



# *In Touch*

May 2012

## *Branch Summer Social and Striking Competition*

**Padbury - Saturday 16th June 2012**

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.

Jonathan Griggs

## *In this issue :*

The Big Ring Pull update	page 3
From the Guild Master, Robert Newton	page 4
Tower News	page 5
Tower News contd and Younger Ringers	page 6
Quarter Peals	page 7
Branch News	page 8
Branch News contd	page 9
Training Course, Guild AGM, BRP Photos	page 10
Branch AGM Minutes	page 11
Branch AGM Minutes contd	page 12

### **ODG 8 Bell Striking Competition**

A team from the North Bucks Branch took part in the ODG 8 Bell Striking Competition held at St Helen, Benson, Oxon on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May.



# Who's Who 2012—2013

<b>Chairman</b>	Brian Newman	Great Linford	01908 395160	chairman@northbucks.org.uk
<b>RDL Buckingham &amp; Guild Rep</b>	Vacant			
<b>RDL Milton Keynes</b>	Brian Newman	Great Linford	01908 395160	rdl_mk@northbucks.org.uk
<b>RDL Newport Pagnell &amp; Archivist</b>	Doug Hird	Newport Pagnell	01908 614741	rdl_np@northbucks.org.uk
<b>Secretary</b>	Jonathan Griggs	Hanslope	01908 511883	secretary@northbucks.org.uk
<b>Treasurer</b>	Sheila Watts	Emberton	01234 713667	treasurer@northbucks.org.uk
<b>Guild Rep</b>	David Phillipson	Olney	07912 059491	guildrep1@northbucks.org.uk
<b>In Touch Editor</b>	Nick Read	Newport Pagnell	01908 616546	intoucheditor@northbucks.org.uk
<b>Branch Website</b>				www.northbucks.org.uk
<b>Guild Website</b>				www.odg.org.uk

## Dates for your Diary

### May

- 12th Branch Practice - Stoke Goldington - 5pm
- 19th Guild AGM - Wokingham (see page 10)

### June

- 1st Rounds & Call Changes - Hanslope - 7.40pm
- 16th Summer Social & Striking Competition - Padbury - 5pm (see front page)

### July

- 6th Rounds & Call Changes - Loughton - 7.40pm
- 14th Inter Branch Striking Competition - Easton Neston - 6pm

### Aug

- 11th Branch Practice - Beachampton - 5pm

### Sept

- 7th Rounds and Call Changes- Old Wolverton - 7.40pm
- 29th Half Yearly Meeting - Venue to be confirmed

### Oct

- 5th Rounds & Call Changes - Woughton - 7.40pm
- 6th Guild 6 bell competition in Banbury Branch

### Nov

- 17th Branch Practice with Towcester - Olney
- 24th Guild 10 Bell Striking Competition - Long Crendon

## From the Chairman . . .

Dear All

First I would like to thank all of you who helped with the Big Ringpull project, it was encouraging to see so many taking part and now we have task of helping our new recruits progress with their ringing.

I would also thank all who came to our AGM and took part in the event. I also must thank Helen for her long service as our secretary also Richard for his time as our Buckingham Deanery Rep and Hugh for his time as Guild Rep, not forgetting Alan for his work as our Milton Keynes Deanery Rep.

We now move forward with some familiar faces in different roles and some new folk getting to grips with what they have taken on. But we still have to find some volunteers to take on the roles of deanery reps for Buckingham Deanery and the Milton Keynes Deanery, there is also the second Guild rep to fill as well. If you would like to talk about any of these posts do email me or find me out at Linford or Downs Barn on a practice night, you could get some ringing in at the same time.

Brian Newman

## Deadline for next edition . . .

The deadline for contributions for the next edition of In Touch is **Tuesday 7th August 2012.**

Contributions to to either [nick@stoperton.freemove.co.uk](mailto:nick@stoperton.freemove.co.uk) or [intoucheditor@northbucks.org.uk](mailto:intoucheditor@northbucks.org.uk) please.

Nick Read



# Big Ring Pull - update



At the time of the update on the Big Ring Pull project in the last edition of In Touch we had just completed the recruitment day in Middleton Hall in the shopping centre. Over 80 people had registered an interest for the "have a go" day at Downs Barn two weeks later and a huge effort was being put in to collating all the names captured and following up with everyone who had signed up.



*Learners and Tutors at the final training session (am group)*

At the Downs Barn day, there was a professional approach to recruitment and engagement, with a rolling video, display stands, information points not to mention tea and coffee and lots of enthusiastic volunteers. All the newcomers were able to watch demonstration ringing - individual bell, rounds and method ringing - and were then matched up with a trainer to have a go at backstrokes, some managed even more than this. At the end of the day, 41 people had willingly signed onto the intensive 2-week training program and 2 lapsed ringers were brought out of hibernation.

The 2-week training course was held at Newport Pagnell in early March, using the simulator kindly funded through the guild. Each learner attended 5 sessions of 2 hours duration: a meticulously planned mix of practical bell handling interspersed with non practical sessions ie. rope tying, terminology, the social side of ringing, history, handbells etc. Most learners achieved ringing a bell unaided, and were able to take part in rounds at the final session. During the course, a hand-over to local towers was co-ordinated, so that all the new ringers were introduced to their respective tower captains. 38 new ringers have now been dispersed around the branch reinforcing 14 different towers. Two towers previously without a band, Downs Barn and Wavendon, have now established new bands and have commenced regular practices.

The new ringers have subsequently completed an online survey about the training process and from this we have gained some very positive feedback.



*Learners and Tutors at the final training session (pm group)*

Here are some of the comments we received:

*"Well done to everyone for their hard work in the preparation of the course and giving up their time to educate us total novices. Which reflected in the way in which the course ran so smoothly. It was very much appreciated by myself. A big thank you to all concerned."*

*"Just to express my huge thanks to you all. After nearly 40yrs of personally watching ringing as a child as my older family generations are/were keen ringers, it is fabulous to have learnt and I really don't think I would ever have had an opportunity if it wasn't for this wonderful course. THANK YOU!"*

*"I liked learning before we went to our own churches, that way we didn't have to start from scratch and waste time. I am also impressed by how fast the training course was, at our own churches it would have taken a lot longer but now we can move on in rounds and call changes!"*

*"I found the whole experience interesting; I had never thought about doing anything like this, before chancing upon the guys in Middleton Hall in the shopping centre; there seemed to be a friendly atmosphere amongst them all, so I guess that's one of the main reasons I gave it a go."*

*"Please pass on thanks to all involved in its conception and execution. It was a privilege to be a part of the course and I will never forget it or the people both teachers and trainees. many many thanks."*

Ongoing contact with the new ringers is being maintained through the regular rounds and call change practices and the branch practices. A number of the new ringers have attended these recent events and it has been noticed that they have made significant advances since the end of the course. This is very encouraging. In September we are hoping to run a tour around some the Milton Keynes towers for the new ringers to get to know some more of their local bells.

Jonathan Griggs

# From the Guild Master, Robert Newton



## Extracts from a letter from our Guild Master, Robert Newton

Dear Members,

There are a number of key issues coming up. I would be most grateful if you would please respond as positively as you can to the contents of this letter.

### Special ringing

With both the Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics, 2012 promises to be a busy year, with even more opportunities to celebrate events with bell ringing. This list indicates the dates and start times that seem appropriate now. Updates will appear on the website if necessary.



#### **Saturday 26th May, 4pm**

Oxfordshire service of thanksgiving for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee at Christ Church Cathedral, at 3pm. Ringing invited throughout Oxon after the service.

#### **Sunday 27th May, 3pm**

Buckinghamshire service as above, St Mary's Aylesbury, at 2pm. Ringing invited throughout Bucks after the service.

#### **Sunday 27th May, 4pm**

Berkshire service as above, St Mary's Reading, at 3pm. Ringing invited throughout Berks after the service.

#### **Sunday 3rd June, 3pm**

Diamond Jubilee River Pageant (see RW p104)

#### **Tuesday 5th June, 12 noon approx.**

**National service of thanksgiving at St Paul's Cathedral (11am?). Ringing at the conclusion of the service throughout the Diocese.**

Please do ring for any local Diamond Jubilee celebrations in your area as well.



On three dates, the **Olympic Torch** will be carried through the Guild's area.

The BBC website now shows a full guide with specific timings: ([bbc.co.uk/news/uk-17358291](http://bbc.co.uk/news/uk-17358291)).

#### **Monday 9th July** (Luton to Oxford)

Milton Keynes, Bletchley, Buckingham, Winslow, Whitchurch, Aylesbury, Stoke Mandeville, Waddesdon, Bicester, Kirtlington, Woodstock, Kidlington, Oxford

It would be wonderful if bells could be rung at all the churches on the route as the torch passes. Please volunteer to your, or a nearby branch's, officers if you would be available to help. I note that, between the above locations, the torch will be carried 'in convoy' on a route that is not being publicised.

**Friday 20th July** Centenary of first peal by a band of ladies.

#### **Friday 27th July** Opening of the Olympic Games

As widely discussed, ringing of all bells for three minutes from 8am 'as loud and fast as possible' has been suggested. This coincides with the start of the final leg of the torch's journey. If you prefer, ringing of more conventional style and duration could take place later in the day, up to the opening ceremony at 7:30pm.

**Wednesday 29th August** Opening of the Paralympic Games

As always, please let people know in advance why you are ringing (parish magazines, local newspapers and radio if you have contacts). The Lord Lieutenants of the three counties have stressed **5th June** as the key date but would welcome ringing at the conclusion of your appropriate county service as well. I have received some enquiries from the media about our intentions and would be grateful **if you could let me know if and when your band intends to ring**, preferably at least a fortnight in advance.

Thank you very much.

Yours sincerely,  
Robert H Newton

Guild Master [master@odg.org.uk](mailto:master@odg.org.uk) 01844 352926



# Tower News

## Great Linford

We were very pleased to host the Branch AGM in March. It was fun to work together as a team putting the tea together - especially as once the work was done we could enjoy the exceptional March weather sitting in the sunshine in the Quiet Garden. Thanks to all of you for coming and enjoying our efforts, to Nick for playing the organ and to Peter for taking the Service.



*A 'proper' Ringers Tea!*

The Tuesday practices have been busy as ever with the arrival of the new ringers from the Big Ring Pull. We are at Great Linford every Tuesday now, having given up the monthly visit to Downs Barn.

We have been pleased to welcome Annette and Zak Brindley who are learning and developing their ringing with us. Annette attended the BRP course and Zak who is friendly with Jamie, came along to learn ring. They are both very talented ringers - Zak is making excellent progress with rounds after just 4 practices and his mum is making good progress too, ringing in rounds with a bit of help.

We were pleased to have Jamie, Viv and Lauren elected into Guild membership at the recent AGM and look forward to more of our recent recruits following in their foot steps shortly.

Alan Marchbank

## Downs Barn

Well the big news is that as a direct result of the BRP, Downs Barn is back on the map as an active tower!!

It was looking promising when Steve and Carol came to see us at the have a go day in February. Both had learned to ring in Liverpool many moons ago and then stopped ringing when they moved to Downs Barn. This was in the 1980s before there was a church let alone bells. They had seen the church built, and the bells installed but the time was now just right for a return to ringing. Since that day they have rung with us at Great Linford and Downs Barn for practices and Sunday service ringing and are a tremendous asset.

The BRP has brought forward more new ringers for the tower too. We are pleased to be ringing with Paul, Sally and Joanne all who completed the intensive course and all are now making excellent progress with ringing rounds and call changes. Clearly the intensive approach to teaching is a very beneficial as very quickly the handling skills are mastered and the challenges of ringing with others can be approached. This means that new ringers can be introduced to ringing for Sunday service much sooner than would otherwise be the case.

We are running a weekly practice at Downs Barn each Friday starting at 7.30. I am very grateful to have Nick Read to share in this responsibility and to Simon, Brian and Trudy who regularly attend to assist. We have been pleased to see many visitors who enable us to keep all 8 bells ringing most of the evening with a few interludes for some change ringing on 6.

Sunday services are rung for as a matter of course and these are supported by the local ringers plus supporters from Gt Linford and Newport Pagnell. So a seriously big step change in the ringing at Downs Barn.

Alan Marchbank

## Old Wolverton

On Sunday 1st April 2012 The bellringers and congregation of Holy Trinity Church Old Wolverton gathered together at the start of the Palm Sunday service to honour the tower captain Mick Nimmo.

Mick started as a choir boy, and later learnt to ring the bells, has been a member of the church for 53 years. To mark this year as tower captain for 30 years he was presented with a cake and a cheque.

Wendy Price

## Rounds and call changes practice nights:

1st June - Hanslope  
6th July - Loughton  
7th September - Old Wolverton  
5th October - Woughton On The Green  
2nd November - Shenley  
7th December - Whaddon

all start at 7.40pm, everyone welcome.

# Tower News contd

## Wavendon

Flushed with excitement after an exhilarating two weeks of the Big Ring Pull, five members of the congregation of St Mary's Wavendon (ranging in age from 15 to 70) set out to continue their ringing development and to bring the silent tower of St Mary's to life. We were delivered into the care of Brian Baldwin, Tower Captain of Woughton, with novice ringer and churchwarden, Ray, taking on the upkeep of the Wavendon tower. Within the week, at Ray's request, Alan Marchbank had completed an inspection of the tower, which was pronounced safe for ringing.

Our maintenance steward (another Brian) was recruited not only for sprucing-up operations but also as a new member of the band! He and Ray set about tackling the minor works needed in the belfry, including tidying up rubble from the floor, repairing broken boards, and installing much-improved lighting; wooden clapper stays were made for all six bells, and in due course the bell frame will be treated against rust. In the ringing chamber, speaker boxing for the organ has had to be modified to allow a more comfortable standing position at the fifth bell rope and a clock has been added so we don't lose track of time while immersed in our new hobby.

Practice nights began on the last Friday of March with two bells silenced with rope, and continued in Easter week. With the addition of a further three new ringers, including 12-year-old Daniel, Brian has been working hard. He's been very generous in offering individual bell-handling sessions throughout the week and has also brought Peter, Christina and Simon from Woughton as helpers. In addition, some of our novices ventured out to Downs Barn and Woughton, where they were warmly welcomed and were included in rounds with some called changes.

With Brian's encouragement, we set our sights on participating in the St George's Day celebrations. Taking advantage of our new catering facilities, BRP graduate Anne arranged an Open Evening at St Mary's, and leaflets inviting local residents to hear the first performance of Wavendon's new ringers were received with interest and enthusiasm. So on Monday 23rd April, four of the Wavendon band began by visiting Woughton tower to take our turn in ringing rounds with Brian and our other Woughton friends Christina, Jean, Martin, and Peter, with Anna and Simon joining us afterwards at Wavendon.

We were met at St Mary's by a warm buzz of conversation from the many Wavendon residents who had braved the drizzle to enjoy refreshments while learning more about ringing. With the aid of the Woughton ringers, six of us took turns in rounds, with a few called changes, and the Wavendon bells were heard in the village and beyond, with 'home-grown' ringers at the ropes. The Woughton band then united in a performance of Cambridge Surprise Minor and the bells were rung down in peal to the delight of the audience. A thrilling and successful evening!

Our ambitions for the summer include participating in celebrations for the Jubilee and the Olympics, and the Wavendon Mothers' Union has requested some ringing for its own diamond jubilee on May 10th. We also plan to ring on half-muffled bells for Remembrance Day.

We look forward to further opportunities to collaborate with the Woughton ringers and hope also to develop our relationship with other nearby towers such as All Saints. We warmly invite you to visit us, and our ringers would welcome the chance to join you in some basic ringing.

We cannot thank Brian enough for all his time and thoughtfulness in aiding our development, but we hope to reward his hard work by making good progress. We're grateful also to members of the church for providing refreshments, to Alan for responding so rapidly to our need for an inspection, and to all the tutors and organisers from the Big Ring Pull. Without all your help, we would not have been able to celebrate ringing in our own tower on St George's Day this year.

*Members of the Wavendon training band: Anne Atkinson\*, Bill Atkinson, Ellie Atkinson\* (15), Ray Holmwood\*, Brian Norwood, Patricia Rosewell\*, Daniel Rowe (12), Anthony Tull\*, Dekai Xia*  
(\*denotes Big Ring Pull participant).

Patricia Rosewell

## Younger Ringers

Young ringers from the Newport deanery are going to ring for the archdeaconry 'fan the fame 2012' launch at a service on **May 13<sup>th</sup>**, at Lavendon church, 3.30pm (Simon Read is organising); and also the young ringers barbeque at Claire Wood's house is on **July 21<sup>st</sup>**. Time tba, depending on whether we are able to arrange some ringing first.

Revd Beverley Hollins  
Newport Deanery Development Facilitator  
Tel: 01908 614943

## The Ringing World National Youth Contest

Following the success of the inaugural competition at the *Ringing World* centenary celebrations last spring, this is to be an annual event. In 2012 it will be held on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June on the back eight of the 12cwt ring of ten at St Paul's, Birmingham.

The band of young ringers representing the Oxford Guild in March 2011 performed superbly, being the top placed method team, finishing third overall and receiving gold medals.

This year John Marchbank and Simon Read will be representing the branch in the Guild's team ringing at St Paul's Birmingham on 30th June

### Did you know.....

A number of youngsters have rung peals prior to their teens. The following is one example:

**Henry J W Pipe** rang his first peal being 5040 Plain Bob Minor [6] on handbells (1-2) on Monday, 31 May 2010 at the age of 7 years 105 days.

# Quarter Peals

## Newport Pagnell, Bucks

SS Peter & Paul

Wednesday 7 March 2012 in 47mins (10-0-5)

### 1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor

- 1 Nicola King
- 2 Nick Read
- 3 Michael Nimmo
- 4 B Douglas Hird
- 5 Charles Knight
- 6 Simon Read (C)

*Rung after meeting short for practice night.  
In celebration for Charlotte Boggis Clarke's 100th birthday today. Also, to commemorate Michael Nimmo receiving his 'Silver Acorn' award for services to scouting.*

## Beachampton, Buckinghamshire

St.Mary

Saturday 10 March 2012 in 39 minutes (8-0-27)

### 1272 Plain Bob Minimus

- 1 Rosemary K Hemmings
- 2 Alan K Barsby
- 3 John E Hearn
- 4 William J Stungo(C)

## Newport Pagnell, Bucks

SS Peter & Paul

Sunday 11 March 2012 in 52mins (21-2-16)

### 1376 Bristol Surprise Major

Composed: Simon Read

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

*In celebration for Charlotte Boggis Clarke's 100th birthday, a long standing parishioner of this church.*

## Bristol Society

### Thornborough, Buckinghamshire

St.Mary

Sunday 1 April 2012 in 45 minutes (11-3-23)

### 1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- 1 Charles J Knight
- 2 Rosemary K Hemmings
- 3 John E Hearn
- 4 Alan K Barsby(C)
- 5 William J Stungo

*Rung in memory of Joyce I Cornwall of Hughenden.*

## Padbury, Bucks

St Mary

Monday 23 April 2012

### 1260 Grandsire Doubles

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

*For St George's Day and as a thanksgiving for the life of Bill Stanworth 1920-2012, father of 4, grandfather of 1,3 and 5*

## Newport Pagnell, Bucks

SS Peter & Paul

Sunday 29 April 2012 in 43mins (21-2-16)

### 1260 Plain Bob Minor

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

*In celebration of the life of Barbara Newcome.  
First in method - 2*

## Towcester, Northants

St Lawrence

Sunday 6 May 2012 in 55 (23)

### 1346 Cambridge Surprise Maximus

- 1 Ann White
- 2 Catherine M Stanworth
- 3 Barbara A King
- 4 Sue M Ferrie
- 5 David G Thorne
- 6 Michael Tinsley (C)
- 7 John Lindsay
- 8 A John Stanworth
- 9 Jonathan G W King
- 10 William Barter
- 11 Richard I Allton
- 12 John White

*A compliment to the conductor on the occasion of his 50th birthday*

### Did you know.....

#### Longest Peal of Major!

The only full extent so far rung on 8 tower bells **by one band of ringers** was at Loughborough Bell Foundry on Saturday 27 July 1963, in 17 hours and 58 minutes. **40320 Plain Bob Major** Composed by: C Kenneth Lewis, Conducted by: Robert B Smith 1 Brian J Woodruffe 2 John M Jelley 3 Neil Bennett 4 Frederick Shallcross 5 John C Eisel 6 John Robinson 7 Brian Harris 8 Robert B Smith This is the greatest number of changes ever to be rung to a tower bell peal and was the ninth attempt in as many years. 8 umpires monitored the performance.



# Branch News

## An Outing for the GATE Ringers

The group of enthusiastic people from Ravenstone, Stoke Goldington and Weston Underwood (who we started to teach to ring last July) have made excellent progress, and we thought it was time to venture outside of the parishes for our first GATE Bell Ringers' Outing.

On Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March we met at Carlton, Bedfordshire – not an easy Church to find in very thick early morning mist! We acquitted ourselves very well, considering it was the first time for many of the ringers on different bells. We admired the Millennium window and new 'facilities' in the Church! Then it was on to Clifton Reynes, where the sun came out and everyone enjoyed the bells and the beautiful Church. The first outing photo of the GATE ringers was taken in the Churchyard. Our last tower was Emberton, and by now everyone was ringing with more confidence, and we were delighted to be joined by Rachael, a GATE ringer who has been on 'maternity leave'. Then we rounded off the outing in traditional ringers' style by meeting for lunch at The Cowpers Oak, Weston Underwood. Later in the day at the AGM of the North Bucks Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Bell Ringers, all 12 of the GATE ringers were elected as new members of the Guild.



On 14 April we had our first tower meeting, when we discussed the future of the band and how to amalgamate the two separate groups that so far had been taught on Saturday mornings. It was so encouraging that all band members were willing to take on a role in the future management of the band.

In order to accommodate everyone's availability, we agreed to alternate the practices between Friday and Wednesday evenings, 7.30-9.00pm. It will be the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Friday, and 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month. All practices will be at Stoke Goldington, except for the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday when we will be at Weston Underwood. Visiting ringers are always welcome to join us, and non-ringers who would just like to see what's going on! Our grateful thanks go to all ringers who have helped the band so much on Saturday mornings.

Sheila Ware  
01234-713667  
swandsw@btinternet.com

## Branch Email Group

For a number of years the branch has operated an email group to promote forthcoming branch ringing events. It can also be used by members to promote local ringing, ringing news and other uses such as requests for wedding ringers.

The group has about 90 email addresses of members – just less than half of the total membership of the branch. The officers would like to promote the use of the facility in order to keep as many members as possible up to date with what is going on in the branch. If you are a member and would like to be added to the group then please send an email to [secretary@northbucks.org.uk](mailto:secretary@northbucks.org.uk) and I will add you in. I have also changed the membership form so that for new members we can capture the email address at the time of joining. If you would like a revised format membership form for future new members then please email me.

## Ringling Display Panels

As part of the public promotion of bellringing during the Big Ring Pull we produced two 7ft high display panels for use in Middleton Hall and at Downs Barn. They are titled – 'There is more to ringing than pulling on ropes' and show many aspects of ringing – including founding, change ringing and the social sides of ringing. They can be used for any ringing promotional event. If you would like to borrow them then please contact Jonathan at [secretary@northbucks.org.uk](mailto:secretary@northbucks.org.uk)



Jonathan Griggs



# Branch News contd

## Branch Practice at Lillingstone Lovell

The April Branch Practice was held on the recently augmented bells at Lillingstone Lovell. Twenty three ringers attended on the wet Saturday evening. There was a variety of ringing with everything from rounds to surprise minor – something for everyone. It was particularly pleasing to see five of the Big Ring Pull new ringers attending and showing that they had advanced considerably since the end of the course at Newport Pagnell. Even more pleasing was the tea and home-made cakes laid on by the local ringers. Many thanks go to them for their hospitality.

## Minutes of Business Meeting held at Lillingstone Lovell on April 21st July 2012

A short business meeting was held for the election of one new member.

Election of New Members: Nicola Stuchbury was elected, proposed by Bernard Phillips, seconded by Robin Culley.

## Branch e-mail addresses

You will have noticed that the branch officers all have e-mail addresses that are associated with the branch's web site. This isn't limited to branch officers though. e-mail addresses could be set up for many purposes. For example:

[towername@northbucks.org.uk](mailto:towername@northbucks.org.uk) could be a useful point of contact for anyone who wants to ring at your tower. It can be set up to forward any incoming e-mails to one or more members of your band. That way, the whole world doesn't see your personal e-mail address in anything that is published. We already have two of these.

[towername\\_ringers@northbucks.org.uk](mailto:towername_ringers@northbucks.org.uk) could contain all the e-mail addresses of your band so you can send out an e-mail to everyone at once and not forget anyone. Younger members can be included without their e-mail address becoming common knowledge. This is also good for iPhones which don't seem to understand groups. We have two of these as well. A variation on this might be [towername\\_church@northbucks.org.uk](mailto:towername_church@northbucks.org.uk) which could contain e-mails of churchwardens, clergy, ringing fans in the congregation who need to be kept informed of ringing activity in your tower.

[yourname@northbucks.org.uk](mailto:yourname@northbucks.org.uk) could be set up as a forwarder, like the previous examples, or as a normal e-mail account. The web hosting package allows us up to 500 standard e-mail accounts, which is more than we could ever use.

If you would like any of these to be set up then let me know. They don't take much effort to set up and don't cost extra.

Doug Hird

## Striking Competitions

Last year's 6 bell competition was the best attended ever. 9 bands entered. I wonder if this year's will go as well. Many of you will remember that it is more of a social event than a competition. So while one of its aims is to select a band to represent the branch at the Guild competition it is worth remembering that we also do this for fun. Make a note of the date - 16th June - at Padbury.

And while on the subject of fun, there is also the competition with the Towcester branch. In this one we are not constrained to fielding tower bands like in the 6 bell. We can put together any combination of ringers that we think is going to work. This comp comes in three parts. Call changes on 8, a course of Minor and a touch of Stedman Triples. There are two chances to win as well. There is an overall winner - so best results over the three pieces, and the winner of the George Holand Trophy for the winner of the Stedman Triples piece. Meanwhile, we have a good chat with our neighbours. This year it is at Easton Neston - well worth the visit - on July 14th. If you are interested in joining in, then let me know.

Now many ringers, while claiming not to be competitive tend to forget all that in competitions. So how can your band win? Well it might take a bit of work. But how to do the right work? Bands are made of individuals and each ringer can make a difference. As an individual and as a band you need to practice doing it right. So you could find the band that won last year and go to some of their practices. You also need to get used to ringing with each other. Establish a consistent style of leading, get used to the peculiarities of your conductor. So ring a few quarter peals. Bob Doubles will do. Remember, you are working on striking not difficulty.

On the day. Don't worry about it. It isn't that important. But prioritise what you focus on so you don't have too much to worry about.

First - don't go wrong. If you finish, you will do better than the bands that don't.

Second- don't worry about everyone else in the band - unless you are conducting of course. If someone else goes wrong put them right if you are with them but try not to join in.

Third - listen to the bells and try to focus on the overall rhythm of your ringing. Don't dwell on a mistake and try to fit in with the rhythm again as quickly as you can.

If you are conductor choose a method that the band is confident with but not so easy that they go to sleep. Make sure you are familiar with the calling before you start. Use the practice time to your advantage. Check if you can do the practice in short bursts or if it has to be rung in one go. Ask the band for their opinions. They may spot odd struckness that you don't notice because they are compensating effectively. Don't be afraid of moving ringers onto different bells if you need to. At the start of the test piece you usually have to ring at least a minute of rounds. This may or may not be marked - check this first - but the band is unlikely to pick up many marks in the rounds. So, if the band isn't quite settled, ring a bit more than a minute to give them a chance to settle. During the test piece, don't say any more than you need. Encouraging remarks (or otherwise) are mostly a distraction from the task of listening to the bells.

So that will produce just what judges dread, a lot of really good bands who are closely matched.

Doug Hird

# Training Course

**Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers  
Michaelmas Training Day  
Saturday, September 29th 2012  
10.00 – 18.00\*  
Shiplake Ringing Centre  
Cost £15\***

The aim of the 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. The day will start with group tutorials followed by 4 ½ hours of practical ringing in nearby towers.

Groups will be formed to cover the following range of methods:

1. Surprise Minor
2. Stedman Triples
3. Basic Surprise Major (e.g. Cambridge, Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, Superlative)
4. Advanced Surprise Major (e.g. Pudsey, Rutland, London, Bristol, Spliced)

Further details and application forms can be obtained by sending an SAE to Katie Lane, Catchmole Cottage, 12 High Street, Wheatley, OX33 1XX or by email to [kt.catchmole@googlemail.com](mailto:kt.catchmole@googlemail.com) by 21st July 2012.

\*The course may be followed by an evening meal which would lengthen the day and add to the cost, more information will be in the application form.

# Guild AGM

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2012  
at  
WOKINGHAM ST PAUL,  
on  
SATURDAY 19th MAY 2012**

**1.00-1.45pm Wargrave** (8, 17-2-10 ); OS Ref SU782784 and **Warfield** (10, 13-2-27); SU880721

**1.30-2.15pm Twyford** (8, 12-0-10); SU788758

and **Easthampstead** (8, 6-0-9); SU 863676

**2.00-2.45pm Hurst** (8, 14-1-16); SU794729

and **Wokingham All Saints** (8, 15-2-11); SU815688

**2.30-3.15pm Wokingham St Paul** (8, 15-2-7); SU805690

**3.15pm Service Touch at St Paul, Wokingham**

**3.30pm Service at St Paul, Wokingham**

*Parking for 50 cars at the Hall to the west of the church, direct entrance from the A329. When the car park is full parking is then on the main road to the west of the Parish Rooms entrance. There is easy disabled access to both church and Hall, and disabled toilets.*

**4.15pm Tea in the Hall**

**5.00pm Annual General Meeting**

**Further ringing at Wokingham St Paul after the Meeting**

Afternoon tea will be available for those who notify Sue Davenport (0118-9786554) by **Wednesday 16th May**.  
(No need to book if you just want tea/ coffee/ soft drinks)

Hilarie Rogers  
Hon. General Secretary

# Big Ring Pull photos

**Photos from the Big Ring Pull final training session on Saturday 17th May**



*All trainees booked-in and Sheila Watts has a well deserved break*



*John Marchbank manning his Dad's well-stocked bookstall*



*Alan Marchbank talking with trainees about ringing resources*

# Branch AGM

## Minutes of Annual General Meeting Held at Great Linford on 24th March 2012

### Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman, Brian Newman, welcomed everyone to Great Linford for the Annual Meeting and commented that it was nice to see good support for the meeting

### Apologies for Absence

Received from Robert Newton(Guild Master), Catherine Stanworth, John Stanworth, Michael Tinsley, Vicky Stanworth, Mike Nimmo, Bernard Phillips, Becky Fawcett, Jean Mattinsley, David Joyce, Dean Meakins, Rev Beverly Hollins, Kate Hollins

### Minutes of previous Meeting

The minutes of the Autumn Meeting held at Old Wolverton 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 24 new members

Tower	Name	Proposed by	Seconded by
Stoke Goldington	Andrew Eelbeck	Sheila Ware	Roy Keeves
	Lucy Feger		
	Claire Jesson		
	Jill Lever		
	Alex Lockey(Junior)		
	Rachael Ludlow		
Weston Underwood	Jackie Sharp	Sheila Ware	Jonathan Griggs
	Mike Wesson		
	Ian McDonald		
	Neil Sinclair		
	Sally Sinclair		

Stoke Goldington and Weston Underwood are part of the Gate Benefice and so, although the above have been elected under individual towers, they all belong to the same band which rings at both towers

Olney	Rosie Haskell(Junior)	Ella Sheaf	Liz Sheaf
Newport Pagnell	Adam Hird(Junior)	Nick Read	Simon Read
Woughton on the Green	Martin Smith	Brian Baldwin	Helen Stanworth
Lillingstone Lovell	Tom Martin	Bernard Phillips	Helen Stanworth
Old Wolverton	David Topp	Mick Nimmo	John Mercer
	Robert Freer		
	Susan Freer		
	Sandra Gunn		
Great Linford	Viv Hollins	Alan Marchbank	Tine Marchbank
	Lauren Hollins(Junior)		
	Jamie Bolam(Junior)		
Tingewick	Ian Smart(re-election)	Andrew Spencer	Ray Vickers
	Hannah Smart(Junior)		

All were elected without dissent.

### Officers Reports

Officers Reports, were published as an appendix to the February 2012 edition of In Touch (and included in the Appendices to the minutes)

Chairman – (Appendix A)

Secretary – (Appendix B)

Treasurer – (Appendix C) Sheila Watts commented on the accounts. Most subscriptions for 2012 had been paid, with only a few towers outstanding.

Some £2200 had been raised by members for the Big Ring Pull. Expenditure is going roughly to plan and there is likely to be a surplus at the end of the project. Sheila formally proposed that any surplus be held in a separate fund to be used specifically for the training and development of ringers. Brian Newman seconded this and the proposal was carried on a show of hands.

Adoption of the accounts was then proposed by David Phillipson and seconded by Alan Marchbank. This was agreed on a show of hands.

Deanery Ringing Development Leader(Buckingham) – (Appendix D)

Deanery Ringing Development Leader(Milton Keynes) – (Appendix E)

Deanery Ringing Development Leader(Newport) – (Appendix F)

Guild Representatives – (Appendix G)

Branch Archivist – (Appendix H)

### Election of Officers

Post	Nomination	Proposed	Seconded
Chairman	Brian Newman	Alan Marchbank	Jonathan Griggs
Secretary	Helen Stanworth	Trudy Hutchings	Alan Marchbank
	Jonathan Griggs	Ted Fawcett	Roy Keeves
Treasurer	Sheila Watts	Sheila Blenkhorn	Hugh Butler
DRDL Newport	Doug Hird	Sheila Ware	John Marchbank
DRDL Milton Keynes	No nominations		
DRDL Buckingham	No nominations		
Guild Representatives	David Phillipson	Alan Marchbank	John Marchbank
	Only one nomination		



# Branch AGM contd

## Election of Officers contd

Following a ballot Jonathan Griggs was elected as Secretary. All other officers were elected unopposed.

There was a discussion on what should be done about the unfilled posts. Jill Joyce suggested that the Guild Rep vacancy could be left until the autumn meeting as the next Guild General Committee meeting was not until November.

Alan Marchbank suggested that, as there was only one DRDL we go back to the previous organisation structure with a single Ringing Master. Both David Phillipson and Richard Stanworth disagreed with this as it was a backward step and the branch needs to continue to move forward as progress had been made following the establishment of the new roles. Nick Read wondered if the full job specification as published was deterring people from taking on the role of DRDL and wondered if people could be found to take on part of the role. He felt it was even more important at this time in order to develop the ringers who had been trained by the Big Ring Pull.

David Phillipson suggested that the officers address filling the vacant posts

Brian Newman said that he was prepared to act as DRDL for Milton Keynes until someone could be found to fill the post. This was agreed on a show of hands.

## Big Ring Pull

Jonathan Griggs gave a report on the Big Ring Pull Project

Three years ago the officers had highlighted the lack of ringers within the branch with the chart showing towers with a red status

One and a half years ago the concept of the Big Ring Pull was presented and agreed. It turned out to be bigger than originally thought but thanks to over 70 people in the branch contributing, we have made it.

There were 28 formal meetings; preparation of materials and documents; at least 2,200 hours were expended on the project

16 towers and five individuals donated funds to the project, and two grants were received.

The budget was set at £2819 plus £500 contingency. We have spent £2725 which leaves about £1200 in the pot for further training and development.

We trained trainers – two days last autumn when 23 people attended. We had six guinea pigs, and one is now a ringer in the Gate group. We made use of ideas from the Integrated Teacher Training Scheme (ITTS). Simon Read and Emily Rice have continued with the training and are to become accredited on the ITTS.

We went to Middleton Hall, a brilliant day. It was a really good public relation exercise.

Peter Blight, who brought the Charmborough ring, said it was the best organised and biggest event attended by the Charmborough ring.

84 names were collected. 27 of these were people outside the branch and their details were passed on to local branches

At the Downs Barn taster day everybody who came signed up- 43 for the training course and three to learn directly at towers

Training Course – 43 started and 39 completed the training. Only about 20 of them came as a result of the day at Middleton Hall. 11 came from various leaflet distributions. We didn't break any stays at Newport Pagnell!

As a result of the project, two towers will start to ring again – Downs Barn now have a regular Friday practice and service ringing. Wavendon have a cluster of ringers from the congregation who attended the course. Overall, 14 towers have benefitted.

Those who attended completed a survey. 91% rated the course very good, 4% good, and 4% adequate, most asking for more rope time.

Each ringer trained cost £67 and 52 hours man-time.

A lot of good publicity came out of the Middleton Hall day. We can work together as a branch. We have invested in display materials which can be re-used.

The Ringing Foundation and ODG are interested in what we have done and we will be talking to them.

We have a simulator, currently at Newport Pagnell, but this is a branch asset.

What Next? – The project hasn't really finished. We have 42 keen people to become branch members and active ringers. It is now up to the RDL's and individual towers to develop them into active ringers. They want to stay together and learn as a group. Initially this can be done via the rounds and call changes practice on a first Friday run by Mick Nimmo. The branch may need to do things differently in the future in order to keep these people involved.

The Wavendon ringers are currently going to Downs Barn. Brian Baldwin is involved and is hoping that the Woughton band can help them.

Wavendon bells have been inspected and they are in good order. Brian is talking to the Wavendon ringers and Milton Keynes Village on how to make progress

Nick Read proposed a vote of thanks to Jonathan Griggs for acting as project manager, being persistent and pushing the project forward. Members showed their appreciation in the usual way.

## Forthcoming Events

An up to date Calendar of events had been distributed before the meeting. This was as published in In Touch and there were no changes to report

## Any Other Business

A number of Membership Certificates for those elected at previous meetings were distributed

Alan Marchbank drew attention to a letter which was being sent out from the Guild Master about ringing for special events in 2012. In particular he mentioned that Bishop John was encouraging us to ring at 6.00 pm on St George's Day.

Robin Culley raised a concern that had been highlighted in a letter in the Ringing World concerning the ITTS. The formal certification of teaches could lead to unexpected HSE issues with training new ringers. He applauded the sharing of ideas about teaching ringers and thought that the way forward was to organise seminars to improve training techniques.

## Vote of Thanks

On behalf of everyone present The Chairman thanked the Great Linford ringers for hosting the meeting, the Rev Peter Ballantine 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 and ring.

The meeting was closed at 7.20 pm