this document recounts that the battalion was assembled by midnight on the 24th expecting to commence the attack on Bellewaarde farm at 4.20am it gives details of how the battle developed during the course of the day and devastating result of one day's action, 13 out of 15 officers and 463 out of 767 other ranks had lost their lives. William amongst the 463 was most likely a member of the left column which was heavily shelled at the beginning of the battle.

Anthony Joseph Fennemore - Leckhamstead

On the 3rd December 1910 the local ringers of The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Leckhamstead rang their first peal of Grandsire Doubles which took 2 hours and 54 minutes on 5 bells. At that time Leckhampstead belonged to The Towcester and District branch of church bell ringers. The peal was conducted by Dennis Carter who rang the 13-2-0 tenor, the treble was rung by 25 year old Anthony Fennemore.

Anthony was born in Leckhampstead to parents William and Margaret, he was one of 11 children born to the couple of which nine were still living at the time of the 1911 census. Anthony was employed as a farm labourer in 1911 as his father was before him. Being the youngest surviving child Anthony was the only one still at home in 1911, his parents were in their 70's and were classified as old age pensioners. The Old Age Pensions Act of 1908 introduced the concept of a means tested state pension for those aged 70 and over from 1909, Anthony's parents were probably one of the first couples to have qualified by earning less than £21 per annum.

Anthony enlisted in Buckingham and became a private in the Gloucestershire Regiment 10^{th} (Service) Battalion. The 10^{th} Service Battalion landed in France 8^{th} August 1915 on the 17^{th} August it transferred to the 1^{st} Brigade in the 1^{st} Division who were involved in the Battle of Loos between the 25^{th} September and 18^{th} October 1915.

The website 1914-1918.net gives a detailed account of role the 1st division played it states that the "lead Battalions (10/Gloucester and 8/R. Berkshires... advanced through all objectives despite heavy casualties. One of the casualties was 30 year old Anthony who is commemorated as one of the missing on the Loos Memorial which forms the sides and back of Dud Corner Cemetery.

We will be commemorating the lives of both this ringers by lighting the branch memorial candle at our Autumn Meeting on the 26th September.

Tower News

Time flies at Shenley – something to watch out for (a cautionary tale)

At the end of Sunday morning ringing it was time to get the bells down and everyone who could was asked to take hold. The fall was not going well and one of our less experienced members was struggling to take a decent coil. Unfortunately, in a blink of an eye, a loop of rope caught round the large wristwatch she was wearing and pulled it down onto her hand. Then the watch was wrenched off and went flying across the room. When the rest of the band were able to make their bells safe and see to the rather shaken ringer it was noticed her hand had quickly become very swollen and bruised. Following a later assessment at A+E a small bone in that hand was found to be fractured. So, if anyone wears a big fashionable watch, it might be safer to take it off before ringing to avoid any possible mishaps.

Ted Fawcett

Sherington

In mid-June the Sherington ringers had a maintenance morning and a tower clean. Where half went up to the bells and worked through a check-list of tasks to assess the state of the bells, and oiled and tighten bolts where it was needed. the other half got out the vacuum and polish and set to making the ringing chamber a more present place to ring, After a couple of



hours all was done and everyone felt that it was a job well done. At the next practice session, it was noticed and appreciated

The pay-off for those who wanted to was to go and have a look at the views from the top of the tower, and that day the view was good (as above). Thanks to all who came and helped.

Mark Vale

Hugh Butler (1934 - 2015)

The bells rang in memory of Hugh Butler at his funeral at St Marys Whaddon on 28 July, Whaddon ringers rang their tribute to Hugh before the service followed by ringers from the branch, after the service six senior ringers who had rung with Hugh over many years rang the cortege to the graveside for the committal. Hugh always made it quite clear he didn't like muffled or tolling bells and so it was open ringing which he loved and very fitting for Hugh. Refreshments were served in the Village Hall afterwards. *Derek White*

Hugh was a very loyal Branch member for many years both at Great Brickhill and Whaddon towers. He was always present at meetings, and served as a Branch Officer in the past.

Hello Gary

Please pass on my thanks to all the bellringers who came to Dad's funeral on Tuesday - the sound of the bells was a real joy and I know that he would have been thrilled that so many of his friends were there to ring for him. Best wishes to you all -

Rachel

22nd August 2015 **All Saints, Loughton** 840 changes of Grandsire Doubles

- 1 Rebecca Fawcett
- 2 John Brookman
- 3 Ann Birch
- 4 Gary Reading
- 5 Edward Fawcett (C)
- 6 Claire Reading

Rung in memory of Hugh Butler, a regular visitor at Loughton and Shenley

Inter-branch Joint Practice, Picnic and Striking Competition

The North Bucks Branch were successful in winning the Joint Striking Competition held on 18th July. Of the three separate competitions, North Bucks won the Bob Minor and the Rounds and Call Changes, and Towcester won the Stedman, so we won overall and held on to the main trophy. Well done to everyone who took part.

The results:-

North Buc	<u>ks</u>	Towcester
	14 1/3 faults	15 2/3 faults
Rounds &	Calls 33 1/4 faults	35 1/4 faults
Stedman	39 3/4 faults	33 1/4 faults

Peals & Quarters

Chicheley, Bucks St. Laurence

Friday, 29 May 2015 (16¹/₂cwt)

1260 Grandsire Doubles

- 1 Adam Hird 2 B Douglas Hird (C)
- 3 Liz Wagstaff
- 4 Charles J Knight
- 5 Barry R Eglesfield
- 6 Keith Wagstaff

To mark the 100th anniversary of the death of Private Arthur Wm. Wright, ringer at Chicheley, on 28/04/1915. First inside: 3.

South Northamptonshire Society

Wicken, Northamptonshire St. John the Evangelist Saturday, 13 June 2015 in 2h 59 (15–1–20)

5088 Barking Surprise Major

- Composed by BYROC 1 Siân J Moorhouse (neé Haseldine)
- 2 Julie A Haseldine
- 3 Ruth Stokes
- 4 Christopher C Stokes
- 5 James A Haseldine
- 5 James A Haseluine 6 Kovin P Haseldine
- 6 Kevin R Haseldine
- 7 Andrew Haseldine (C)
- 8 Richard Haseldine

Celebrating the births of Oliver John Haseldine, a son for Kevin and Lucy, and Jane Elizabeth Haseldine, a daughter for James and Marika.

Rung for the opening of Wicken's annual Dog Show. First peal (and probably last!): 1. 1000th peal: 8.

Wicken, Northamptonshire

St. John the Evangelist Tuesday, 23 June 2015 in 45 mins (15–1–20) **1260 Grandsire Triples**

- 1 Lesley Belcher
- 2 David Phillipson
- 3 Ann Birch
- 4 Ruth Stokes
- 5 Andrew Spencer
- 6 Chris Stokes
- 7 Richard Haseldine (C)
- 8 Doug Hird

Loughton, Bucks

All Saints Saturday, 27 June 2015 (11-0-8)

1260 Mixed Doubles (3m)

(3m: 480 St. Simons; 480 St. Martins; 300 Plain Bob) 1 Graham Bartholomew

- 2 Gary Reading
- 3 Anne McIntyre
- 4 Terry Page
- 5 Edward Fawcett (C)

To commemorate the death 100 years ago today, of Arthur Thomas Kitchener the second Loughton man to die in the Great War.

Also to celebrate the arrival of Alexandra, a granddaughter for Roger Blackburn, bell-ringer and Churchwarden at All Saints

St Olave's Society

Beachampton, Bucks 14 Main Street Sunday, 28 June 2015 in 2h 22 (size 13) **5152 Yorkshire Surprise Major** Composed by R R Horton 1–2 Michael J Trimm 3–4 Lesley J Belcher 5–6 Ruth Blackwell 7–8 Richard A Pearce (C)

To celebrate the life and mark the passing of Ken Belcher, 1937 - 2015.

Woughton on the Green, Bucks St. Mary

Thursday, 9 July 2015 in 42 mins (7cwt)

1260 Grandsire Doubles

- 1 Brian Baldwin
- 2 Martin R Petchey
- 3 Peter Tribble
- 4 Paul Crombleholme
- 5 Simon J O Head (C)
- 6 Patricia Caryl Rosewell

First in method: 4.

Wicken, Northamptonshire St. John the Evangelist Tuesday, 14 July 2015 in 45 mins (15–1–20) **1344 Superlative Surprise Major**

- 1 Ruth Stokes
- 2 Loclov Bolch
- Lesley Belcher
 Claire Reading
- Androw Sponso
- 4 Andrew Spencer
- 5 Gary Reading
- 6 Doug Hird7 Stephen Stanford
- 8 Chris Stokes (C)

First in method: 3 & 5.

Woughton on the Green, Bucks

St. Mary Sunday, 26 July 2015 (7cwt)

1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor

- 1 Anna Peace
- 2 Brian Baldwin
- 3 Peter Tribble
- 4 Martin Petchey
- 5 Christina Tribble
- 6 Simon J O Head (C)

To celebrate the 50th birthday of the conductor.

Peals & Quarters contd.

Woughton on the Green, Bucks

St. Mary

Saturday, 1 August 2015 in 43 mins (7cwt)

1260 St Clements College Bob Minor

- 1 Brian Baldwin
- 2 Peter Tribble
- 3 Christina Tribble
- 4 Paul Crombleholme
- 5 Martin R Petchey
- 6 Simon J O Head (C)

First in method: 4.

Woughton on the Green, Bucks

St. Mary Saturday, 1 August 2015 in 43 mins (7cwt)

1260 St Clements College Bob Minor

- 1 Brian Baldwin
- 2 Peter Tribble
- 3 Christina Tribble
- 4 Paul Crombleholme
- 5 Martin R Petchey
- 6 Simon J O Head (C)

First in method: 4.

Beachampton, Bucks

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Friday, 21 August 2015 in 42 mins (8–0–27)

1299 Grandsire Doubles

- 1 Benjamin East
- 2 Celia J K Wood
- 3 Phillip A Butler
- 4 David A C Matthews (C)
- 5 Michael T Childs

Newport Pagnell, Bucks

SS Peter and Paul

Sunday, 23 August 2015 in 43 mins (10-0-5)

1260 Plain Bob Minor

Composed by Glenn A A Taylor

- 1 Adam Hird
- 2 Nicola King
- 3 Scott P Ayers
- 4 Charles Knight
- 5 B Douglas Hird
- 6 Simon Read (C)

Rung in celebration for the baptism of Harry John Cooper.

Oxford Diocesan Guild

Wicken, Northamptonshire St John the Evangelist Tuesday, 25 August 2015 (15–1–20 in F) **1280 Bristol Surprise Major** 1 Sebastian Lucas

- 2 Ruth Stokes 3 Lesley Belcher
- 4 Andrew Spencer 5 Nick Gray
- 6 Tony Gray (C)
- 7 David Phillipson
- 8 Chris Stokes
- First of Bristol as conductor

Magna Carta

Touches rung for the 800th anniversary of the signing of Magna Carta

Loughton, Bucks

All Saints Sunday, 14 June 2015 (11–0–8)

800 Mixed Doubles (4m)

(4m: 80 Grandsire; 240 Plain Bob; 240 St. Simon's; 240 St. Martins)

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

Shenley, Bucks

St. Mary Sunday, 14 June 2015 (17–1–11)

800 Grandsire Doubles

- 1 Ann Birch
- 2 Becky Fawcett
- 3 Graham Bartholomew
- 4 Gary Reading
- 5 Edward Fawcett (C)
- 6 John Brookman

Woughton On The Green, Bucks

St. Mary Sunday, 14 June 2015 in 25 mins (7cwt) **800 Grandsire Doubles**

- 1 Martin Smith
- 2 Peter Tribble
- 3 Martin R Petchey
- 4 Paul Crombleholme
- 5 Simon J O Head (C)
- 6 Christina Tribble

Maids Moreton, Bucks Sunday, 14 June 2015 (10-3-20) 1260 St Clements Minor

- 1 Bob Christopher
- 2 Lesley Belcher
- 3 Ann Fletcher
- 4 Laurence Gibson
- 5 Sebastian Lucas
- 6 Andrew Spencer (C)

