



In Touch

February 2013

Annual General Meeting : Buckingham



Saturday 2nd March 2013

- 2.15 – 3.15 Ringing at Maids Moreton (6, 10cwt)
- 3.30 Ringing at Buckingham (8, 27cwt)
- 4.30 Service
- 5.00 Tea
- 5.45 Annual General Meeting

Everyone is very welcome. No need to book teas – just turn up.

See page 6 for the agenda for the meeting.

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Big Ring Pull Day Out

Saturday 16 March 2013

A Second Day Out for the Big Ring Pullers has been organised on Saturday 16 March to coincide with the first anniversary of finishing the two week course of modules and joining their local towers.

The plan for the day is in its final stages and more information will be sent to the Big Ring Pullers in the next couple of weeks. The day will consist of ringing at six towers in Milton Keynes ending up with a fish and chip tea at Downs Barn. The level of ringing will be as appropriate for each individual Big Ring Puller.



In Touch

This is the first edition of *In Touch* distributed to members exclusively via the nbb_odg@yahoogroups.com email addresses. (A copy is also posted on the Branch website for viewing and downloading).

Printed copies of *In Touch* will continue to be available to individuals or towers at a cost of £10 for the 4 editions per year. Those individuals / towers who would like printed copies posted to them please submit your £10 to the Treasurer as soon as possible.

If you are an experienced ringer and able to give help and guidance where needed, and you are able to come along for the day, or just some of the day, please contact Hilary Reading (email Hilary@thereadings.co.uk)

Who's Who 2012—2013

Chairman	Brian Newman	Great Linford	chairman@northbucks.org.uk
RDL Buckingham & Guild Rep	Vacant		
RDL Milton Keynes	Brian Newman	Great Linford	rdl_mk@northbucks.org.uk
RDL Newport Pagnell & Archivist	Doug Hird	Newport Pagnell	rdl_np@northbucks.org.uk
Secretary	Jonathan Griggs	Hanslope	secretary@northbucks.org.uk
Treasurer	Sheila Watts	Emberton	treasurer@northbucks.org.uk
Guild Rep	David Phillipson	Olney	guildrep1@northbucks.org.uk
In Touch Editor	Nick Read	Newport Pagnell	intoucheditor@northbucks.org.uk
Branch Website			www.northbucks.org.uk
Guild Website			www.odg.org.uk

Dates for your Diary

February

16 Great Brickhill – Branch Surprise Practice – 4 - 5.30

March

- 1 Calverton – Call Changes & Plain Hunt Practice – 7.40 - 9.00
- 2 Buckingham – AGM plus ringing at Maids Moreton (see front page)
- 9 Kidlington – ODG Guild Committee Meeting - Oxford City Branch
- 16 2nd Big Ring Pull Outing around Milton Keynes - All day
- 23 Olney – 10 bell Branch Practice on simulator - 4 - 5.30

April

- 5 Great Horwood – Call Changes & Plain Hunt Practice - 7.40 - 9.00
- 20 Hanslope – Branch Change Ringing Practice - 5 - 6.30

May

- 3 Chicheley – Call Changes & Plain Hunt Practice - 7.40 - 9.00
- 18 Stony Stratford – Branch Surprise practice – 5 - 6.30
- 18 Guild AGM at Ascott under Wychwood

June

- 7 Shenley – Call Changes & Plain Hunt Practice - 7.40 - 9.00
- 8 Bradwell – Summer Social and Striking Competition - 5pm
- 15 Olney – 10 bell Branch Practice on simulator - 5pm

July

- 5 Hanslope – Call Changes & Plain Hunt Practice - 7.40 - 9.00
- 13 Inter-branch Striking Competition Venue TBA - 6pm
- 20 Calverton – Branch Change Ringing Practice – 5 - 6.30

August

- 17 Turvey, Beds – Branch Surprise Practice – 5 - 6.30

September

- 21 Olney 10 bell Branch Practice at Olney on simulator - 5 - 6.30

October

- 5 Guild 6 bell Striking Competition - Chiltern Branch

November

- 16 Wicken - Joint Practice with Towcester
- 23 Newbury - Guild 10 bell competition
- 23 Newbury - Guild Autumn General Committee meeting

December

- 21 Olney - 10 bell Branch Practice on Simulator – 4 - 5.30

From the Chairman . . .

Dear All

With the end of another year and the AGM upon us again, perhaps it's time to think about what we as a branch have achieved over this last year and what our expectations are for the coming year, perhaps we can win the guild 10 bell this year or even win all three competitions who knows.

As you can see from the `Dates for your Diary' section the new rota of Branch Practices has started, please let any of the officers know what you think once you have had some experience of them and if you have any ideas that we can try out. I hope that as many of you who can, will be at the AGM as it's a good opportunity to get together and discuss where the branch can be improved in what it offers to you. Also the branch needs to fill all the officer posts that we have, please consider what you could offer, not all the roles require a great deal of your time and energy and I know that some of you could easily fill them.

The current officers have been talking about how one of the branch roles can be split up to possibly make it easier to deal with and a small note on the proposal is on page 6.

Brian Newman

Deadline for next edition . . .

The deadline for contributions for the next edition of In Touch is **Tuesday 8th May 2013**.

Contributions to intoucheditor@northbucks.org.uk please.

Nick Read

Tower News

Wavendon

Wavendon Tower has made steady progress in the last quarter, including ringing on half-muffled bells for Remembrance Day and fulfilling all its Christmas engagements, amounting to five services within four days. We continue to ring regularly before service for just a short while on Sundays, supplementing this with more ringing afterwards while we have the opportunity.

We have been blest by the arrival of second experienced ringer in the shape of Paul Crumbleholme, who learned to ring at St Mary's, Bletchley in the late '80s but has not rung regularly in the last dozen years. Paul heard the bells when attending our Crib Service and his daughter Hannah is keen to follow in her dad's footsteps. Paul has strengthened the band and has helped us to have a catch-up session on Tuesdays in addition to our regular Friday night's main practice.

Some of our younger members are now able to ring Plain Hunt on four or six bells, while the rest of us are happy that our rounds are improving. At just short of year since most of us learned to ring, we now have as many as nine Wavendon ringers on some occasions, and we continue to enjoy the help of Brian Baldwin and Emily Rice who have both been very generous with their time. We look forward to hosting part of the next Big Ring Pull Big Day Out and will be happy to welcome anyone who wants to try our lovely bells!

Patricia Rosewell

Newport Pagnell ringers' AGM

At the Newport ringers AGM on 1st Feb, there were no changes of management so continuity is maintained. After a year concentrating on the support of the Big Ring Pull the band is keen to get back to the basics of bringing on the ringers at Newport and nearby towers. So the first thing to do is to make ringing more enticing and more worthwhile. This will range from a few small things like starting Sunday morning ringing 10 minutes early to give time to get a decent amount of ringing, to another themed bus outing. This time to take in a day of Taylor rings in Northants and Leicestershire. Meanwhile, we will work more on communicating the good things we do each week amongst ourselves and more widely to the congregation and town. Another idea to help communication and a bit of sociability is to end practices with coffee as the pub isn't inclusive enough.

As the diary of events develops I will put things on the Newport tower page on the new branch web site and some may get promoted to "front page" status.

Doug Hird

Branch News

Call Changes & Plain Hunt Practices

On the evening of Friday 4th January it was the first bellringing practice session of the year for the beginners with rounds, call changes & plain hunt. The ringing with the help of those more experienced ringers went well with the addition of ringing plain hunt and bob minor to push us onto ringing methods. We welcome others to join the beginners monthly practice, as it pushes us further along to become more confident & meet others from different churches just starting out and learning to ring methods.

Sandra Gunn

Elly and Matt's Charity Cycle Challenge

Elly and Matt Cooper are bravely (or crazily!) aiming to raise a massive £10,000 for Macmillan by cycling the furthest possible distance in the British Isles – Land's End to John O'Groats! They will start their 12 day adventure, organised by Discover Adventure, on 27th August starting at Land's End on the south-westerly tip of England, pedalling their way through Cornwall, over Dartmoor and north along the Welsh border, skirting the Lake District into Scotland, via lochs and the Highlands to the North Coast and John O'Groats. There'll be no sight-seeing; no lie-ins. This is all about the physical challenge! And knowing their luck, you can guarantee it will rain all the way!

To support their challenge visit <http://www.justgiving.com/Elly-and-Matt-do-LEJOG>
(Elly is a ringer at Newport Pagnell)

First 'new-style' Branch Change Ringing Practice

The snow had fallen and the temperature had plummeted but this did not stop a good turn-out at the first of the new Branch Change Ringing Practices held at Wicken on 16th January. Doug Hird led the practice and a wide selection of methods were rung from Grandsire Triples to Double Norwich. It was also good to see members from 6 bell towers who very easily adapted to ringing on 8 bells

These new additional Branch Practices will be 4.00 to 5.30pm (winter months) on the 3rd Saturday of the month except when there is a scheduled branch meeting or social function when there would be an additional 10 bell practice at some point during the month. The three types of change ringing practices are:-
Month 1 – General change ringing practice
Month 2 – Surprise practice
Month 3 – Normal branch meeting or function with general ringing plus and additional 10 bell practice at Olney

Please support these new range of practices and see the Branch diary on page 2 for dates and venues.

Branch News contd

North Bucks Branch Web site

As promised at the last couple of branch meetings, the branch web site is getting a makeover. The reasons for making a start on this were technical and tedious but it has given an opportunity to bring the site into this century and to make it a bit easier to manage. One new aim is to make it possible for someone else to step in and look after it if it became necessary.

There were a number of aims

- To make it look and feel like In Touch
- To retain all the functionality of the old site
- To add some new functionality and content
- To make it easier to manage

Most of this is now in place and is being tested. Some will take a little longer to complete or fine tune.

North Bucks Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers

Forthcoming North Bucks Branch events

Contracts

Chairman: Brian Newman
Secretary: Jonathan Urdias
Treasurer: Sheila Watts
Newport Deanery Leader: Doug Hird
Milton Keynes Deanery Leader: Brian Newman
Guild Rep: David Philipson
Newsletter Editor: Nick Read
Archivist: Doug Hird

Tower	Date	Type	Details	Time
Great Brickhill	February 16, 2013	Branch Surprise Practice	Details	
Calverton	March 1, 2013	Rounds and Call Change Practice	Details	7:40 Start
Buckingham	March 2, 2013	Branch AGM	Details	
Olney	March 23, 2013	Branch 10-bell Practice	Details	



Anyway, the new site will be demonstrated at the AGM at Buckingham and if anyone wants to explore it in more detail they can do that after the meeting.

Doug Hird

Branch Christmas Celebration at Emberton

There was a huge turnout from branch members at the Christmas Celebration held at Emberton on Saturday 8th December 2012.

The event started with ringing at All Saints Church followed by a short Celebration Service.

Following the service members enjoyed a sumptuous supper at the Institute with plenty of choices for the meal and ample second helpings! After the meal there was an opportunity for members to have a go ringing on handbells, a quiz and a raffle.

The event was most ably organised by Sheila Watts and Sheila Ware with a competent band of helpers and our grateful thanks go to them for all their hard work in making the event such a success.

It was good to see members from the 'Big Ring Pull' in attendance and Branch members from across a wide variety of towers in the branch.

A very good and enjoyable time was had by all.

Pictures from the Branch Christmas Celebration at Emberton



Our Branch Secretary, Jonathan, drawing the raffle



The organisers, Sheila Ware and Sheila Watts, enjoying a well-deserved rest!



Ringers from the GATE group of parishes

Branch News contd

Secretarial Snippets...

Grants

Applications for grants from the branch (for training assistance, work in towers, ropes, pulleys etc.) may be submitted to the Secretary. Details of applications received will be distributed to towers as soon as possible and will then be considered at the next branch meeting. A meeting for this may be convened at any branch practice or event.

Training Grants

Grants are available from the branch to assist with the cost of training courses as follows: 50% of the cost of the course up to a maximum of £50. Applications for grants should be made in writing to the Secretary. Please apply before attending a course.

Minutes of Business Meeting held at Olney on 18th November 2012

A short business meeting was held for the election of one new member effective from 1st January 2013.

Election of New Members: Jeannie Choy of Newport Pagnell was elected, proposed by Doug Hird, seconded by Mick Nimmo

Jonathan Griggs

ODG Training Meeting

The meeting was for people involved with branch and Guild training to share ideas and learn from experiences. It was held on a sunny but cold day in February at Thame and I went along to share our recent experiences.

Topics for discussion during the morning were the ITTS (there were many reservations expressed), mentoring, mass recruitment (the Big Ring Pull mostly) and teaching a band from scratch. The occasional useful conclusions and insights I thought were:

- The guild and branches can organise perfectly good courses and we don't necessarily need the ITTS
- The ITTS could be useful though
- For practices having a particular focus, add half an hour at the start as a theory session, rather than call it a course

After beer and lunch, the bells were rung up and, between watching kites fly past the windows we went through a number of useful methods and non methods designed to help new ringers make the transition into method ringing. Reverse Bob Major caused the usual amount of confusion but my favourite was Saturn Triples as it has backstroke dodges in odd places.

I think this is a subject that deserves to be more widely shared so I will see what I can do to add a bit of structure and include some of this on the new branch web site.

Doug Hird

Ringling For England

Dear Bellringers,

2012 was a most extraordinary time for bell ringers where the talents of your craft were experienced and appreciated by not only the entire nation but by a vast international audience. It started with St. George's Day to which so many of you responded fantastically helping to create the day into a very special event. This was then followed on with the Jubilee and The Olympics again helping to register Change Ringing as a particular art form peculiar to England. It was I am sure hard work at times but a brilliant addition to the atmosphere for all these special events and hopefully you were all fully acknowledged and praised.



It is with regard to St. George's Day that I am writing to request your continuing support to ring out and so help establish it in the minds of the public as England's special day. This year April 23rd falls on a Tuesday and it would be terrific if you could encourage as many of your towers as possible to join in. If you could let me know as soon as possible who will be able to ring as we want to give the media plenty of warning. We would love to hear from your bands direct and if they have photos or any news about what they will be doing, THE MORE THE MERRIER.

Now just to allay any fears about the day - whilst the Campaign has said the ideal would be 6 o'clock, (and those that can will do so,) the important point is to make sure it is as convenient as possible for your band. Also, please feel free to ring out whatever you wish and for however long you wish. It is the fact that you will be taking part on the day that really matters. I know in the past some have used this as an excuse to do something special, for example ringing a peal, or for encouraging first time ringers to come and have a go, but whatever you choose to do we really want to know so that we can spread the good news. So please get in touch.

Libby Alexander

Ringing for England Campaign
www.ringingforengland.co.uk

Contact : 07799 23 04 23

Libby@ringingforengland.co.uk

Branch News contd

Agenda for the Branch AGM to be held at Buckingham on 2nd March (see front page)

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
 - Chairman
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer – Adoption of Accounts
 - Deanery Ringing Development Leaders
 - Guild Representatives
 - Branch Archivist
8. Election of Branch Officers
 - Chairman
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - Deanery Ringing Development Leaders
 - Buckingham, Milton Keynes and Newport Pag.
 - Guild Representatives (x3)
 - Newsletter Editor
 - Branch Archivist
 - Independent Examiner
9. 2013 Branch Training – Does the Branch want a Plain Hunt/Plain Bob/Grandsire Course this year?
10. Big Ring Pull 2 – Would the Branch consider supporting another Big Ring Pull Project and if so in what timescales?
11. Confirmation of Guild Subs payments when joining part way through a year
12. Launch and demonstration of new Branch website
13. 2013 Branch Christmas Celebration event
14. Forthcoming Events
15. Any Other Business
16. Vote of Thanks

An AGM Pack containing the officer's reports along with the accounts will be published prior to the meeting.

At this meeting we have a number of agenda items where we would welcome thoughts from members: Point 9 raises the question of whether another one day course, like the plain hunt course we ran in November at Newport and Olney, would be useful later this year and if so whether it should be at the same level or Plain Bob or Grandsire.

Point 10, given the success of the Big Ring Pull Recruitment project, does the branch think we should run another similar style recruitment event and if so when. Point 11 concerns a discussion at the Autumn meeting, where it was questioned whether a partial membership fee should be payable when someone joins the branch part the way through a year.

Point 13. The recent Christmas celebration held at Emberton was a great success. We would like ideas for the 2013 celebration please – it does not have to be in the same format. Any offers to host the event would also be very much appreciated.

Ringing Development Leader

The officers have been looking at this role in light of no one coming forward to fill the vacancies.

We feel that there is still a need for these positions, but it may work better if the job is split up, with one looking after the ringing development and training, which also covers running the branch practises in the deanery area covered by that leader. The other part of the role, talking with the clergy and trying to improve their understanding of ringing, and how we can help with their expectations of what the ringing community can do for them, we think could be taken by someone else. This would split the work and may suit someone with more daytime hours available.

Brian Newman

Quarter Peals

Old Wolverton, Milton Keynes

Holy Trinity

Tuesday 22 January 2013 in 47mins (14cwt)

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- 1 Michael Woodcock
- 2 Wendy Price
- 3 Malcolm Hooton
- 4 James Woodcock
- 5 Michael Nimmo (C)

In memory of Robert Nimmo, father of (5) who died 16/1/2013

Woughton on the Green, Bucks

St Mary BVM

Thursday 20 December 2012 in 42mins (7cwt)

1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor

- 1 Brian Baldwin
- 2 Christina Tribble
- 3 Peter Tribble
- 4 Martin Petchey
- 5 Gary Reading
- 6 Simon Head (C)

First Surprise Minor - 5

Olney, Bucks

SS Peter & Paul

Monday 21 January 2013 (7cwt)

1272 Plain Bob Minimus

Composed: Trad

- 1 Charles Knight
- 2 Alan J Marchbank
- 3 Liz Sheaf
- 4 B Douglas Hird

First Quarter inside - 3