



In Touch

February 2012

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The Charmborough Ring in Middleton Hall.

See page 8 for more pictures.



AGM at St Andrew's Great Linford

Saturday 24th March

3.30 Ringing
4.30 Service
5.00 Tea
5.45 Annual General Meeting

Names for tea please to Alan Marchbank:

01908 611434
rdl_mk@northhbucks.org.uk

by Tuesday 20th March

The Agenda for the AGM and the officer's reports are provided in a separate pack with this edition of In Touch

Who's Who 2011—2012

Chairman	Brian Newman	Great Linford	chairman@northbucks.org.uk
RDL Buckingham & Guild Rep	Richard Stanworth	Padbury	rdl_bh@northbucks.org.uk
RDL Milton Keynes	Alan Marchbank	Great Linford	rdl_mk@northbucks.org.uk
RDL Newport Pagnell & Archivist	Doug Hird	Newport Pagnell	rdl_np@northbucks.org.uk
Secretary	Helen Stanworth	Padbury	secretary@northbucks.org.uk
Treasurer	Sheila Watts	Emberton	treasurer@northbucks.org.uk
Guild Rep	Hugh Butler	Whaddon	guildrep2@northbucks.org.uk
In Touch Editor	Jonathan Griggs	Hanslope	intoucheditor@northbucks.org.uk
Branch Website			www.northbucks.org.uk
Guild Website			www.odg.org.uk

Dates for your Diary

March

- 2nd Rounds and Call Change practice at Emberton 7.40pm
- 5th-17th The Big Ring Pull - Intensive training at Newport Pagnell
- 24th Branch AGM at Great Linford 3.30pm

April

- 13th Rounds and Call Change practice at Great Horwood 7.40pm
- 21st Branch Practice at Lillingstone Lovell 5.00pm

May

- 4th Rounds and Call Change practice at Great Linford 7.40pm
- 7th Guild 8 bell Striking Competition and Annual Ringing day in South Oxon Branch
- 12th Branch Practice at Stoke Goldington 5pm
- 19th Guild AGM at Wokingham

June

- 1st Rounds and Call Change practice at Hanslope 7.40pm
- 16th Summer Social and Striking Competition at Padbury 5pm

July

- 14th Interbranch Striking Competition at Easton Neston 6pm

From the Chairman . . .

Hello again, well by the time you read this the 'Big Ringpull' will be in full swing and our teachers will be taking the new recruits through their initial training and it will now be up to you in your towers to welcome them, continue their training and encourage them to progress in this new adventure.

On to other matters the AGM is now upon us and we do need you to come forward and take on any of the offices that the current management group hold. Just because someone holds the post does not mean you cannot stand. I do know that three officers wishes to stand down. Remember this branch is all of us not just the officers.

I hope to see more of you at the meeting, do come.

Brian Newman

From the editor . . .

Sadly, this will be the last In Touch that I will produce. After editing 14 editions I will be standing down at the forthcoming AGM.

I have very much enjoyed putting together each edition and have seen the variety and number of articles that are submitted grow over the period. However now is the time to hand over and allow someone new to bring some fresh ideas to the role.

If you would like to consider undertaking this role there is more information about it on page 4.

The deadline for contributions for the next edition of In Touch is **Tuesday 1st May 2012**.

Jonathan Griggs

Big Ring Pull News



At the time of writing we are all recovering from a very active day in Middleton Hall. Many ringers from across the branch came together to raise awareness of ringing and to recruit members of the public to our training course. It was really good to see so many people come together.

We signed up 84 people who expressed an interest in learning to ring. About 70% of these were from the branch area and will hopefully be attending the Taster day at Downs Barn on the 25th February. Of the rest, some may still attend the taster day, otherwise they will be put in contact with their local ringing society.

After the day a large number of leaflets were distributed around the branch advertising the Taster

day and these have already attracted more interest.

So the next stage is now to convert these enthusiastic potential ringers into trained active ringers. We have in place the intensive training program running from Monday 5th March to 17th where we will train the new recruits up to the stage of handling a bell on their own. We will also be chatting to them other aspects of ringing so that they receive a broad understanding.

Many thanks to everyone who has offered their time as teachers for this period. It looks like it will be very worthwhile.

Jonathan Griggs

Saturday afternoons won't be the same again

One thing many of us have really enjoyed about preparing for The Big Ring Pull, is the chance to meet ringing friends on a Saturday afternoon and practice on Alan and Tine's Broadway Campanile.

The Charmborough Ring, which we are using in Middleton Hall, has light bells, and to prepare for this Alan Marchbank kindly offered the use of his mini-ring to those who have signed up to help.

Some of us found the lighter bells a bit of a challenge, and others loved the new 'minimal' style of ringing.... There were lots of rounds for all, and change-ringing for the intrepid (super-fast ropesight).

I'm sure we'll all miss standing around on Alan and Tine's drive with friends, enjoying mugs of tea and plates of cake and biscuits (thanks, Tine)!



SS Peter & Paul Newport Pagnell

Saturday 24 December 2011
in 3h 15

5120 Bristol Surprise Major

Composed: A J Cox

- 1 Nick Read
- 2 B Douglas Hird
- 3 Ruth Stokes
- 4 Simon Read
- 5 Christopher C Stokes
- 6 John P Loveless
- 7 Ian R Fielding (C)
- 8 Paul J Tiebout



(left to right) Nick Read, John P Loveless, Ian R Fielding, Paul J Tiebout, Ruth Stokes, Christopher C Stokes, Simon Read, B Douglas Hird.

Rung for the centenary of the bells.

A short recording of the peal can be heard on www.youtube.com search for 'Newport Pagnell Parish Church - Sat 24.12.11 - Bristol Surprise Major'

Branch Officer Roles

At the forthcoming AGM on March 24th, each of the branch officer positions is elected for the new year. Anybody can stand for any of the positions and just because someone is in a position and happy to stand again it does not mean that alternative person cannot be proposed.

There are a number of positions which will be definitely become vacant due to officers standing down. The details of the roles are presented here. If you would like to consider standing for one of these or any other role please make yourself known to the chairman at the AGM.

Ringing Development Leader (Milton Keynes)

Principle Accountabilities

Leadership of ringing activities especially recruitment and training. (2) Develop the ringing of Church bells as a service to the Church in the Deanery. (3) Develop the maintenance and serviceability of the bells in the Deanery. (4) Establish and develop a working relationship with the Church at Benefice and Deanery level to ensure that the Exercise and the Branch are understood and valued as a major contributor to the work and life of the Church. (5) Develop ringing resources within the Deanery to achieve points 1 to 3 above.

Principle Tasks

Promote and develop the ringing of Church bells for Service by the recruitment, training and inclusion of ringers of all levels, ambitions and abilities. You will be an ex-officio Branch Officer and attend Branch Officers' meetings (there are about 4-6 meetings a year). Make regular contact with the local ringers, Clergy, and PCCs. You may be asked to act as a Deanery Bell Ringing Advisor and be invited to attend relevant Deanery Synod meetings. Co-ordinate activities within the Deanery so that as many bells as possible are rung regularly. Arrange the running of Branch ringing activities when they are in your Deanery. Either do this yourself or arrange for it to be done by members of towers in your "patch".

In Touch Editor

Principle Tasks

Be the recipient of newsletter contributions from members of the branch generally by email.

Produce a quarterly edition of In Touch using material contributed. Style and presentation of In Touch can be at your discretion. A Microsoft Publisher template for the current style can be provided. Each edition is normally produced within a 3 week period.

Send electronic version to printer for printing and produce version for putting on website. Printer contact and process will be handed over. All printing and distribution costs covered by the Branch.

Distribute tower copies via Branch Practice meetings and post.

Full handover will be provided by the current editor.

Guild Representative (2 Posts)

Memberships

Member of the Branch Officers Team
Member of the ODG General Committee
Member of the Governing Trustees of the ODG Bell Fund

Attendance at Meetings

Branch Officers meetings
5 or 6 times a year, usually on a Sunday evening in the Greyhound at Haversham

Guild General Committee Meetings.

Branch Secretary is also a member of the General Committee.

Two meetings each year, 2nd Saturday of March and the last Saturday of November. Meeting venues rotate around the Guild Branches on a 15 year plan (see ODG web site , Documents, Useful Information, 15 year plan)

Meetings start at about 2pm with ringing before and after for those who wish to. Teas provided after the meetings for those who wish to partake.

March meeting is a preparation for the Guild AGM in May, so all the Committee reports are approved, budgets approved and Officers posts "managed" in advance of the AGM. Any business to be put at AGM for approval is finalized. Lasts about 2 hours.

November meeting is generally lighter in the Agenda, may deal with any Committee generated proposals which need to be finalized in March prior to going to the AGM in May. Lasts about an hour.

Membership of the General Committee gives access to the ODG Sub Committees (finance and general purposes; education; towers and bells; Bell Fund and Restoration Fund Trustees) by election at the General Committee meetings, if there is a desire to do more at Guild level.

Governing Trustees of the ODG Bell Fund

Meeting is immediately before the March General Committee Meeting

Lasts about 30 minutes at the most

Receives report from the Managing Trustees about new money raised, grants given, performance of the investments future investment plans and changes.

Approves Managing Trustees Annual Policy and Accounts

Elects the Chairman, Officers and Trustees for the next year.

Purpose of Role

To provide interaction between Guild and Branch and Branch and Guild.

Bring back information and report at Branch Meetings and through In Touch

Take our messages to the Guild and give feed back on Guild events, decisions policies etc.

Social Dimension

Not the best ringing in the world but a chance to ring on different bells and with new faces

Good chance to rub shoulders with the Branch Officers and influence what happens and who is in charge.

Excellent teas! Good chance for a nice Pub lunch if far enough away!

Travel Expenses

Branch will pay reasonable travel expenses in attending the 2 Guild meetings

A history of St Andrew's, Great Linford

St. Andrew's stands in the grounds of the 17th century manor house just to the north of the original village and adjacent to the Grand Union canal. With the development of the area as part of north-east of Milton Keynes, the church is now far more centrally located in Great Linford community and as the Manor grounds have been taken into the Linear Park, benefits from well managed open space to the north.

A religious structure has been on this site since the 12th century, the earliest record being of a chapel in 1151. Hardly a century has passed without some building or rebuilding has taken place, and as it is today, the church represents over a 1000 years of development.

The tower is 12th century and of simple design, the original round headed monolithic windows in the lower stage being visible on 3 faces of the tower, and remaining open on the south side. The window openings remain on the east side but are hidden by the increased height of the nave roof and can only be seen from inside the tower.

The diagonal west buttresses were added in the 15th century, most likely as fashionable embellishments and not for any structural improvement.

The existence of a small wooden steeple around this time is the subject of much conjecture. A visiting Bishops reports that it was there and a sketch on a map of the period also shows the church tower topped out with a steeple surmounted with a cross. Who knows? By the 1800 the upper stage of the tower had either been built to replace it or rebuilt without it, giving the appearance we are familiar with today.

Not unlike the church the bells have seen work and development in nearly every century since they were first recorded.

The earliest report of bells is in July 1552, when 5 bells are recorded as being "in the steeple", and whilst a little vague, Lipscomb records the latin inscriptions on the 3rd and 5th bells and suggests they may be 15th and 14th century respectively.

In the mid 18th century, Henry Uthwatt, then Lord of the Manor, was married to the daughter of the Patron of Chichley church (who had paid for the re-casting of Chichley bells), engaged Joseph Eayre of St. Neots to recast the 5 bells and augment them to 6 by the addition of a treble.

This work was completed in 1756, with the bells bearing copies of the inscriptions from the bells at Bletchley – albeit they got the spellings wrong!

They were hung in a large section oak frame and were almost certainly on 2 levels – the little ones on top and the tenors hanging in the space that is now the middle room of the tower.

In the late 1880's the "go" was so poor that Gillett and



Trevor Bailey, the Whitechapel bell hanger ringing the 3rd from the wheel to adjust the clapper

Johnston were employed to re-hang them. However despite eighth turning and putting them on new bearings they were not much improved – presumably because it was the frame that was beyond doing its job.

In 1908 during his "North Bucks" period, Alfred Bowell of Ipswich was engaged to re-hang them in a new iron and steel frame. Like many other rings in the area, it was his simple but effective, budget priced work that probably saved them from dilapidation and worse. They were eighth turned (the other way), and with the cannons removed fitted up with Bowell's innovative "I" section girder headstocks. The smaller dimensions of the frame sections enabled the bells going in on one level, albeit they all swing the same direction.

In 1992 the bells were re-hung again by Whitechapel, retaining the Bowell headstocks but drilling out the cast in crown staples and fitting a conventional clapper staple. Roller bearings and new pulleys were installed and the "flapper boards" replaced with drawing pulleys.

Treble Dia 31", 6cwt 2qr 21lbs
"Henry Uthwatt , Knight, had me placed here at his own expense, 1756"

2nd Dia 32³/₈", 7cwt 0qr, 0lbs
"That the day may be Holy, I tell forth at early dawn, 1756"

3rd Dia 35", 8cwt 0qr 13lbs,
"May God give a full sound and a pleasing melody, J Eayre, St Neots, 1756"

4th Dia 36" 8cwt, 3qrs, 13lbs,
"Through me the folk are bid to hasten to come to church, 1756"

5th Dia 39¹/₂", 10cwt 2qrs 0lbs
"I beautify marriage, birth, the Holy rite and festivals 1756"

Tenor Dia 44¹/₂", 16 cwt, 1qr 22lbs in F#
"Men's Deaths and funeral rites bid me sound forth"

Alan Marchbank

Special Ringing in 2012

The Guild Master, Robert Newton is keen that towers and members of the ODG participate in ringing for the following special occasions and events this year.

St George's Day 23rd April 2012, preferably at 6pm

Diamond Jubilee Ringing 5th June 2012 at approximately 12 noon, following the service at St Paul's Cathedral

Oxfordshire: Saturday 26th May afternoon, following the county service at Christ Church Cathedral

Berkshire and Buckinghamshire: 27th May afternoon, following the county services

In addition the Guild encourages ringers to ring for locally organised events celebrating the Diamond Jubilee.

Ladies Peal Centenary

Centenary of the first all Ladies Peal falls on 20th July 2012. Ringing to celebrate this notable achievement is encouraged, does not have to be a peal but it would be good if some ODG Ladies were so motivated.

Ringling for the Olympics

Passage of the Olympic Torch. If your tower is close to or on the route please organise some ringing. The Torch passes through the ODG footprint on July 9th, 10th and 11th.

Olympic Ringing. "Ring loud and fast" initiative at 8.00am on 27th July 2012, or at any time that day, leading up to the Opening Ceremony at 7.30pm.

Branch Christmas Social

On December 10th those with a good voice and an appetite attended the Branch Christmas Social at Fenny Stratford.

Unfortunately we were a vicar down but we carried on in a 'do it yourself' style with Richard Stanworth leading the carol service. Afterwards we tucked into a fish and chip supper. This was followed by another of Alan's excellent quizzes.

Although disappointingly low in numbers an enjoyable time was had by those attending.



Secretarial Matters

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.

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.



Tower Information for Annual Report

Thank you to all tower correspondents who returned the tower information sheets which were sent out recently. If you have not yet returned the sheet, please do so, 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.

Helen Stanworth

Peals and Quarters

SS Peter & Paul, Newport Pagnell

Sunday 4 December 2011 in 54mins

1376 Superlative Surprise Major

Composed: Simon Read

- 1 Jonathan Griggs
- 2 Nick Read
- 3 Nick Gray
- 4 Simon Read (C)
- 5 Tony Gray
- 6 Alan J Marchbank
- 7 B Douglas Hird
- 8 Richard Haseldine

For Evensong.

All Saints, Loughton

Sunday 11 December 2011

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- 1 Terry Page
- 2 Ann Birch
- 3 Anne McIntyre
- 4 Becky Fawcett
- 5 Derek Stainsby (C)
- 6 Gary Reading

To commemorate the 40th anniversary of the marriage of Julienne Winfield to David Thom, solemnized on 11th December 1971 at the Church of St. Mary The Virgin, Selling, Kent.

This quarter was rung as the result of a winning bid by its dedicatees in a "Promise Auction" held by All Saints church as a fundraising venture. The band offer their services gratis, parishioners donate winning bids to the church. Other treats and services promised by parishioners are similarly put up for auction.

St Andrew, Great Linford

Tuesday 27 December 2011 in 55mins

1440 Surprise Minor (2m)

720 Beverley & 720 Surfleet

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

St Andrew, Great Linford

Saturday, 14 January 2012 in 2h 58min

5040 Surprise Minor (3m)

2 extents each: Beverley, Surfleet;
3 extents Cambridge

- 1 John B Marchbank
- 2 Nick Read
- 3 Simon Read
- 4 Alan J Marchbank
- 5 Richard S Stanworth(c)
- 6 A John Stanworth

Rung as a compliment to Reverend Peter Balantine, Rector of St Andrews, who will be installed as an Honorary Canon of Oxford Cathedral later this day
In celebration of the life of Peggy Newman

First Surprise Minor - 2.

St Andrew, Great Linford

Sunday 5 February 2012 in 3h2

5040 Surprise Minor (7m)

Carlisle, Bourne, London, Wells, Beverley, Surfleet, Cambridge

- 1 Christopher C Stokes
- 2 Julie A Haseldine
- 3 Alan J Marchbank
- 4 Ruth Stokes
- 5 Andrew Haseldine
- 6 Simon Read (C)

Rung on the eve of the Diamond Jubilee anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne.

Simon is now the youngest person to ring a peal of Surprise Minor on the tenor, aged 16 years, 6 months and 11 days.

St James the Great, Hanslope

Sunday 15th January 2012

1250 Yorkshire Surprise Major

- 1 Phil Haslam
- 2 Brian Berry
- 3 Nick Gray
- 4 Tony Gray
- 5 Ian Thompson
- 6 Jonathan Griggs (C)
- 7 Roy Keeves
- 8 Richard Haseldine

First of Yorkshire - 2

100th Quarter - 5

SS Peter & Paul, Newport Pagnell,

Sunday 11 December 2011 in 49mins

1264 Plain Bob Major

Composed: Simon Read

- 1 Kate Hollins
- 2 Eleanor Rice
- 3 John B Marchbank
- 4 Nick Read
- 5 Alan J Marchbank
- 6 J Martin Rice
- 7 B Douglas Hird
- 8 Simon Read (C)

Welcoming Baby Benson, son of Emily and Howard Rice and grandson of the ringers of two and six.

SS Peter & Paul, Newport Pagnell

Sunday 12 February 2012 in 55mins

1280 Cambridge Surprise Major

Arranged: Simon Read

- 1 Scott P Ayers
- 2 James Saunders
- 3 Phil Haslam
- 4 Martin Heaslip
- 5 Alan J Marchbank
- 6 Nick Read
- 7 B Douglas Hird
- 8 Simon Read (C)

In memory of Alice Rose Mary Haynes, 1912 - 2012. Great Grandmother of the treble ringer.

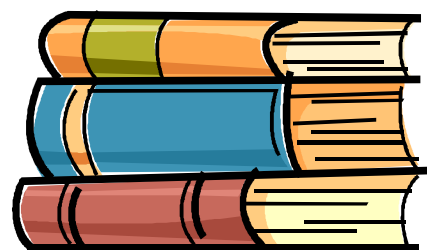
North Books Stall

I am continuing to operate the North Books Stall - the local source of all bellringing books and literature.

The stall will be at branch meetings and events but if you want anything at other times please e-mail northbooksstall@btinternet.com and tell me what you want and I will do my best to get it to you.

By prior arrangement I can have the stall at Olney (Monday) or Great Linford (Tuesday) practices.

Alan Marchbank



Big Ring Pull - 11th Feb 2012

