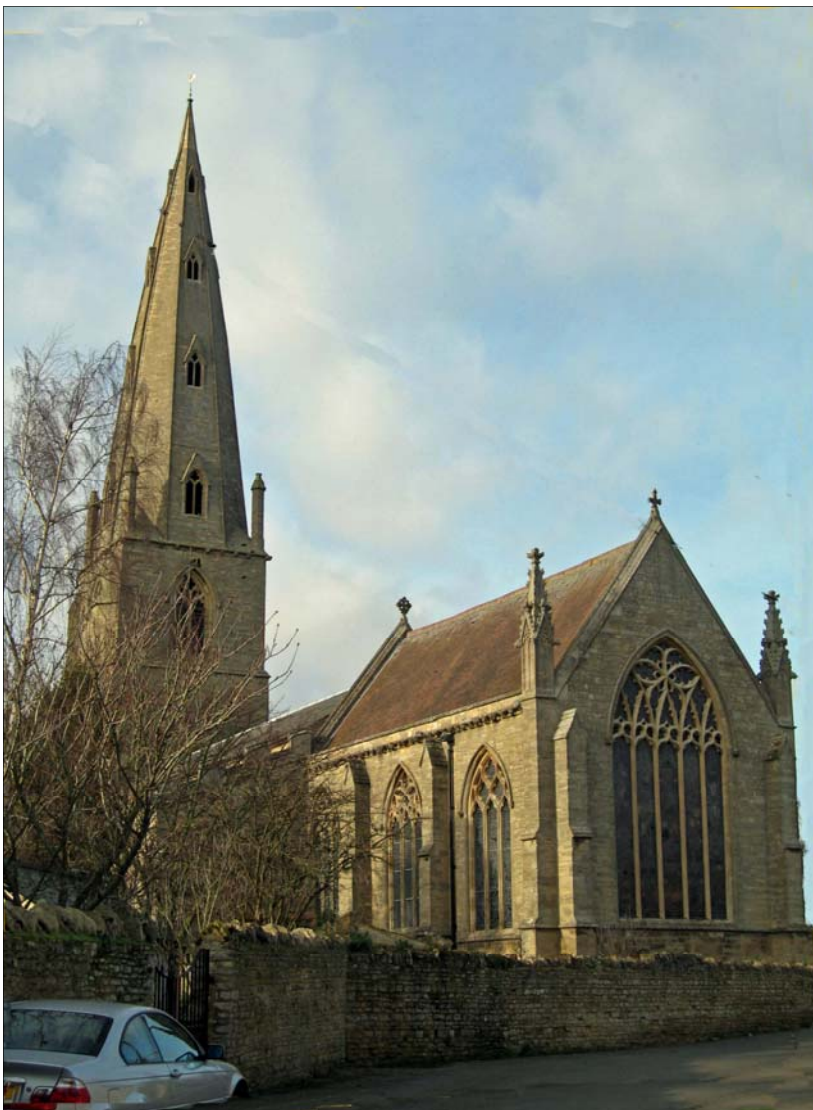




OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS  
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH BUCKS BRANCH

# In Touch

February 2008



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING at Olney

The Annual General Meeting will  
be held at  
Ss Peter & Paul, Olney  
on  
Saturday 1st March 2008

The timetable will be as follows:

3.30 Ringing  
4.30 Service  
5.00 Tea  
5.45 Business Meeting &  
Ringing until 8.30

Please telephone numbers for tea  
to Helen Dilley  
Tel: 01234-713583 by  
Saturday 23rd February 2008

### A Ringers' Hymn

A D H Allan (Tune 'Irish', 504)

Again, O Lord, we bless thy Name,  
And share in sacred rites,  
As bells within their steadfast frame,  
Where each in praise unites.

And if, through errors manifold,  
Our natures ring untrue  
Recast us in that Heavenly mould,  
Where Christ makes all things new.

Then in the high eternal towers  
Which none but Christ could climb,  
No praise shall peal more clear than ours,  
No music more sublime.

Conduct us through each method maze  
Thy wisdom shall design;  
Control, reprove, exhort, or praise,  
Until our wills are thine.

And when our coursing rhythmic sounds  
Must end where they began,  
Recall us into perfect rounds,  
And thus fulfil thy plan.

*With thanks to West  
Wrattling tower, the Ladies  
Guild, and Lindy Ellis*

## Chairman

Mr Richard Stanworth  
Email. [chairman@northbucks.org.uk](mailto:chairman@northbucks.org.uk)

## Secretary

Mrs Helen Stanworth  
Email. [secretary@northbucks.org.uk](mailto:secretary@northbucks.org.uk)

## Treasurer / In Touch Editor

Mrs Sheila Watts  
Email. [treasurer@northbucks.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@northbucks.org.uk) /  
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## Ringling Master

Mr Barry Eglesfield  
Email. [ringingmaster1@northbucks.org.uk](mailto:ringingmaster1@northbucks.org.uk)

## Assistant Ringing Master

Post Vacant

## Training Officer

Miss Christine Cable  
Email. [training@northbucks.org.uk](mailto:training@northbucks.org.uk)

## Guild Representatives

Mr Alan Marchbank  
Email. [guildrep1@northbucks.org.uk](mailto:guildrep1@northbucks.org.uk)

Brian Newman

Email. [guildrep2@northbucks.org.uk](mailto:guildrep2@northbucks.org.uk)

## Archivist

Mr Doug Hird  
Email. [archivist@northbucks.org.uk](mailto:archivist@northbucks.org.uk)

# Secretarial Snippets

## Videos

**Bellhandling—a tutor's companion** (produced by the Central Council—video or DVD)

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

**Teaching Demonstration** (recording of Steve Coleman teaching—video)

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

## Tower Information

The Secretary sent out a letter or email to all tower correspondents towards the end of last year, giving the details that are held about them as tower correspondent, and of the bells and ringing at their tower. They were asked to check these details, amend as necessary and reply by the end of the year. So far, about half of the letters have been returned. If you have not yet done so, please return the letter, or reply to the email, even if everything is correct, so that we know that we have the correct details. We try to maintain accurate information. We can only do this with your help.

## Membership Information Form

All members should have received a form at the beginning of the year which, if you haven't already done so, you should complete and return to the Secretary. As we are aiming to communicate directly with each member, we cannot do this and keep you informed of Branch and Guild activities until we have received a completed form. If you have not received a form, or have mislaid it, please contact the Secretary and she will send you a copy.

## Egroup Membership

If you have provided an email address on your membership information form, you will be invited to join the North Bucks egroup forum so that you will automatically receive notices about Branch and Guild events via email. There is no compulsion to join the egroup. However, we would like as many Branch members as possible to join the egroup so that we can keep in touch with you.

## Email Distribution of Notices etc

Tower correspondents who receive notices via email and are not already members of the Branch egroup will be invited to join the egroup and receive notices via the egroup. 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](mailto:secretary@northbucks.org.uk)) - or send in their membership information form.

# Chairman's Jottings

The Christmas Celebration was well attended and I think everyone enjoyed themselves. Thanks to Barry for organising the quiz, and to Chrissie and Dave for organising the Fish and Chips, and the crockery and cutlery to eat them with.

The Olney Appeal is progressing well and the officers have agreed that the Branch should organise an Open Day on Easter Monday in aid of this. Please support us if you can, either by taking part or by helping to steward at the towers.

You will find the Officers reports for the year in this edition of *In Touch*. They are being published in advance so that you have a chance to read them before the AGM instead of having to speed read them on the day. In this way we hope to streamline the running of the AGM and reduce the time taken for the meeting.

All members should have received a membership information form to complete and return to the Branch secretary. This is the next phase in our steps to improve communication with you, the members. Using the information collected we will then be able to communicate directly with you and keep you informed of Branch and Guild activities.

The Annual General Meeting of the Branch is your chance to tell us how we are doing and what you would like to see the Branch do over the next year. Do come along and support the Branch if you can. Without the members' feedback we can only guess at what you want from the Branch.

With best wishes.

*Richard Stanworth*

## Newport's balcony - progress after all these years

The builder has now completed the re-profiling of the North Porch floor, taking care not to disturb local benefactor John Revis, who was under the floor all this time.

This has put the timetable back a few weeks but with a bit of careful planning, they hope to complete the job by the end of February.

So, by the time this issue is with you, Newport's ringing platform should be ready for us to move into.

*Doug Hird*



### WANTED

**Tower Captain for St Martin, Fenny Stratford.  
The tower has 6 perfectly good bells and some  
ringers, with a possibility of new recruits.**

**Anyone interested in getting Fenny  
tower going again,  
contact Rev Victor Bullock on 01908 372825 or  
Peter White on 01908 564309 / 07711 511754**

# Peals

Priory Church of St Peter, Dunstable  
Saturday 29th December 2007  
5056 Bristol Surprise Major in 3h 16m (23-2-15)

Alan M Barber  
1 Alan J Marchbank  
2 Barry R Eglesfield  
3 Alexandra J Marchbank  
4 David Phillipson  
5 Richard Horne  
6 Robert J Marchbank  
7 Alan M Shepherd  
8 Richard Alton (C)  
First Peal of Major—3

# Quarters

St Lawrence, Bradwell  
Tuesday 20th November 2007 in 42m (7-2-15)  
1260 Grandsire & Plain Bob Doubles

1 Christine Abbott  
2 Jenny Brookman  
3 Christine Cable  
4 Ian Green  
5 David Joyce (C)  
6 Jean Phillips

Rung by the local band to celebrate the Diamond Wedding Anniversary of Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh

St Mary the Virgin, Padbury  
Tuesday 20th November 2007  
1260 Grandsire Doubles

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

First in method—3  
For the Diamond Wedding Anniversary of HM Queen Elizabeth II and HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh

St James the Great, Hanslope  
Tuesday 20th November 2007  
1260 Stedman Triples

1 Richard Haseldine  
2 George Green  
3 Alan Cozens  
4 Nicholas Gray  
5 Ian Thompson  
6 Roy Keeves  
7 Jonathan Griggs (C)  
8 Anthony Gray

Rung to celebrate the Diamond Wedding Anniversary of the Queen and Prince Philip

All Saints, Calverton  
Thursday 29th November 2007  
1260 Plain Bob Minor

1 Malcolm Hooton  
2 Derek Stainsby  
3 Anne McIntyre  
4 Bob Winstanley  
5 Terry Page  
6 John Collett (C)

To celebrate the visit this day to Milton Keynes by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth

All Saints Loughton  
Thursday 29th November 2007  
1260 Doubles (3 methods)

1 Anne McIntyre  
2 Bob Winstanley  
3 Derek Stainsby  
4 Ray Watkin  
5 Terry Page (C)  
6 Hugh Butler

To celebrate the visit this day to Milton Keynes by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth



**The Loughton Band**

# More Quarters

St Michael, Abergele, Clwyd  
Saturday 1st December 2007  
1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor

- 1 Helen Stanworth
  - 2 Richard Stanworth
  - 3 Catherine Stanworth
  - 4 John Stanworth
  - 5 Michael Tinsley
  - 6 David Stanworth (C)
- On the Conductor's 60th Birthday

Ss Peter & Paul, Olney  
Friday 21st December 2008  
1260 Stedman Triples

- 1 David Phillipson
  - 2 Barry R Eglesfield
  - 3 Roy Keeves
  - 4 B Douglas Hird
  - 5 Alan J Marchbank
  - 6 Nick Gray
  - 7 Richard Haseldine (C)
  - 8 Charles J Knight
- Rung on the Bicentenary of the death of John Newton who was curate here from 1764 to 1779 and wrote Amazing Grace while in Olney

All Saints, Leighton Buzzard  
Sunday 30th December 2007  
1280 Bristol Surprise Major

- 1 Catherine Stanworth
  - 2 Alan M Shepherd
  - 3 Alan J Marchbank
  - 4 Alexandra J Marchbank
  - 5 Bob Tregellus
  - 6 Richard Horne
  - 7 Michael Tinsley
  - 8 Barry R Eglesfield (C)
- For Sunday Service

St Mary, Whaddon  
Sunday 6th January 2008  
1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- 1 Gary Reading
  - 2 Ann Birch
  - 3 Anne McIntyre
  - 4 Derek Stainsby (C)
  - 5 Bob Winstanley
  - 6 Hugh Butler
- Rung in memory of Fred Green, long-time Organist and PCC member at Whaddon

St Mary the Virgin, Padbury  
Sunday 27th January 2008  
1260 Grandsire Doubles

- 1 Michael Tinsley
  - 2 Helen Stanworth
  - 3 Gillian Macdonald
  - 4 Catherine Stanworth
  - 5 Richard Stanworth (C)
  - 6 John Stanworth
- Rung to welcome Rev Ros Roberts to the Benefice and on the occasion of her 50th Birthday

All Saints, Emberton  
Tuesday 5th February 2008  
1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor

- 1 Alison Fowler
  - 2 Phil Haslam
  - 3 Tony Gray
  - 4 Ian Thompson
  - 5 Roy Keeves
  - 6 Jonathan Griggs (C)
- First Quarter—1  
Rung open in thanksgiving for the life of Kevin Carew Ware, on the eve of his funeral at this Church



Alison's first quarter—All Saints, Emberton

St James the Great, Hanslope  
Sunday 10th February 2008  
1280 Double Oxford Major in 46m

- 1 Stuart Grout
  - 2 George Green
  - 3 Richard Haseldine
  - 4 Nick Gray
  - 5 Ian Thompson
  - 6 Tony Gray
  - 7 Roy Keeves
  - 8 Jonathan Griggs (C)
- Rung for Sunday Service  
First in method for all except 2

# Olney Update

As at the 9<sup>th</sup> February the appeal fund stands at just over £42,000 against a target of £57,600 and it is only a few days over three months since the appeal was launched. Earlier in January we held a Burns Night supper which raised over £1,000 for the fund and earlier this week Liz Sheaf, one of our ringers and Tina Jeffrey, a friend of the ringers, ran in the Olney Pancake Race sponsored for the fund and raised a little over £1,000.



Liz and Tina run for the Appeal



On the grant side of things we have pending applications totalling £55,520 with the ODG Bell Fund, the Bucks Historic Churches Trust, the Foundation for Sport and the Arts and the Heritage Lottery Fund. The DAC Certificate covering the new frame, retuning, casting of the new bells and the rehousing has been issued and the petition for faculty is being submitted next week.

The current plan is for work to start immediately after the last wedding we are ringing for this year on the 19<sup>th</sup> July and Whites of Appleton will be taking the bells out starting on the 18<sup>th</sup> August. We hope to be ringing the ten bells by the end of the year and are planning to ring for Service on Christmas Day.

We look forward to welcoming everyone to the AGM at Olney on the 1<sup>st</sup> March.

David Phillipson

A local Branch ringer in disguise at the Olney Burns Night!

## 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. A meeting for this may be convened at a Branch practice or other Branch event.

## Training Grants

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 if at all possible.

## OPEN DAY in aid of Olney Bells Appeal

**The Branch is organising an Open Day on Easter Monday, 24th March to raise money for the Olney Bells Appeal. About 30 towers are expected to be open in the North Bucks area during the day. Full details will be advertised as soon as confirmed. In the meantime, Book the Day Now. If you can help with stewarding on the day, then please contact the Chairman or Secretary.**

## Our Grateful Thanks...

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

The deadline for the next *In Touch* is:  
**Tuesday 6th May 2008**

Sheila Watts & Sheila Ware  
Editors



# Christmas Celebration event held at Bradwell Village

Saturday 15 December 2007

The event commenced in the late afternoon at the Church with a short Service of carols which were interspersed with readings and poems with a festive theme. After this we adjourned to the hall where the tables were already laid and ready for us with vinegar, sauces and gherkins. It seemed that no sooner had we sat down than the fish and chips arrived [not sure who to thank for this as I didn't actually see who brought them in]. We had all brought our own soft drinks with us to accompany the meal and then we finished off with coffee and mince pies.



Following the food, we divided ourselves up into teams of four or five for the Ringing Master's Quiz. Each team wrote their answers down for each round and then passed them on to the next team for them to mark. Alan then collated the points scored for each team for that round. It was great fun and there was a lot of friendly banter between everyone. The teams were pretty evenly matched and there was also much hilarity over the nature of the 'supplementary questions' that Barry gave, one to each team, over the course of the quiz. In the end, the result was not decided until the final round and then prizes were awarded for the first three teams.



All in all it was a most enjoyable evening and thanks to all those who organised it.

SB

## Business Meetings and 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.

## Guild Six Bell Striking Competition

North Bucks will be hosting this competition on the first Saturday in October 2008. We are at the early stages of planning this event, which needs two towers for heats in the afternoon and a third tower for the final in the evening. Further details will be published when known.



NEWS! Barry Eglesfield was elected Tower Captain at All Saints, Leighton Buzzard at their AGM on 28 January 2008



The Branch Display Boards at Hanslope on 9 February—with display provided by the Branch Archivist

# OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

## North Bucks Branch



### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SATURDAY 1ST MARCH 2008

### AGENDA

1. Chairman's welcome
2. In Memoriam
3. Apologies for Absence
4. Minutes of previous meetings – as published in In Touch
5. Matters arising from minutes
6. Election of New Members
7. Officers Reports - as published in In Touch
  - a) Chairman
  - b) Secretary
  - c) Treasurer
  - d) Ringing Master
  - e) Training Officer
  - f) Guild Representatives
  - g) Branch Archivist
8. Financing of In Touch
9. Election of Branch Officers
  - a) Chairman (Richard Stanworth)
  - b) Secretary (Helen Stanworth)
  - c) Treasurer (Sheila Watts)
  - d) Ringing Master (Barry Eglesfield)
  - e) Assistant Ringing Master(s) (Vacant)
  - f) Training Officer (\*Christine Cable)
  - g) Guild Representatives (Alan Marchbank, Brian Newman)
  - h) Branch Archivist (Doug Hird)
  - i) Newsletter Editor (Sheila Watts)
10. Forthcoming Events
11. Any Other Business
12. Vote of Thanks

(\* Denotes officer not willing to stand for re-election)



# Officers Reports 2008

## Chairman's Report

Improving communication with members without adding to the running costs of the Branch has been a regular part of our officers meeting during the year. We now have a way forward to communicate directly with every member of the Branch, once we have contact details for them. This should be starting to take effect during the coming year.

The Christmas celebration was again a great success with numbers up from the first year. The summer social also turned into an enjoyable afternoon with time to socialise as well as some ringing.

I would like to thank the other officers for their work. They are the people who make this Branch work, but without your support the Branch cannot flourish. I urge you to support the Branch events if you can. We also welcome your feedback on how we can improve things. Let us know what you think, the good, the bad and the ugly.

In some ways the Chairman now has an easier job than in previous years with fewer business meetings to run. This is my first ever time as Chairman of an organisation. I hope I have served you well and, if you wish, will be willing to continue for another year.

## Secretary's Report

The new pattern of Branch practices and meetings continued during the year and average attendances continued to rise mainly due to the support for the striking competition and joint meetings with the Towcester Branch.

Membership of the Branch decreased by two in 2007, although 19 new members were elected. This was entirely due to the whole of one tower not renewing their subscriptions. There are now 27 towers in the Branch with members.

The Officers have met on five occasions during the year to deal with the business of running the Branch. Between meetings informal discussions have taken place by e-mail.

As part of the usual preparations for the Annual Report, tower information sheets were again sent out to all towers for which we have contact details, requesting that they check these details and correct any mistakes. The rate of return is about 50 per cent, much the same as in previous years. If your tower has not yet returned the sheet, please do so, even if the details are correct. That way I can ensure that the Branch records are kept up to date another year.

## Treasurer's Report

Please see audited accounts on page 11.

## Ringling Master's Report

I am pleased to report quite a successful year. We have had many useful Branch practices where a variety of methods have been rung and all the basic requirements fulfilled. Generally attendance has been good on the whole. The Six bell striking competition was exceptionally well attended and I was pleased to see the band from Olney in attendance as well. There was a good performance at the Guild competition also. At the Eight bell competition we provided two teams and both gave good performances. At the Inter-Branch competition with Towcester Branch we saw 22 ringers represent North Bucks and I was proud of our performance. The Ten bell competition provided the opportunity for some very useful practices; an excellent quarter peal of Stedman Caters was rung at Long Crendon and a very good attempt at All Saints, Northampton. Unfortunately on the day we could not raise more than eight ringers.

## Training Officer's Report

This year has been very quiet. There was only one course run which was calling Stedman Triples, thanks to all those who helped on this course. There were two courses asked for, Calling Stedman Doubles and Calling Called Changes. Yet when advertised there were no takers (not even from those who had asked for the course). I have also put articles in virtually all *In Touch* magazines, asking for people to contact me if they would like a

course. There were no responses. I personally do not feel that there is a need in this Branch for a Training Officer at this time.

## **Guild Representatives' Report**

The two meetings of the Guild Year (March and November) have both been attended by either Brian or Alan or indeed by both of us. In March with the two of us, a Guild Steward and a Guild Steward-in-Waiting, we were probably the best represented Branch in attendance!

The March meeting is pretty much about preparing for a smooth AGM in May. However, there can be moments of excitement to draw you from your slumbers post liquid lunch. We had an interesting debate about the Guild Gazetteer - the CD of Guild tower information. This has been much debated in the past and broadly two schools of thought prevailed, those who backed it want it to continue in its current form and others who see it as a substantial duplication of the contents of the Dove On Line database which is destined to be the National Bell Register. Things got a bit personal (as they can do) and the meeting did not really get off the fence, so left matters to November.

The positive action from March was the progression of the Communication sub group (another committee to you and me). The meeting agreed its creation was a positive move towards the Guild identifying more with its members (and vice-versa) and from the overwhelming response to the Guild Festival when members were individually invited, felt only good could come from this initiative.

The impact on the Guild and Branches of the changes to Capital Gains Tax was again explained to the meeting. I wonder just how do Branches justify having so much money as to be liable to pay tax on the interest, yet still have unringable bells??

The November meeting was possibly less exciting, but the lunch time beer was definitely better! There were no changes proposed to subs or peal fees, although after the meeting there were mutterings that perhaps they are too low - even if the Guild does not seem to need the money just now.



Notice of the imminent transfer of Linslade from the Guild and Diocese was given. Linslade joined the St Albans Diocese and the Beds Association at the beginning of February 2008.

Communication and the output of the sub group had been circulated and proposal for a central database of all members' contact details that will be routinely validated by Branches was met with great support. It was agreed to vote money for servers and web thingies that most of us don't understand but sound like they might work. The Guild website may be re-located away from that of the Diocese of Oxford and a strategy for linking Branch sites to the Guild site will be developed.

The Gazetteer was discussed and it will be updated one more time and then laid to rest in a suitable site on the internet.

## **Archivist's Report**

The Branch Archivist's activities are a combination of basic information gathering and the development of the presentation of that information. The Archive is intended as a resource for all Branch towers and members. It is an ongoing research project that continually adds to our knowledge of the history of ringing in North Bucks. The research is not only paper based. Measuring bells and bell frames and photographing towers during building work are an important part of recording our history. The long term aims of the project are to:

-  Create a full written account of ringing in North Bucks
-  Create a full record of the bells - an update to, and building on Church Bells of Bucks.

During the last year, the Archive has gained more photos, more sound files and more from the local papers. The website now has some new pages including a bar chart of membership numbers for each tower. The collection of Ringing Worlds from Bletchley, along with a number of other interesting items, are also now included. Almost anything is worthy of inclusion. So if your tower has anything of interest that isn't in the Archive, let me know. In return, I can do something to raise awareness locally by presenting what we know about your bells to your Church members or local historical society.



## North Bucks Branch—Calendar 2008

<b>FEBRUARY</b>	15	7.30	Branch Practice Special Method: Violet Treble Bob Minor	Great Linford
<b>MARCH</b>	1	3.00	Annual General Meeting	Olney
	8		<i>ODG Spring General Committee Meeting</i>	<i>Bicester Branch</i>
	22		<i>Guild Handbell Day</i>	
	24		Open Day in aid of Olney Bells Appeal	North Bucks Branch
<b>APRIL</b>	12		<i>Radley Course</i>	<i>Radley</i>
	18*	7.30	Branch Practice	Lavendon
<b>MAY</b>	5		<i>Eight Bell Striking Competition</i>	<i>Tilehurst</i>
	5		<i>Annual Ringing Day</i>	<i>Reading Branch</i>
	16*	7.30	Branch Practice	Shalstone
	17		<i>Guild AGM</i>	<i>Witney &amp; Woodstock Branch</i>
<b>JUNE</b>	7*	4.30	Summer Social	Maids Moreton
	20*	7.30	Branch Six-Bell Striking Competition	Stoke Goldington
	28		Inter-Branch Striking Competition	Wicken
<b>JULY</b>	18*	7.30	Branch Practice	Newport Pagnell
<b>OCTOBER</b>	4		<i>Six Bell Striking Competition</i>	<i>North Bucks Branch</i>
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	1		<i>Steeple Aston Course</i>	<i>Steeple Aston</i>
	15*	7.30	Joint Practice	Downs Barn
	22		<i>Ten Bell Striking Competition</i>	<i>Old North Berks Branch</i>
	22		<i>Autumn General Committee Meeting</i>	<i>Old North Berks Branch</i>

Items marked \* were unconfirmed as at 5 February 2008  
Events in *italics* are Guild events, etc.

We will always ring Plain Hunt, Plain Bob and Grandsire at any Branch practice for those who request it, so don't be put off if you can't ring the special method. This is merely a focus for those who wish to try something different.