



In Touch

May 2011

Branch Summer Social & Striking Competition



Clifton Reynes - Saturday 18th June 2011

Everyone is invited to the Branch Summer Social - an afternoon of ringing, light refreshments and good company. The second part of the afternoon will include the Six Bell Striking Competition.

5pm Ringing

6pm Striking Competition

Entries for the striking competition will be taken on the day. Do come along as a band from your tower and have a go in the competition. You can ring call changes or plain hunt if you don't want to attempt to ring a method; or you can ring plain courses of a method, or call a touch. All that is needed is a minimum of 120 rows of ringing, so that each band can be judged over the same length.

If you can't get a band from your tower, why not join forces with a neighbouring tower to make up a band? Or, come along as an individual and we will try to make up a band for you on the day. We would like to get as many bands as possible and make it fun evening.

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THE BIG RING-PULL The Branch Recruitment Project

The first tangible progress of the project: the 8-bell simulator is due to be delivered later this month.

See page 3 for the latest update.

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

May

- 14th Branch Practice at Stony Stratford 5pm
21st Guild AGM at Islip

June

- 3rd Rounds and Call Change practice at Calverton 7.40pm
18th Branch Summer Social and Striking competition at Clifton Reynes 5pm

July

- 1st Rounds and Call Change practice at Whaddon 7.40pm
2nd North Bucks Young Ringers outing
2nd Interbranch Striking competition against Towcester Branch at Hanslope 6pm
[Note change of venue]
9th Guild Festival at Oxford

August

- 2nd In Touch deadline
20th Branch practice at Bletchley 5pm

September

- 2nd Rounds and Call Change practice at Old Wolverton 7.40pm
17th Autumn Meeting at Old Wolverton 3.30pm
17th Guild Michaelmas Training Day

October

- 1st Guild 6 bell striking competition in Reading Branch
15th Branch Practice at Shalstone 5pm
29th Guild Steeple Aston Course

November

- 26th Guild 10 bell striking competition

From the Chairman . . .

Welcome to this edition of In Touch. I hope you all had a good Easter break which for some, extended to cover the May Day and that wedding! On which subject I hope the quarter peal attempts that I heard about were successful (this had to be written before the cut-off date for In Touch).

In this edition you will read a lot about the 'Big Ring Pull' and, as you will know from previous notices, we have applied to the Guild for a grant: this be will voted on at the AGM at Islip. So, as all members are entitled to vote at the AGM, then the more of us that can attend, the better chance we will have of winning the grant, plus of course the AGM offers a good day out in the company of our fellow ringers. There is also another chance to celebrate ringing with Guild Festival, which is again in Oxford and I thoroughly recommend going.

We have a lot going on over the next few months so do please look at the calendar of events and join in those that you can. Some of you will no doubt be contacted by the RDLs to help ring in the various competitions that are coming up, please do, as it all helps to promote ringing.

Brian

From the Editor . . .

Thank you to everyone who commented favourably on the new style of In Touch. Based on the feedback I think we will continue with it until I have some more ideas to improve it!

The deadline for contributions for the next edition of In Touch is **Tuesday 2nd August 2011.**

Jonathan

THE BIG RING-PULL

The Branch Recruitment Project

UPDATE

The project is gaining momentum: as news filters out to all the towers in the branch, more and more people are coming forward to express an interest in helping with the recruitment event and teaching people to ring. This is very heartening.

In the last few weeks we have learned that our planned use of Middleton Hall in the autumn is not possible. We were relying on a free use of the space, which meant fitting around other bookings. Unfortunately the hall is fully booked in the autumn and the run-up to Christmas, however it has been indicated to us that there will be availability after Christmas - so the revised plan is to hold the event in the new year.

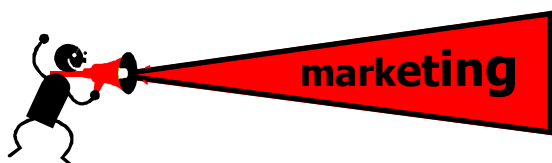
Although this is a bit of a disappointment, it actually means that we have more time to prepare for it and get it right. It also means that we do not have to rush the Teacher Training courses over the summer (when many people have holiday commitments and weddings etc.)

So we are proposing to run the teacher training courses in the autumn. Again, this will mean that we have more time to plan and prepare for these; also the availability of the Guild to deliver the course is likely to be higher. The dates for these courses will be announced as soon as they are confirmed - watch this space!

In the meantime the simulator has been ordered for Downs Barn. We understand that this will be delivered by the end of May so there will be some assembly activity in the following weeks to get it installed and operational.

The simulator is the first major item of expense for the project so if those towers who have made pledges of wedding fees could pass the money on the Finance Team as soon as possible, that would be appreciated.

Jonathan Griggs
Project Manager



Since the update in the last edition of In Touch, work has progressed in trying to define the key messages that we want to get over to the public at the event in Middleton Hall. It is crucial that we get them right as this is the basis of our 'sales pitch'. We have been looking at other guild's websites and recruiting material to find out what others are using. We are going to take the best of what we find combined with our own ideas and produce a set that will define our marketing material for the day and our approach to the public.

The workstream team has expanded: Sheila Blenkhorn from Hanslope and Becky Fawcett have stepped forward to help with the work. Many thanks to them both. We have also had the marketing expertise of Paula Gurney from Hanslope. Although not a ringer she is a friend of the Hanslope ringers. She has offered some of her time to help guide us.

One of the key areas that we have identified is to raise the profile of bellringing to the general public, independently of this recruitment drive. To that end we tried to get the Royal Wedding Quarter at Newport into the local press and TV. We had some limited success with the MK Citizen.

At a recent meeting at my house we had the opportunity for those of the team who have not rung on the mini ring to have a go. Paula also had a go and it was interesting to get her feedback as a non-ringer. Her experience would be what the public will experience on the day in Middleton Hall.

In the meantime each of the RDLs is making contact with all the towers in their Deanery to make sure that every tower knows about the project, what they can get out of it and what they can contribute.

Marketing Workstream

Alan Marchbank, Sheila Blenkhorn, Becky Fawcett

Display !

Having established that no date was free this autumn in Middleton Hall in the run up to Christmas an alternative venue with the Milton Keynes Shopping area has been investigated. Midsummer Place was considered, but after talking to the authorities it was decided that there is not enough room there for a mobile ring. However Middleton hall is likely to be free for us use in the new year: the Recruiting Day has therefore been put back until then. This will allow more time for preparing the trainers and other resource required.

Display Workstream

Richard Stanworth, Helen Stanworth

Downs Barn

A presentation has been made to the Downs Barn authorities about the training scheme that we wish to run at the church. This has been accepted, although we may need to work around other diary fixtures at the church. The church has also indicated there may be some costs associated with the extended use of the facilities. These are being evaluated.

Simulator

The 8 bell simulator has been ordered and is expected to be delivered at the end of May. It then needs to be installed with a computer into Downs Barn. We have had a kind offer to make the clapper ties to silence the bells by Graham Dilley of Olney. Although the simulator will be installed in Downs Barn, it will be a branch asset and therefore it can be moved to another tower if required in the future.

Teacher Training course

The Guild has provided a program for the training sessions that they propose to run for us. There will be two 1-day courses, both held in the branch. The first day is for everyone, whether they have experience of teaching ringing or not. The day will hopefully be run by Pip Penney who will bring us up to date with the latest thinking and the different techniques for teaching people to ring. The day will consist of a combination of discussion and practical. It is anticipated that all those offering to help in the teaching after the recruitment event should attend this day so that everyone is 'singing off the same hymn sheet'.











The second day will be a more intensive focus for ringers who have not taught before. It will develop the experience from the first day, but will be very much more practical based. For this day we will need some non-ringers to act as guinea pigs and be taught to ring

in a day. If you know of a potential and willing guinea pig, please let one of us know.

We aim to run these courses in the autumn and dates will be confirmed as soon as possible. A significant number of people have volunteered to be teachers - but more are welcome.

New Recruit Training Course

The training plan for the newly recruited ringers is being refined. A number of simple, non-practical sessions have been created so that recruits get a rounded experience of what ringing is all about as part of the two week course, for example:

-  How a bell works with CCTV and models
-  Rope tying
-  Sherbourne teaching program
-  History of Bellringing
-  Bell founding
-  Ringing terminology
-  Art of Change ringing
-  Listening
-  Quarters and peals
-  The social side of ringing

These sessions will be short, about 10-20 minutes, and we are working up a 'lesson plan' for each one so that anyone can deliver the session. There will also be a 'fact sheet' for each session, so that the recruits have something to take away. In due course we will be asking for volunteers to help deliver these sessions.



Teaching Workstream




Jonathan Griggs, Nick Read, Sheila Ware, Mick Nimmo
Doug Hird

£ Finance

Firstly, a big thank you for your generosity. It has been very encouraging to see the financial support given to The Big Ring-Pull, both at the AGM in March, and since then. We have received nine wedding pledges, a donation of £300, and a further £200 pledged. There are also two fund raising events promised from the north of the Branch. Our application to the Oxford Diocesan Guild for a grant to fund a simulator has been well received at their General Meeting, and we should have a decision after their AGM at Islip on 21 May. Please consider attending to vote for us! We also have made grant applications to The Ringing Foundation and some smaller charities.

Nevertheless, we have a way to go. Can your tower help? Here is a reminder of some ideas that you might consider:

-  donation of fees for a wedding
-  sponsored quarter peals

-  sponsored walks
-  coffee mornings
-  car washes

It's not too late to sell more copies of the Big Ring Pull Quiz - closing date is 31st May - contact Sheila for supplies.

Please contact one of the Finance workstream with your plans, so we can track how the funds are going to come in, and don't forget once your pledges turn into cash pass it on - contact details below:

Finance Workstream

Sheila Watts - treasurer@northbucks.org.uk

01234-713667

Trudy Hutchings - trudyhutchings@tiscali.co.uk

01908-615618

Brian Newman - chairman@northbucks.org.uk

01908-395160

ODG 8-bell striking competition

The Old North Berks Branch hosted this years 8-bell striking competition. With no heats to ring, we moved straight to a final which was rung at the delightful 12 cwt ground floor 8 of St Marys, Childrey. Blue sky and constant sunshine combined to make this a brilliant day for standing around listening to good ringing.

A straightforward touch of 233 Grandsire Triples was chosen and 8 tower and branch teams did battle. They were joined this year by our ODG Youth Team – the band which represented the Guild in the Ringing World National Youth Competition in Pimlico and who were placed first in the change ringing section of that competition. See page 10 for details of this event.

It was good to see many familiar faces and renew acquaintances. It was also encouraging to have a few new entries and to see new people getting involved with Guild events. It is especially encouraging to have had entries from Caversham and a branch band from Witney and Woodstock.

Tea and refreshments were provided throughout the afternoon by the Childrey ringers. Expertly organised, a proper ringers tea of sandwiches, cakes and freshly brewed tea was enjoyed and appreciated by all.

The judge, Hugh Evans, Chairman of the Gloucester and Bristol DA delivered the results.



The band representing North Bucks (left to right): Nick Read, Michael Tinsley, Catherine Stanworth, Simon J Read, Nichola King, B Douglas Hird (c), Emily J Rice, John B Marchbank, plus supporter.

Team	Faults	Position
Witney and Woodstock Branch	69	6 th
South Oxon Branch	56	3 rd
High Wycombe Tower	18	2 nd
Sonning Deanery Branch	63	4 th
Reading Branch	6	1 st
Newbury Branch	73	7 th
North Bucks Branch	66	5 th
Caversham Tower	77	8 th
ODG Youth Band	79	9 th

Parts of a bell - A ringing word search

by Sophie Wood & Rosie Haskell from Olney

T	C	L	S	S	N	O	N	A	C	B	H	S
C	N	R	I	N	L	I	E	W	E	A	R	W
L	W	E	L	I	B	M	N	A	P	N	E	H
A	O	S	G	C	A	C	A	I	O	D	D	E
Y	B	O	B	R	L	L	C	I	R	M	L	E
A	D	U	F	O	A	A	T	W	W	G	U	K
T	N	N	R	W	A	P	A	H	H	N	O	N
S	U	D	A	N	I	P	U	E	E	I	H	O
S	O	I	N	R	I	E	N	L	E	R	S	E
B	S	B	C	L	L	R	W	D	L	A	F	G
T	E	S	O	V	L	N	W	O	D	E	A	D
I	N	L	O	W	E	R	I	N	G	B	Y	U
I	R	R	A	O	B	R	E	N	N	U	R	G

All of the following names are hidden here - can you find them ?

Argent
Gudgeon
Bearing
Inscription
Crown
Clapper
Up
Lip
Down
Band
Pulley
Rope
Wheel
Frame
Stay
Waist
Bell
Shoulder
Ring

Ringling to celebrate the Royal Wedding of Prince William and Catherine Middleton

St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill

Friday, 29 April 2011 in 46 Minutes

1260 Grandsire Triples

- 1 Andrew Howell
- 2 Christina Tribble
- 3 Lynne Pughe
- 4 David Middleton
- 5 Brian Baldwin
- 6 Peter Tribble
- 7 Simon Head (C)
- 8 Tim Franklin

Rung by a joint Great Brickhill & Woughton Band.

St Mary's, Shenley

Friday, 29 April 2011

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

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

First quarter inside - 2

15 year old Claire learnt to ring, with her father Gary, when she was 11 and is a regular member of the Loughton band. Rung by a combined Loughton and Shenley band.

SS Peter & Paul, Newport Pagnell

Friday, 29 April 2011 in 45 Minutes

1250 Yorkshire Surprise Major

- 1 Nick Read
- 2 Stuart Grout
- 3 Catherine Stanworth
- 4 David Phillipson
- 5 Andrew Spencer
- 6 B Douglas Hird
- 7 Michael Tinsley
- 8 Simon Read (C)

Ringling commenced at exactly the same time as at Westminster Abbey, just as Prince William and his bride emerged at the west door.

St James the Great, Hanslope

Friday, 29 April 2011

1260 Grandsire Triples

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

St Mary the Virgin, Padbury

Friday, 29 April 2011 in 42 Minutes

1260 Grandsire Doubles

- 1 Brian Plummer
- 2 Helen Stanworth
- 3 Catherine Stanworth
- 4 Richard Stanworth
- 5 Michael Tinsley (C)
- 6 Nathan Tinsley

First Quarter - 6

All Saints, Hillesden

Friday, 29 April 2011 in 44 Minutes

1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor

- 1 Helen Stanworth
- 2 Nick Read
- 3 Catherine Stanworth
- 4 Simon Read
- 5 Michael Tinsley
- 6 Richard Stanworth (C)

St Mary's Whaddon

The bells were rung for about 40 minutes at 12:15 for the royal wedding, with call changes and plain hunt being the chosen fare.

St Mary the Virgin, Clifton Reynes

The bells at Clifton Reynes were rung for a short while at 10:30 on the morning of the wedding.

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Lillingstone Lovell

Lillingstone Lovell bells were rung on the Friday to celebrate the Royal Wedding.

St Lawrence, Bradwell

The bells were rung at 2pm, for 30 minutes, to commemorate the Royal Wedding. The ringers were Christine Abbott, Gordon Abbott, David Joyce, Jill Joyce, Jenny Brookman and Dean Meakins.

All Saints, Emberton

At Emberton we did our bit for the big day, meeting at 9.15am for some general ringling - Stedman and Plain Bob Doubles. The ringers were Alison Fowler, Phil Haslam, Wendy Haslam, Carrie Walker, Sheila Ware and Sheila Watts. We lowered the bells in peal, finishing in Queens, of course! Our efforts were recorded with a photograph for the extensive village archive.

SS Peter & Paul, Olney

At Olney we were pleased to be able to ring all ten bells in celebration on the morning of the Wedding. Phil Haslam, Sam Haslam, Wendy Haslam, Charles Knight, Alan Marchbank, Mike Nimmo, David Phillipson, Ruth Plackett, Ella Sheaf, Liz Sheaf, Matt Sheaf and Sheila Ware were the ringers, and we rang call changes and plain hunt.

Look to Branch Activities

Rounds and Call Changes Practice

Once learners can handle a bell they might only get 10 to 15 minutes practice on a ringing night. Two ringers from Old Wolverton and two from Stony Stratford would like to improve the time they have ringing, by running a monthly practice night for learners. As long as you can handle a bell fairly well you are welcome to our rounds and call changes practice. **NO METHODS WILL BE RUNG.** This practice is for you to strengthen your ringing for Sunday Services.

If your tower is available for this event please contact Mick Nimmo on 01908 321011 or Wendy Price on 01908 568222.

The following dates have been organised for the next few months:

3rd June	Calverton
1st July	Whaddon
August - No Practice	
2nd September	Old Wolverton

All start at 7:40 until 9pm

We look forward to seeing you.

Mick Nimmo

Inter Branch Striking Competition

Saturday 2nd July 2011

After a number of years being held at Wicken, this year we are hosting the competition at Hanslope. This is an informal get together with the Towcester branch of the Peterborough Guild which takes the form of a three-part striking competition.

The three parts are: Plain Bob Minor; call changes on eight bells; and Stedman Triples. There is therefore something for every ringer, so if you would like to take part, please let your Deanery RDL know. Ideally we need a separate band for each part of the competition, so that is a total of 22 ringers. If we don't get enough volunteers then the RDLs will be getting in touch to persuade you to take part !

North Bucks Young Ringers' Outing

Saturday 2nd July 2011

On Saturday 2nd July young ringers of the North Bucks Branch are invited to the Young Ringers' Outing around the Newport Deanery. This is following on from a very successful and enjoyable outing last year. The day will consist of six towers, a lunch break and ending with a barbeque at Olney vicarage.

Weather permitting, it has been suggested that after Lavendon, ringers could walk to Clifton Reynes via the footpath which starts behind Olney church. I have also purposely given half an hour travelling time between towers for anyone who wishes to cycle!

The cost of the day is covered for young ringers but a suggested donation of 50p will be asked for anyone aged 19 or over on the day.

Newport Pagnell	(8,21cwt)	9.00 - 9.45
Sherington	(5,12cwt)	10.15 - 11.00
Emberton	(6,9cwt)	11.30 - 12.15

Lunch in Olney Churchyard. (Bring a packed lunch, or purchase from nearby Olney bakery.)

Lavendon	(6,10cwt)	1.30 - 2.15
Clifton Reynes	(6,10cwt)	3.15 - 4.00
Olney	(10,24cwt)	4.45 - 5.30

After finishing at Olney, ringers are invited to Olney vicarage for a BBQ for which an item of food or drink would be welcomed. If you are bringing an item please let Claire Wood, please send an email to her: revclairewood@googlemail.com.

Please can you let Simon Read know if you are likely to attend by contacting 07403 152114 or simon_950@hotmail.co.uk before the 17th of June.

Simon Read

Branch Practice at Whaddon, 19th February 2011

More than 20 ringers met at Whaddon for the February Branch Practice.

Amongst the general ringing, including Stedman and Beverley, there was a session on Kaleidoscope ringing. Richard Stanworth explained the principles using a flip chart: it is like call changes but with continuous dodges or places and with more warning of the imminent change of position.

Two pieces of Kaleidoscope were rung. It was felt that it was a useful technique to use when introducing people to dodges and places. It also has the benefit over call changes of the changes being constantly different.

Hopefully a technique to be taken back to home towers to make learning easier and more interesting.

Jonathan Griggs

Barry Eglesfield - Distinguished Member

Barry Eglesfield has been recently been nominated for distinguished membership of the Oxford Diocesan Guild. The award will be made at the ODG AGM at Islip on 21st May. To mark the award, Barry has been asked to judge the North Bucks striking competition at Clifton Reynes on June 18th. Here follows a brief summary of the first 50 years of Barry's involvement in the North Bucks Branch.

Barry joined the Guild at the Branch AGM at Newport on June 3rd 1961 as a member of the Stony Stratford band.

In Sept 1965, Barry was given the job of forming a branch band for the forthcoming Guild 6-bell striking competition. Since then Barry has contributed to Branch life in more posts than any other branch officer.

Year	Officer
1967	Co-opted as Guild Rep
1967 - 1970	Secretary & Treasurer
1971 - 1975	Guild Rep
1973 - 1976	Organist
1976	Assistant Ringing Master
1978 & 1979	Ringing Master
1978 - 1981	Chairman
1985 & 1986	Chairman
1991 & 1992	Ringing Master
2003 & 2004	Chairman
2005	Assistant Ringing Master
2007 & 2008	Ringing Master

From 1988 to 2002 Barry ran a forward looking practice at Calverton where regular ringers and visitors were guaranteed a challenge.

Just taking North Bucks peals, Barry's total stands at 49, from 1964 to the present day. Most (2/3) include Surprise methods and notable achievements include the 10,080 at Emberton.

In 27 of these peals, Barry rang the tenor. The only North Bucks tower he has circled is Great Linford, the next closest in this respect being Calverton with only 1 and 2 left. Many of these were organised by Barry, a quarter of them were conducted by him.

Barry's 199 branch quarter peals cover 39 branch towers: nearly every ringable tower in the branch. More than half of these were conducted by Barry himself.

Again, there is a predominance of Surprise methods and few "firsts" although it looks like many were rung but not "claimed." For example, the Shepperton S Major at Buckingham contained several firsts.

Where some choose to organise quarter peals for learners, Barry makes use of opportunities to excel and challenge. Very often those opportunities are actually the result of a lot of work and time by Barry in bringing together a group of like minded people. This shows the way for learners while providing encouragement and incentive for more experienced ringers, many of whom labour long and hard with their own learners.

Doug Hird

North Bucks Branch: Long serving Members

The ODG Annual Report publishes a list of those members with 50 or more years membership. This list contains only two North Bucks members, these are Owen Warren of Stoke Goldington, elected in 1935, and Malcolm Hooton of Stony Stratford, elected in 1952. The list is almost certainly incomplete. This is because, over the years, the branch records have been lost or destroyed. We would like to fill in the missing information about long serving members.

If you were elected a member of the Guild 50 or more years ago please send the following details to the Branch Secretary: your name, date elected to the Guild and how many years you have been a member (if not continuous).

Once we have collated the information we hope to publish an up to date list of long serving members in a future edition of In Touch.

Helen Stanworth

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.

Initially the profit will be re-invested to build up the stock a bit, but I plan to donate a proportion of the profit to the ODG Bell Fund.

Alan Marchbank

General Quarter Peals

SS Peter & Paul, Olney

Saturday, 19 February 2011

1260 Minor (720 Oxford TB,
540 Plain Bob)

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

Rung to celebrate Ros Tyrell's 60th birthday.

SS Peter & Paul, Newport Pagnell

Sunday, 20 March 2011

1250 Cambridge Surprise

Major

- 1 John B Marchbank
- 2 Nick Read
- 3 Catherine Stanworth
- 4 Roy Keeves
- 5 B Douglas Hird
- 6 Simon Read
- 7 Alan J Marchbank
- 8 A John Stanworth (C)

First in method: 2 & 6

First of major as conductor.

Rung for June and Ernie Creamer's golden wedding anniversary.

SS Peter and Paul, Newport Pagnell

Sunday, 27 February 2011

1344 Plain Bob Triples

- 1 Kate Hollins
- 2 Emily Rice
- 3 Brian Baldwin
- 4 Nick Read
- 5 Alan J Marchbank
- 6 B Douglas Hird
- 7 Simon Read (C)
- 8 Nick Ashton

First on 8 : 1,8

First in method 2,3,7

Rung for everyone affected by the Christchurch earthquake.

St James the Great, Hanslope

Saturday, 30 April 2011

1280 Lincolnshire Surprise

Major

- 1 Nick Read
- 2 Alexandra J Marchbank
- 3 Catherine Stanworth
- 4 David Phillipson
- 5 Robert Tregillus
- 6 Simon Read
- 7 Michael Tinsley
- 8 Benjamin J Carey (C)

First blows in method: 6

SS Peter & Paul, Newport Pagnell

Sunday, 24 April 2011

1260 Grandsire Triples

- 1 Kate Hollins
- 2 Nicki King
- 3 Alan Marchbank
- 4 Rachel Stacy
- 5 Charles Knight
- 6 Stuart Grout
- 7 Doug Hird (C)
- 8 Daniel Morris

Rung before Evensong for Easter.

SS Peter and Paul, Newport Pagnell

Sunday, 3 April 2011

1264 Plain Bob Major

Composed: Simon Read (no. 7)

- 1 Nick Read
- 2 Jonathan Griggs
- 3 Elly Cooper
- 4 Christina Tribble
- 5 Alan J Marchbank
- 6 A John Stanworth
- 7 B Douglas Hird
- 8 Simon Read (C)

First inside on 8: 3

Rung for Elly's 30th birthday.

Tower news

Lillingstone Lovell

By the time you read this article a new treble bell will have been cast by Whitechapel to augment our minor ring of five at Lillingstone Lovell to six. We already have a 6 bell frame but will have to add some more framework as the spare pit is too large for the new bell.

We have already received some donations towards the cost of the bell but are hoping that we can persuade a few more residents to part with their hard-earned cash at the annual Parish Meeting in a couple of weeks time. We have already started work in the tower making necessary preparations which will enable the bell, wheel and frame to be raised up into the bell chamber.

More details of the project and the installation date will follow in the next edition of In Touch.

Malcolm Jones

Stoke Goldington

On Sunday the 6th March, as part of the morning service, the model of the Stoke Goldington bells made by Owen Warren many years ago was rededicated. The bells were previously advertised for sale and were bought by a group of local villagers who presented them to the church.

Jonathan Griggs

Beachampton

Following re-roofing of the spire, attention is turning to the bells. The churchwardens have had the bells inspected by one firm with regard to re-hanging them with new fittings in the existing frame. Work is clearly needed as the bells are almost unringable in their present condition. The frame has been painted, presumably by a non-ringer as the rails on which the G&J sliders run have been painted and the sliders are either stuck in one place or have limited movement.

Richard Stanworth

Newport Pagnell

On Sunday June 26th the Newport ringers will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of Newport's bells.

After the morning service we will run a "have a go" session for members of the congregation where we will try out some of the Big Ring Pull content. There is likely to be some ringing in the afternoon and maybe a quarter peal. I hope to get some of the other 1911 G&J bands to attend. The afternoon will finish with a special celebratory evensong.

Further information will be publicised nearer the time through the e-group.

Doug Hird

ODG Youths - success in London

As part of the celebrations of the Ringing World Centenary, a National Youth Striking Contest was held at St Saviour's Church, Pimlico on 26th March. Twelve teams of young ringers from across the country, all under 19 years old, took part. The ODG entered a team and three of these ringers were from our branch: Alex Marchbank, John Marchbank and myself.

We were allowed a 10 minute practice so we rang two bob courses with some rounds in between. We stood; then two whole pulls on the trebles signalled to the judges that we were ready to start, they were sat in a room below the tower.

We rang 168 changes of Grandsire Triples, which was well struck despite not being able to hear much in the ringing room. We then came downstairs and were greeted by cheers and photographers which felt like being famous! The band then dispersed and went on various travels around London. We then met back at the Central Methodist Hall in Westminster where we listened to a world record hand bell touch before the results of the Youth Striking Contest were read out.

The ringing was graded similar to school, i.e. A* - E grade. We were rated as third overall, with an A grade, and were also judged to be best 'change ringers'. The winning team were Hertfordshire who rang call changes. We were given gold medals and more photos were taken.

There is some debate whether next time there should be more rules about ringing call changes and methods in the same competition, as they were judged the same despite change ringing obviously being harder than call changes. There is also discussion about this event being held annually. To listen to the judged piece on YouTube, type 'Oxford Guild - Competition Piece' into the search bar on www.youtube.com

Simon Read

"Have-a-go" session for the villagers of Stoke Goldington & Weston Underwood

It's been many years since the bells of Stoke Goldington and Weston Underwood have been rung regularly for services and other events by their village residents, but now a small group of ringers from other local villages are keen to help get the bells of Stoke and Weston ringing regularly again. On the morning of Saturday 18th June a 'Have a Go' Session will be held at Stoke Goldington. There will be an opportunity to see the bells being rung, for villagers to have a go themselves, and to enjoy refreshments. It would be wonderful to have a joint band to ring at both churches, and it is hoped this will be the first step towards that goal.

Sheila Ware



The Oxford Diocesan Guild Youth Striking Competition Band: (left to right) Alex Marchbank, John Marchbank, Simon Read, Jack Page, Tim Forster, Mhairi Miller, Will Stonham, Ryan Noble.

Picture courtesy of the Ringing World, taken by Peter Harrison.

ODG Training Courses

There are a number of Guild training events coming up, details of which should be on your tower noticeboard; they have also been circulated via the branch egroup.

Michaelmas Training Day at Shiplake

Saturday September 17th

The aim of this day is to provide the opportunity for students to learn more advanced methods than those offered on the Radley and Steeple Aston one-day courses. It is based at the Shiplake Ringing Centre. Groups will cover Surprise Minor, Stedman Triples, Basic Surprise Major, and Advanced Surprise Major. Further details can be found on the poster which was sent out recently, or on the Guild web site. Closing date for applications is 15th July.

Steeple Aston Training Day

Saturday 29th October

This course provides tuition & practice on basic methods from plain hunt to Plain Bob Major. Priority will be given to members who have not attended before. Further details and an application form can be obtained from Richard Stanworth or email steepleastoncourse@odg.org.uk
Closing Date for applications is 14th September.

Ten Bell Training Day at Aston Clinton

Saturday 3rd December

This course provides tuition and practice for those wishing to progress with ringing on ten bells. It will be held at the Aston Clinton Ringing Centre. Further details will be published later in the year.

Hanslope head north to Yorkshire

It was on the morning of Friday 15th May when I woke up all excited because I knew I was going away for the weekend, on our second annual bellringing tour to Yorkshire. Myself and Jonathan with Nick and Tony Gray set off at 11am on a three and a half hour trip to Skipton, where we were staying. When we arrived at our respective B&B's, which were directly opposite each other, I laughed as Nick commented, and I quote, "theirs has got more stars than ours" but he was wrong because they both had four. That was neither here nor there, however, because I knew at that moment we were going to have a very exciting and fun-filled weekend with some very lovely peals of bells and loads of laughs to be had by all, and I must say the weekend lived up to these expectations.

So after we had settled in to our respective guest houses, we set off for the first two towers of the outing on the Friday evening. The first tower was Keighley which was just outside Bradford, the town was not at all pleasant but the bells were very nice to ring. Then we set off back towards Skipton to our next tower which was a little village called Kildwick. The bells here were very nice and this was the first tower of the weekend to have Yorkshire Tail Ends and despite these (they make the bells quite awkward to handle) we rang a very nice course of Bristol Surprise Major. After we had rung here we all set off in our own directions to find something to eat and after that we all met up in a pub called The Narrow Boat in Skipton for a few pints of very pleasant locally brewed real ale before turning in for the night.

Saturday morning came and we all woke up ready to go ringing, so after we had our breakfasts we all set off. We knew it was going to be good as the sun was beating down over the Yorkshire Dales and there was not a cloud in the sky. We had a guest ringer from Skipton, called Richard, accompanying us for the day who was very good and we were all very happy to have him along with us. Our first tower of the day was in a little village called Beckwithshaw which were a very awkward peal of six, the back two having Yorkshire Tail Ends which did not help matters. Alan however had his own opinion as he remarked at the top of his voice, "Definite re-hang job these are" to which Jonathan said pointing to Richard our guest ringer, "Alan, may I introduce you to the tower captain" to which we all roared with laughter and poor old Alan's face turned to the colour of a tomato. That for me was the comment of the weekend and will stay with me for years to come.

Our next tower was a very light peal of 8 at St Wilfrid's, Harrogate which, due to the sheer size of the building looked as though it should have had a very heavy peal of 12. They were a very good peal of bells, but we all found them a bit difficult to handle I fear, but we still had fun ringing them. Our specially chosen method for the weekend, Cray Surprise Major, was rung here but did not go to plan - but oh well there is always Thursday's practice nights at Hanslope where we can have many more attempts at it. Afterwards we headed

off across a very busy Harrogate to Knaresborough which were quite a heavy peal of 8 bells and we found them very easy as they were more our weight and several of us commented that we would like to pack them away and take them back to Hanslope.

So came lunch time, we all travelled to our next destination which was Hampsthwaite where we stopped in the local pub for a couple of pints and a light lunch after which we moved on down to the church for our next ring. The guy letting us was a little late, but that didn't stop us and these were a very pleasant peal of bells. Our next tower was Pateley Bridge which were a ridiculously light peal of 8 bells, the front two were so light they didn't have stays on them so they had to be rung mini-ring style. They were my favourite peal of the weekend because I love light peals of bells: I am a very big fan of bells you have to work a little bit harder to try and control and I love it when a lot of concentration is involved.

Our last tower of the day was in a village called Addingham which was near Skipton, these were a very pleasant peal of six and provided a very good end to the day. So it was off back to Skipton for a meal (which I won't dwell on too much) followed by some more pints of real ale in the same watering hole as the Friday night.

So the Sunday morning dawned and we all packed our suitcases, had breakfast and checked out of our B&B's ready for the early morning ringing at Skipton Parish Church. The ringing here was lovely, just like last year and methods included, Rutland, Stedman and 3 leads of Bristol which were all so well struck and provided top notch Sunday Service ringing for the local worshippers. After the service ringing we all met up in Wetherspoons and finished the weekend with a well deserved cup of coffee.

I would like to conclude by saying a massive thank you to Kevin Haseldine who once again organised this wonderful weekend and I look forward to the next one.

Stuart Grout

Nick Gray, Kevin Haseldine, Alan Cozens and Roy Keeves ringing at St. Wilfred's, Harrogate





Minutes of Annual General Meeting on 5th March 2011 at Newport Pagnell

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman, Brian Newman, welcomed everyone to Newport Pagnell for the Annual Meeting and thanked them for coming.

Apologies for Absence

Received from Robert Newton (Guild Master), Hilarie Rogers (Guild Secretary), Brian Gatward (Guild Treasurer), Scott Ayers, Barry Eglesfield, Vicky Stanworth, Ros Tyrrell, Gillian Macdonald

Minutes of previous Meeting

The minutes of the Autumn Meeting held at Downs Barn in September had been published in the November edition of In Touch. No comments were made regarding the minutes so the Chairman deemed this as acceptance of the minutes as a true record.

Election of New Members

Nominations had been received proposing 5 new members:

Great Brickhill - Michael Grabowski and Lynne Pughe, proposed by David Middleton, seconded by Simon Head

Old Wolverton - Gwen Ives, Anna Gates and Adrian Gates, proposed by Mike Nimmo, seconded by John Mercer
All were elected without dissent.

Officer's Reports

Officer's reports, where received, were published in the February edition of In Touch.

Chairman – No Report

Secretary – (As in In Touch)

Treasurer – (As in In Touch), Sheila Watts highlighted the main points to note in the Accounts.

Referring to 2011, Sheila reported that there were 14 towers still to pay their subscriptions. They were reminded that under the revised rules subscriptions must be paid by the end of March for membership to continue. Finally, members were thanked for donations today to the Guild Bell Fund.

It was then formally proposed by Jonathan Griggs and seconded by Hugh Butler that the accounts be adopted. This was agreed on a show of hands.

DRDL - Buckingham – (As in In Touch)

DRDL - Milton Keynes – (As in In Touch)

DRDL - Newport – (As in In Touch)

Guild Representatives – No Report

Branch Archivist – (As in In Touch)

Election of Officers

Chairman - Brian Newman, proposed by Alan Marchbank, seconded by Philip Starr

Secretary - Helen Stanworth, proposed by Brian Newman, seconded by John Marchbank

Treasurer - Sheila Watts, proposed by Simon Head, seconded by Trudy Hutchings

DRDL Newport - Doug Hird.

DRDL Milton Keynes - Alan Marchbank

DRDL Buckingham - Richard Stanworth

all 3 proposed en block by Brian Newman, seconded by John Marchbank

Guild Representatives - Richard Stanworth and Hugh Butler, proposed by Brian Newman, seconded Simon Head

Newsletter Editor - Jonathan Griggs, proposed by Sheila Watts, seconded by Helen Stanworth

Branch Archivist - Doug Hird, Proposed by Sheila Watts, seconded by Bev Hollins

Big Ring Pull

Updates on the activities associated with the project had been published in the latest In Touch and Jonathan Griggs, as project manager, introduced this item by outlining progress since these updates. He then asked the leader of each of the work streams to speak.

Display – Richard Stanworth talked about the plans to hire a mobile ring for the recruitment day and the help that will be needed on the day to help with erecting, manning and dismantling.

Marketing – Alan Marchbank spoke of the plans to use professionally printed posters etc, branded T-shirts for all those involved in the recruiting day, and the costs associated with these.

Training – Jonathan Griggs spoke of the plans for the modular training course to be run over two weeks shortly after the recruiting day. It is hoped to run this at Downs Barn. One of the major costs will be the installation of a simulator on the 8 bells at Down Barn.

Finance – Sheila Watts provided an update on the budget for the project and asked for financial support for the project. The latest budget figures indicate a likely cost of between £2,500 and £3,000. As agreed at the Autumn meeting, this is being funded separately from normal Branch funds. As suggested in the In Touch update, ideas are being sought of ways of fund raising. Following the publication of the update a number of towers have pledged a wedding fee from their tower and several hundred pounds have been promised this way. Grants were being pursued with the Guild and with the Ringing Foundation. They were also looking in to the possibility of applying to other grant making bodies.

At this point representatives of a number of towers present at the meeting also pledged a wedding fee from their tower. Sheila also announced that she and Sheila Ware had organised a quiz to raise funds and they would be selling them at £1 each after the meeting. She hoped that each tower would take a number of the quizzes to sell.

Following the discussions on the work streams Jonathan concluded that we were making good progress and that there was support from those present. It was now important to engage with the rest of the branch who were not at the meeting. He also stated that the teams were currently working towards holding the recruitment day in the autumn of 2011.

Forthcoming Events

An up to date Calendar of events had been distributed before the meeting. One additional item was brought to the attention of members: The Guild Festival, which is now only held every five years, will take place in Oxford on Saturday 9th July this year. This is a members' only day and all members are invited to attend. More details will be sent out soon.

Vote of Thanks

On behalf of everyone present The Chairman thanked Doug Hird and the Newport Pagnell ringers for hosting the meeting, the Rev Beverly Hollins for taking the service and Nick Read for playing the organ. The Chairman announced that there would be further ringing after the meeting for anyone who wished to stay.

Note

I apologise that these minutes are rather brief. This was due to a malfunction of the tape recorder. Please report any errors or omissions to me and I will publish corrections in the next In Touch.

Helen Stanworth