



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

In Touch

February 2010

In this issue :

Chairman & Ringing Development Leaders' Reports	3
Broadway Campanile	4
Emberton Outing	5
Report on the Steeple Aston Ringing Course	6
Recent Branch Events	7
All around the Belfries	8
Limerick Competition	9
Quarters and Peals	10
AGM Details	12
Branch Notice Board	14

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting will be held at Woughton on the Green on **Saturday 6th March 2010**.

3.30 pm Ringing

4.30 pm Service

5.00 pm Tea

5.45 pm AGM, then ringing until 8.30 pm

Car parking in the top Car Park of Parkside Hotel, north of church.

Tea and AGM will be held in the church. See page 12 for the agenda and officers reports.

Please confirm numbers for tea to Brian Baldwin 01908 670579 by Friday 5th March.



What's this - another ring of 10 bells in the branch ?

See page 4 to find out where this new ring is, plus a progress report on the project so far.

Who's Who 2009–2010

Chairman

Brian Newman
chairman@northbucks.org.uk

Ringling Development Leader - Buckingham Deanery

Richard Stanworth
rdl_bh@northbucks.org.uk

Ringling Development Leader - Milton Keynes Deanery

Alan Marchbank
rdl_mk@northbucks.org.uk

Ringling Development Leader - Newport Pagnell Deanery

David Phillipson
rdl_np@northbucks.org.uk

Secretary

Helen Stanworth
secretary@northbucks.org.uk

Treasurer

Sheila Watts
treasurer@northbucks.org.uk

Archivist

Doug Hird
archivist@northbucks.org.uk

In Touch Editor

Jonathan Griggs
intoucheditor@northbucks.org.uk

Branch Website

<http://www.northbucks.org.uk/>



From the Editor . . .

Welcome to this spring edition of In Touch.

First we had the new ring of 10 at Olney, then we had the rehanging project at Great Brickhill: now in this edition we can now report another installation within the branch. This time it is the private ring of Alan Marchbank. Read all about the goings on in his garage on page 4.

This edition includes a feature from Ruth Placket on the Steeple Aston course. It's great to get a report such as this to liven up In Touch, and what an inspiring report it is from one of our learners in the branch. More reports please for the next edition!

On March 6th the branch AGM will be held at Woughton on the Green. Apologies if you

noted it to be on the 7th (a mistake in the last edition, oops) - it is definitely on Saturday 6th. At the AGM there will be discussion about some ideas for branch level recruitment and training. These ideas are at a conceptual stage at the moment, however it is an exciting project so please come along and hear what is proposed and offer us your thoughts.

One last thing: for any one with an hour to spare there is a challenge laid down by the editor on page 9!

Please note, the deadline for the next edition of In Touch is **Tuesday 4th May 2010**.

Jonathan

from the Ringing Development Leaders

Milton Keynes Deanery

Time flies when fun is being had, so they say, and these last few weeks have certainly flown by. Quite a lot has happened since the last In Touch.

A Branch band entered the 10 bell competition and rang very respectably at Long Crendon. Shame that most of the other bands rang slightly better than us and we came 5th. However, we entered a band and we rang together in advance at Olney – the first time that a branch band has practised on a branch ring of 10. Thanks to all who rang – especially Brian Baldwin who stepped in at short notice. This is a new beginning for 10 bell ringing in our Branch and I look forward to this coming year's competition.

It was such a pleasure to see a good attendance at the Christmas Celebration at Great Linford. We made a good sound singing the carols and enjoyed refreshment and good company afterwards in the hall.

Christmas is a busy period for the Great Linford ringers, as we try to ring for all the carol services as well as welcoming the New Year with ringing. Since 2000, when we rang a peal which started at 21.00, 31/12/1999 and ended at 00.03 1/1/2000, some of the local inhabitants have joined us at church to see the New Year in – many bearing gifts of the drinkable variety! This year was no exception and we entertained nearly 20 people with ringing and refreshments until nearly 1 am.

I thoroughly enjoyed running the January Branch Practice and it was so good to see a few new faces and catch up with some old friends. I hope you all got something out of it – I know I did! I am now REALLY looking forward to the next Branch Practice (Saturday 20 February) at Buckingham. The larger accommodation at Buckingham should be a bit more comfortable and with 8 bells to play with, should give people a chance to stretch their skills to ringing on 8.

I look forward to seeing you over the next few weeks.

Alan Marchbank



Buckingham Deanery

The main target for the first year of this new role was to make contact with everyone and explain the role to them. Ringers from the towers in the Buckingham Deanery were invited to a get together during the Branch Practice at Thornborough.



Not many towers were represented, but of those that were, only Whaddon was looking for immediate help with an open morning that they were holding in conjunction with one of the Church's regular coffee mornings. We were able to assist and this led to the possibility of some new recruits and one person returning to ringing.

There is renewed interest at Thornborough with the possibility that a practice may start up again soon. Assistance has been offered but this has yet to be taken up. Running of branch activities within my area included the autumn meeting at Padbury and Hillesden which are the only two towers in the Buckingham Deanery not in the Branch. I have talked to the ringers at these towers and they think that it makes sense to be in the same Branch as the rest of the Deanery. Both towers have now applied to transfer to the North Bucks Branch and the transfers should be ratified at the Guild Spring Committee Meeting. It is hoped that this will lead to more frequent service ringing at Hillesden.

Not all the targets for the year as set out in the role specification have been achieved in the Deanery. However a start has been made and I am willing to continue in the role and work towards the targets if re-elected.

Richard Stanworth

Message from the Chairman

Welcome to this edition of 'In Touch'.

As this is the last one before the AGM, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my fellow officers for the support and work they have done over this last year. As you are aware from our calendar of events, branch practices have now moved to Saturdays and the last one was well attended: I hope this trend continues.

By the time of our AGM we should know if Central Bucks branch have given the go ahead for the transfer of both Padbury and Hillesden, so come to the meeting to find out.

Brian Newman

The Broadway Campanile

(the second ring of 10 in North Bucks)

In 2001 we planned a series of developments on our house, to extend the lounge and kitchen and re-arrange the hall to move the front door. Whilst at it, we thought an extension to the garage was a sensible addition as I needed to get the bikes out of the garage to make way for a Jensen 541R sized project.

Against a suitable budget and project plan, all was duly achieved and all was very satisfactory, except filling a 3m x 3m building with bikes and such junk seemed such a waste . . .

In January 2009 it was decided that the "family project" for that year would be the installation of a mini-ring in the garage extension. After much measuring and sketching and looking and measuring some more (even a CAD drawing or two were produced at one stage) it was decided that a ring of 10 with 15lb tenor would fit (somehow) and so an order was placed with Matthew Higby, the mini bell expert from Bath.

A new shed was constructed to accommodate all the bikes and junk and the "ringing room" was emptied, dry lined, plastered, re-wired, fixed for lighting and re-fitted with loo and kitchen units to make a self contained ringing suite. There is even an urn for the visiting bands wanting tea!

The bells were collected in mid November and installation commenced immediately! The frame is a bespoke timber construction engineered around the factory-made joists that are the roof structure. Fitting the bells was easy enough, albeit the front four swing at right angles to the back six, so 10 and 5 have to be removed to access 1, 2, 3 and 4.



Ropes had been ordered from Mr Minchin, but they take ages to arrive, so some very little ropes from a micro ring (hand bells hung for full circle ringing in hose pipe reels) were adapted and fitted.

The first try out was on Saturday 2nd January 2010 but without a ceiling below the bells they were a bit harsh. However Grandsire Triples, Stedman Doubles and Rounds on 10 were all successful.



The proper ropes have now arrived and the ceiling is almost finished so, whilst a bit of external sound control may be needed, completion is in sight.

Details of the bells are as follows (all Bowditch and Higby, 2009):

	Weight	Pitch
Treble	7lb 6oz	1640 Hz
2nd	7lb 10oz	1465 Hz
3rd	7lb 3oz	1306 Hz
4th	7lb 0oz	1224 Hz
5th	8lb 4oz	1091 Hz
6th	7lb 12oz	976 Hz
7th	7lb 4oz	870 Hz
8th	10lb 13oz	816 Hz
9th	11lb 2oz	730 Hz
Tenor	15lb 5oz	653 Hz

The tenor note is E-16 (practically old concert pitch)

Once the project is finished, I hope that many of you from within the branch will come and try the new ring.

Alan Marchbank

Emberton Outing

It's been some years since we had an Emberton outing, so when Phil suggested we do a few local towers and a coffee stop or two, we were full of enthusiasm!

On Saturday 14th November, Emberton ringers and friends from far and wide - Hanslope to Riseley - met up at Irthlingborough (8) in Northants, in winter sunshine, but with heavy rain forecast for the day. Roxy, the Haslam's new Border Collie puppy, was attending her first ringers' outing and proved a star attraction. Another 'attraction' was Phil's pre-outing information that one of the towers had new and springy ropes, but as he had forgotten which one, we entered each tower with some trepidation!

One tower down and four to go after Irthlingborough, but still time for the coffee stop, an essential part of Emberton outings: Phil had booked us into a garden centre café at Burton Latimer, and coffee and cakes were enjoyed by all, as well as an unexpected tour of the Hot Tub centre on the way to the 'facilities'.

Then it was on to Burton Latimer (8), where we enjoyed good ringing on these wonderful bells. Ringing



Ringers in action at Ringstead

highlights included Alison's successful course of Plain Bob triples, amongst the wide variety of methods rung (and ringers . . .).

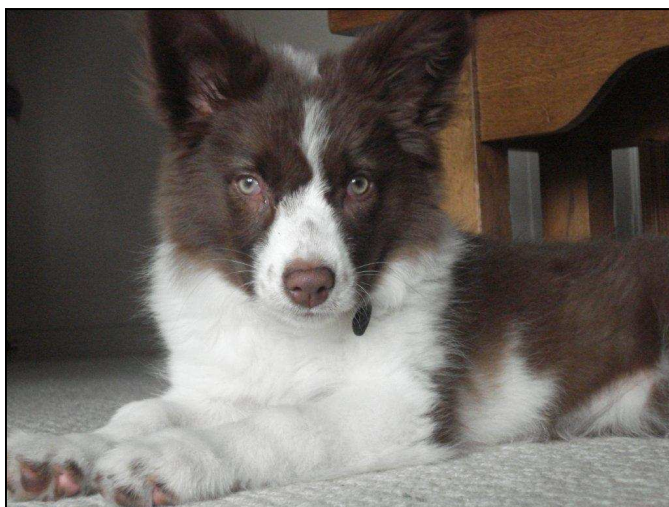
Lunch was 'own arrangements', but most people congregated at the village pub at Woodford, our next tower (8). We enjoyed the variety of real ales as recommended by CAMRA. Some, however, did some early Christmas shopping at yet another garden centre. After lunch, our numbers were augmented by Phil's ringing friends from Bozeat.

It was about this time that the rain started. Lots of rain. Ringers heading for Woodford Church got soaked and at one point there were fountains appearing out of the village drains.

On to Ringstead (6), and then lastly Stanwick (6). The stretchy ropes were finally discovered, but to our relief they were not as springy as anticipated.

Our thanks to Phil for organising a really enjoyable day, and we're looking forward to our next outing! Volunteers will be nominated shortly !

Carrie & Sheila(s)



Roxy taking a break after her first ringing outing

Bellringing Rules

This notice of bellringing rules was spied by my mother in the church of St Lawrence, Church Stretton in Shropshire. It dates from 1773 (the notice that is, not my mother).

At Hanslope we are thinking about reintroducing them, although the equivalent amounts in today's money seem too reasonable at £1.06 for breaking a stay, £1.59 for ringing in a hat, or £3.18 for bad language!

Jonathan Griggs

*If that to ring you do come here,
You must ring well with hand and ear.
And if a bell you overthrow,
4d to pay before you go.
And if you ring with spur or hat,
6d you must pay for that.
Or if in this place you swear or curse,
12d to pay from out your purse.*

The Steeple Aston Ringing Course

- my experience by Ruth Plackett, Olney

I was so excited to be one of those on the course. Here was an opportunity for a whole day's training and surely an opportunity not to be missed. There would be 25 participants divided into 5 groups. Through the post came a letter from my 'friendly Group Tutor'. Then my fears surfaced – and the questions. For this group aiming to ring Plain Hunt, the tutor sounded confident that we would get beyond that and progress to Plain Bob Doubles and even Bastow. I had never heard of Bastow! My thinking went along these lines: he will be disappointed in me; I will be too slow to learn; I'll need a helper at my shoulder all the time; will I be a hindrance to others in the group? What have I let myself in for? So – go for it. A make or break decision!

On that October Saturday morning it was wet but bright and I arrived at Steeple Aston after one and a quarter hours drive. What a lovely welcome, with drinks and home made biscuits. The planning and preparations were excellent. Meeting other participants I soon realised they were as dubious as me, in their abilities and expectations. We settled into our 5 groups for a theory session. I could cope with that. My group went outside to use handbells. With one each, learning to ring Plain Hunt, physically moving places and ringing; then not moving but ringing in the correct places. Very helpful and fun.

After coffee we set off to travel some miles to our first tower (Swalcliffe) in the sunshine and beautiful autumn colours. Folks shared cars, and it was good getting to know each other as we travelled. Our first tower meant climbing up 27 steps and a spiral staircase to the 6 bells. The helpers were waiting, and they were tremendous. Some stayed with our group the whole day. One by one we 'learners' had the opportunity to ring the treble for plain hunt but our tutor wanted us to forget numbers and concentrate on places. Oh dear! He had us ringing queens and then go into plain hunt! It kept the helpers on their toes and there was no possibility of being bored here.

Lunch was planned at a nearby pub. Our choice of menu had been noted earlier, so all was ready when we needed it.

On to the second tower, Tadmarton: up two short flights of stairs and a vertical ladder to arrive in the ringing chamber and another ring of 6 bells. All of us had a turn ringing Plain Hunt, some on bells other than the treble. We progressed (though that is probably not the word I would use to describe my efforts) to Plain Bob Doubles and Grandsire Doubles.

At our third tower, Wigginton, a bigger challenge awaited. We climbed 30 spiral steps and down a ladder into the ringing chamber. I realised how fortunate I was in my local tower with no ladders at all. We five learners soon got used to taking turns. I was amazed to be ringing the tenor, standing on the highest box available. Admittedly the weight of these 6 bells was under 7 cwt. The helpers found themselves ringing Reverse Canterbury, all to help us with plain hunting on the treble. Most of the time I had little idea what the other bells were doing, but managed to get the rhythm right occasionally.

The enthusiasm and knowledge of our tutor was astounding, and all the helpers were patient and encouraging. No, we cannot expect to learn it in one day – but we all achieved something.

Flagging and weary we all congregated in Steeple Aston Village Hall at the end of the day: what a lot of chatter and exuberance! And lots to share about ringing - the good bits, the doubts, making friends, travelling. On a table was a display of books for sale, and other items such as sweaters, diaries, mouse mats, key rings etc.

People in the hall had been very busy cooking and preparing a super meal for us all. The hot first course was very welcome with a choice of dishes and special diets catered for. The ladies had also provided three wonderful puddings including a delicious pavlova. I decided not to add cream! There was plenty of time to eat and talk.

Bellringers not only provide good food, they provide lots of encouragement. Now I come to the thanks. Thanks to the cooks and those washing up, the planners and the helpers. I learned there had been 40 helpers in the towers throughout the day, giving their Saturday hours so willingly, and 15 towers had been available to us.

As for those of us who took part, we each received a certificate and everyone was applauded. What a day to remember and what a lot to share with my local band. What about my excitement, fears and doubts? Well, it's obvious I have no aptitude for bellringing but I always think it's fun. I've heard a lot and learned a lot, but my eyes, ears, mind and hands don't function as smoothly as they should. Progress is slow. Wonderfully though, others still encourage me and expect me to get better. However, my determination and enthusiasm is tempered with reality. My advice to others – HAVE A GO! Thank you to everyone.



Wigginton Church, the final tower

Recent Branch Events

Joint Practice with Towcester

It was a cold and wet Saturday night to turn out for the joint practice with Towcester Branch last November, but well worth the effort. It was a chance to meet old friends and to get re-acquainted with the glorious 12 at St Lawrence. Clearly the weather was no deterrent and we had around 30 ringers in the tower for most of the time, 12 or so from North Bucks, about the same from Towcester and the balance from Bedfordshire.

There was plenty of rounds and call changes on the 12 and care was taken to ensure a good placement of experienced ringers, to benefit those less familiar with larger numbers. Plain hunt on 11 was also repeated, again ringers were placed to benefit those who most needed the practice. Bob courses of Grandsire and Stedman Cinques and half courses of Cambridge Maximus were also successfully scored.

The ringing was managed by Richard Alton, the Towcester Tower ringing master, and a positive and constructive atmosphere prevailed throughout the evening, which was nicely rounded off by a pint in the back room of the Plough.

Thanks to the Towcester Branch and Towcester Tower for hosting the event and for all of you who turned out to make it so pleasant and enjoyable. The next Joint Practice will be later this year in the North Bucks area.

Alan Marchbank

Festive Carols and Chips at Great Linford

The branch Christmas Carol Service with seasonal readings, poems and ringing was held at St Andrews this year. The service ran smoothly as the numbers on the order of service actually corresponded to the numbers on the carol sheets! Then it was a brisk walk across the Manor Park to the Memorial Hall for our fish and chips, followed by the quiz.

The hall and tables had been adorned with decorations to get us into a festive mood. This event was again popular, with over 30 sitting down together for the meal. We were pleased that the Rev. Peter Ballantine from St Andrews was able to join us for the meal which was concluded with mince pies and tea or coffee.

Then it was down to the serious stuff of the evening - the quiz with quiz master Alan Marchbank. Fortunately there were fewer football questions than last year and the lead swapped back and forth during the early rounds. The final result was a win for a team of Shenley and Loughton ringers, with a Great Linford team second, and third were a team from Whaddon.

All in all it was a most enjoyable evening and thanks must go especially to the Marchbank family and the Great Linford ringers for arranging it all.

Richard Stanworth

Guild 10 bell Striking Competition at Long Crendon

The competition piece last November was 269 Grandsire Caters. With the new 10 at Olney, we had the opportunity to have a couple of practice sessions before the competition. This stood us in good stead, however Long Crendon bells are much lighter than Olney and this gave us additional challenges on the day.

The results of the competition were :

1	Reading	93%
2	Central Bucks	90%
3	Old North Berks	89%
4	EBSB	88%
5	North Bucks	74%
6	Banbury	72%

The judges comments on our ringing was that they felt that the back bells set the pace and it appeared to be too fast for the band. There was also some inconsistent leading in some places. However, in the third course the ringing slowed and better striking was achieved, however the ringing then speeded up again in last lead!

Overall they felt it was a "nervous" performance, however there was general improvement in the ringing as it went along.

So the moral appears to be - more practice required so that we ring with more confidence and less nerves on the day. Thank you to all those that took part. We rang as well as we could, but as Alan says - other teams rang better.

David Phillipson



*from left to right:
Jonathan Griggs,
Barry Eglesfield,
Richard Haseldine,
Brian Baldwin,
Richard Stanworth,
Doug Hird,
David Phillipson,
Alan Marchbank,
Nick Gray and
Tony Gray*



All around the Belfries

Padbury

As will be noted from the quarter peal columns, our second attempt to ring a peal for the 800th anniversary of the church did not succeed, but we did manage a quarter instead. (Maybe it will be third time lucky.)

We were saddened to learn of the death of our Tower Captain, Bill Thatcher, on 11th November. Bill had retired from the post some years ago, but recently resumed the role when his successor moved away from the village. As well as Tower Captain, Bill was also Churchwarden Emeritus and had also been Chairman of the Parish Council for many years and a trustee of various village charitable trusts. Despite having 'retired' as a Churchwarden he still carried out many tasks around the Church, such as mowing the churchyard. The church was packed out for his memorial service, with standing room only for some. The bells were rung open before and after the service, at the request of his family. We rang a quarter peal in thanksgiving for his life and work on the following day.

In March we hope to officially transfer to the North Bucks Branch, once the Central Bucks Branch have agreed to the transfer and the Guild Committee have ratified the transfer.

Richard Stanworth

Hillesden

The ring of 6 at All Saints, Hillesden is the second church, along with Padbury, in the Lenborough Benefice which is part of the Buckingham Deanery. The Hillesden ringers have, for many years now, turned to the Padbury ringers and to the North Bucks Branch when they have needed help for Church services or special occasions. Indeed, some of the Padbury ringers are regulars at Hillesden also. Therefore, following the lead of Padbury, Hillesden have also applied to transfer to North Bucks and it is hoped that once agreed, this will happen at the same time.

Richard Stanworth

Emberton

Feast or Famine?

It's been great at Emberton the last few months. Our practices have been augmented by visitors from other towers keen to get a bit of extra practice and increase their experience of other bells. It's very rewarding to see progress being made and confidence growing.

Our numbers are somewhat less on Sundays of course, but we're grateful for the committed support of our local band.

Sheila Watts

Bradwell

The Bradwell ringers enjoyed an evening of mince pies and mulled wine in the snows before Christmas. We were joined by a visiting organist who had come for a practice on the Church organ and a very pleasant evening was enjoyed by all.

The Bradwell ringers managed to ring for all the Christmas services. However, we did not have enough available to ring in the New Year.

We have recently held our AGM where we talked quite extensively on getting new ringers. Once again we agreed to get an article in our local Parish newsletter as well as the Church notices. We will also put a notice up on the Church notice board as well as the Parish notice board. The Bradwell Residents Association will be holding a fete in the village again this year and, as last time, the ringers will open up the bells to visitors and invite them to handle a rope under instruction. Here's hoping we manage to recruit some new ringers this year.

Jenny Brookman

Hanslope

Ringling at Hanslope continues to be well supported both by our own tower members and by visitors from other local towers. During the past few months the band has rung two successful quarter peals for Sunday service, including Gainsborough Little Bob Major which was a first for all members of the band.

Last year our annual tower Christmas dinner was held at The Globe in Hanslope and was well attended by our ringers and friends, including Father Gary, our vicar. The pub had changed hands in the late summer of 2009 and the new landlords, Emma & Jamie, made us very welcome and we all enjoyed a splendid festive meal cooked by their superb new chef, Jay.

Our new learners continue to make good progress and all now come to our Thursday practice nights and ring with us on Sundays. They can all ring call changes and some are now starting to learn plain hunt and ringing up and down. Some are also learning how to cover to both doubles and major. They are all very keen to make progress with their ringing and they sometimes travel to Emberton to get in some extra practice.

Sheila Blenkhorn

All around the Belfries continued

Newport Pagnell

The Newport ringers were kept busy over the Christmas period making a good start with a mini outing on Christmas Eve. Ringers from Newport, Olney and Sherington rang at Clifton Reynes, Emberton, Sherington and Lathbury. An unexpected marriage blessing added to the occasion at Sherington.

The Newport ringers then rang for the Christmas Eve Crib service and later in the night tried to disturb the pub goers in the town, with little success. Christmas morning then followed with the usual good turnout.

We decided to bring back the tradition of ringing out the old year and ringing in the new. Revd. Bev put together a short service to precede the ringing and 2010 was welcomed in properly for the first time in several decades. It was a bit of a shock to some to find themselves ringing Plain Bob Minor at almost midnight.

Doug Hird



Grants

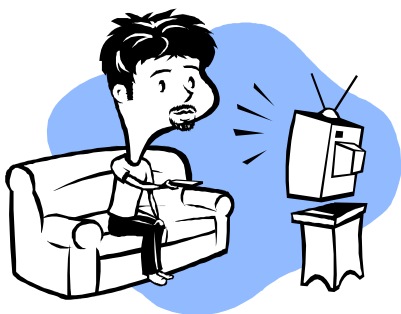
Did you know that financial assistance is available from the branch for training and bell maintenance ?

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).

Visual Teaching Aids

Do you need some DVDs or videos to help teach your members to ring? There are a number of titles held within the branch, available to borrow. Please contact the secretary if you want further information (details on page 2).



Bellhandling - a tutor's companion by the Central Council (video or DVD)

Look and Learn by the Kent County Association (video)

Teaching Demonstration recording of Steve Coleman teaching (video)

Helen Stanworth

Limerick competition

*Now the young editor of In Touch
really isn't impressed too much: that
this edition is shorter.*



*He really thinks he oughta
tell you all that it shouldn't be such.*

So, here's a challenge to you all. Please submit your entries for this Limerick competition, by email or by post, to the In Touch editor (details on page 2). Entries will be published in the next edition of In Touch, and who knows, there may be a prize for the winner.

The only rule for this competition is that the first line must end with the word **campanology**. If you need help, I have just googled "rhymes with campanology" and there is no shortage of words to choose from:

Campanology, algae, sedgy, solfeggi, veggie, wedgie, stagy, mangy, rangy, gee-gee, squeegee, squidgy, dingy, fringy, stingy, whingy, prodigy, strategy, cottagey, dodgy, podgy, splodgy, stodgy, orgy, bhaji, budgie, pudgy, sludgy, smudgy, grungy, gungy, scungy, spongy, allergy, analogy, genealogy, hypallage, metallurgy, mineralogy, tetralogy, trilogy, amphibology, anthology, anthropology, apology, archaeology, astrology, biology, cardiology, chronology, climatology, cosmology, craniology, criminology, dermatology, ecology, embryology, entomology, epidemiology, etymology, geology, gynaecology, haematology, hagiology, horology, hydrology, iconology, ideology, immunology, iridology, kidology, meteorology, methodology, musicology, mythology, necrology, neurology, numerology, oncology, ontology, ophthalmology, ornithology, parasitology, pathology, pharmacology, phraseology, phrenology, physiology, psychology, radiology, reflexology, scatology, Scientology, and so on !!!



Quarters and Peals



St Andrew, Great Linford

Sunday 8th November 2009

1260 Grandsire Doubles

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

First of Grandsire as conductor.

Rung half muffled for Remembrance Sunday.

St Andrew, Great Linford

Sunday 6th December 2009

1260 Grandsire Doubles

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

First of Grandsire - 3

Birthday compliment to Tim Everett, uncle of 2 and 3, brother-in-law of 5.

For the Carol Service.

St Andrew, Great Linford

Sunday 15th November 2009

1260 Grandsire Doubles

- 1 Helen Stanworth
- 2 Nick Read
- 3 Richard Stanworth
- 4 Brian Newman
- 5 Alan J Marchbank (C)
- 6 Simon Read

To celebrate the Birth of Hannah May Beeby, grand daughter to 4.

To celebrate the lives of Ken Lock father-in law of 4 and also William Thatcher, ringer at Padbury.

For the Deanery Confirmation Service held this evening at Christ the King, Kents Hill.

St James the Great, Hanslope

Sunday 29th November 2009

1280 Double Norwich Court Bob Major

- 1 Stuart Grout
- 2 Alan Cozens
- 3 Tony Gray
- 4 Nick Gray
- 5 Ian Thompson
- 6 Roy Keeves
- 7 Jonathan Griggs
- 8 Richard Haseldine (C)

Rung to celebrate the induction of Fr Gary Ecclestone as Vicar of Hanslope and Castlethorpe.

Also for the 30th Wedding Anniversary of Andy & Sue Grout.

SS Peter & Paul, Olney

Sunday 6th December 2009

5040 Cambridge Surprise Royal

in 3 hours 14 mins

- 1 Barry R Eglesfield
- 2 Ruth Stokes
- 3 Richard Haseldine
- 4 Alexandra J. Marchbank
- 5 Benjamin J Carey
- 6 Alan M Shepherd
- 7 B Douglas Hird
- 8 Christopher C Stokes (C)
- 9 Alan J. Marchbank
- 10 Richard Horne

1st Peal of Cambridge Royal - 4, and on the bells.

Rung for Olney's "Dickens of a Christmas Fayre".

St James the Great, Hanslope

Sunday 27th December 2009

1260 Gainsborough Little Bob Major

- 1 Sian Haseldine
- 2 Jonathan Griggs
- 3 Stuart Grout
- 4 Roy Keeves
- 5 Ian Thompson
- 6 Kevin Haseldine
- 7 Richard Haseldine (C)
- 8 Tony Gray

50th Quarter - 6

First in the method for all.



Quarters and Peals - continued



All Saints, Leighton Buzzard

Sunday 8th October 2009

1264 Bob Major

- 1 Kevin Pughe (first of major)
- 2 Sophia Pughe (first quarter)
- 3 Catherine Stanworth
- 4 Hayley Fry
- 5 Nick Read
- 6 Michael Tinsley
- 7 Alan Shephard
- 8 Barry Eglesfield (C)

1st quarter - 2

1st of major - 1

Rung by musicians to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the death of George Frederick Handel (April 1759).

Also as a farewell to Wing Ye Lau and Kerrine Burgess, Head and Deputy Choristers at All Saints.

St Andrew, Great Linford

Sunday 17th January 2010

1260 Doubles (480 Plain Bob, 780 Grandsire)

- 1 Helen Stanworth
- 2 Simon Read
- 3 Alan J Marchbank
- 4 Brian Newman
- 5 Richard Stanworth (C)
- 6 Ross Tyrrell

Most methods - 2

Birthday compliments to Freddie Wright (80 on 13th January); Andrew Balantine (34 on 18th January); and Charlotte Balantine (32 on 20th January).

St Mary the Virgin, Padbury

Saturday 7th November 2009

1320 Spliced Surprise Minor

(5 methods: London, Wells, Beverley, Surfleet, Cambridge)

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

To celebrate the 800th anniversary of the founding of the Church in Padbury. Based on the record that Bradwell Abbey first sent a priest to Padbury in 1209.

Rung following a failed peal attempt on the recently refurbished bells.

St Mary the Virgin, Padbury

Tuesday 24th November 2009

1260 Grandsire Doubles

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

In Thanksgiving for the life and work of Frank William "Bill" Thatcher (6 March 1930 - 11 November 2009): Tower Captain, Churchwarden Emeritus, Former Chairman of the Parish Council, known affectionately as "Mr Padbury".



The Charmborough Ring

Thinking of an event to attract the public?

Recruiting drives / Training courses /
Public demonstrations

The Charmborough Ring is available for hire by ringers who want to promote ringing among the wider public and attract new recruits. The Charmborough Ring always draws enthusiastic observers and participants.

Hire charge including transport within 50 miles of London from £190 for 1 day to £320 for 5 days. Full details at: www.charmborough.org

Enquiries to: hiring@charmborough.org



OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

NORTH BUCKS BRANCH

Annual General Meeting on 6th March 2010

Agenda

- 1 Chairman's welcome
- 2 In Memoriam
- 3 Apologies for absence
- 4 Minutes of previous meeting (published in In Touch)
- 5 Matters arising from minutes
- 6 Election of new members
- 7 Officers reports
 - a) Development Leaders' reports - published in this and previous editions of In Touch
 - b) Secretary's report (see below)
 - c) Treasurer's report - a copy of the draft unaudited accounts is overleaf.
- 8 Election of Officers
- 9 Distinguished membership (see below)
- 10 Recruitment and training (see below)
- 11 Forthcoming events
- 12 Any other business
- 13 Vote of thanks

Distinguished Membership

The Guild would like to recognise guild members who have significantly contributed to ringing at both a tower and branch/guild level and as such would like to award them with distinguished membership. At this stage the guild is looking for nominations from individual branches. Please can you consider who should be put forward. The guidelines for consideration are:

Minimum of 30 years' total membership; holding branch and/or guild office for a significant time; involvement in guild activities (meetings, festivals, courses, striking competitions) in an organisational capacity.

Recruitment and Training

A proposal for a major recruiting campaign and follow-up training plan will be presented at the AGM for approval. Please come along to hear all about it and consider whether you will support it.

Secretary's Report

Following the changes agreed at last year's AGM, Branch practices and meetings are now being held on Saturdays. Initially attendance was no better than Friday practices, but more recent events have shown signs of improvement. We are still arranging Saturday dates as we need to allow the changed calendar to become established before we review its success.

Membership of the branch increased by nine in 2009, with 11 new members elected. There are now 27 towers in the branch with members, one more tower than last year.

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. The branch egroup has expanded with about half of the branch now being members of the group. This is aimed at improving communication with members as they receive notices and reminders about forthcoming events.

July saw the dedication of the new ring of ten at Olney, so that we now have a ring of ten within the branch. Our Inter Branch competition was also held in July after missing it out last year. The Towcester branch won the competition by two sections to one, so they collected both the Jack Green Trophy for the overall competition and the George Holland Trophy for the Stedman Triples. The Autumn Meeting was held at Padbury to welcome them to the Branch, once the move has been ratified, with evening ringing at Hillesden, another Buckingham Deanery tower currently outside the Branch.

This year we went to Great Linford for the Christmas Celebration and Fish and Chip Supper which was held in the Memorial Hall. This attracted even more than previous years. The supper was again followed by an informal quiz organised by Alan Marchbank. This was much enjoyed by all who came. Our thanks to the Marchbank family and Great Linford ringers for arranging this all and the festive decoration of the hall, which added to the occasion.

Helen Stanworth

Short Business Meeting

for election of new members held at Fenny Stratford on 16th January 2010

Three nominations were received, proposing the following new members:

Great Brickhill: Caroline Whitelegge, proposed by David Middleton, seconded by Janet Oakes

Fenny Stratford: David Lapham & Lisa Cook (re-election), proposed by Peter White and seconded by Clive Raven

All were elected without dissent. Welcome to you all.

Branch Notice Board

Branch Practices :

Saturday 20th February	4pm	Buckingham
Saturday 17th April	5pm (tbc)	Newport Pagnell
Saturday 22nd May	5pm	Bradwell

Branch AGM at Woughton

**Saturday 6th
March**

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

**Interbranch
Striking
Competition
against
Towcester**
Saturday
10th July 6pm
at Wicken

Summer Social and Striking Competition

Saturday 19th June
at Stowe

Hold that Date !

Guild and other stuff :

Saturday 13th March	Spring Committee meeting - Chipping Norton Branch
Saturday 17th April	Radley Course
Monday 3rd May	Guild Ringing day and 8 bell striking competition
Tuesday 4th May	Deadline for contributions to next edition of In Touch
Saturday 15th May	Guild AGM - Newbury branch