



In Touch

November 2012

Branch Christmas Celebration at Emberton

Saturday 8th December 2012



Everyone is invited to the Branch Christmas Celebration at Emberton



5.00pm Ringing at All Saints Church

5.45pm Short Celebration Service at All Saints Church, followed by Supper at the Institute (opposite the village clock tower - look for the balloons!)

Afterwards, a Quiz with a difference and Handbells

£7.00 per person (payable on the day)

Please bring your own drinks

Choice of Chicken, Chilli or Cheese with Jacket Potatoes and Salad, Pudding, Coffee, etc

Please book your meal with choice of menu by Wednesday 5th December Contact Sheila on 01234-713667 or email swandsw@btinternet.com

In this issue :

Dates for your Diary	page 2
Tower News	page 3
Tower News contd	page 4
Tower News contd	page 5
Tower & Branch News	page 6
Branch News contd	page 7
Branch News, Peals & Quarters	page 8
Peals and Quarters	page 9
Minutes of Autumn Meeting	page 10
Minutes of Autumn Meeting contd	page 11
Minutes of Autumn Meeting & Stop Press	page 12

Changes to In Touch:

Due to the rising costs of printing and distributing *In Touch* as a hard copy it was agreed at the Autumn Meeting from next year *In Touch* will be distributed to members via the nbb_odg@yahoogroups.com email address and 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 wanting printed copies please submit your £10 to the Treasurer by the end of January 2013 and individual towers wanting printed copies please submit your £10 together with your ODG subscriptions to the Treasurer by the end of January 2013.

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

Nov

- 17th Young Ringers Practice - TBC
- 17th Branch Practice with Towcester - Olney- 7.30pm
- 24th Guild 10 Bell Striking Competition - Long Crendon
- 24th Guild Autumn General Committee Meeting - Long Crendon

Dec

- 7th Rounds & Call Changes - Whaddon - 7.40pm
- 8th Christmas Celebration - Emberton - 5.00pm

Jan

- 4th Rounds and Call Changes - Old Wolverton - 7.40pm
- 19th Branch Change Ringing Practice - Wicken - 4.00 - 5.30pm

Feb

- 1st Rounds and Call Changes - Newport Pagnell - 7.40pm
- 16th Branch Surprise Methods Change Ringing Practice - Great Brickhill - 4.00 - 5.30pm

Mar

- 1st Rounds and Call Changes - Calverton - 7.40pm
- 2nd Branch AGM - Buckingham
- 9th ODG Guild Committee Meeting - Oxford City Branch
- 16th 2nd Big Ring Pull Outing around Milton Keynes
- 23rd Branch 10 bell Change Ringing practice (on simulator) - Olney - 4.00 - 5.30pm

Apr

- 5th Rounds and Call Changes - Great Horwood - 7.40pm

From the Chairman . . .

Dear All

Well here we are nearly the end of a very busy and productive year for our branch, with the big recruitment drive and the follow up teaching of the new folk. This event has injected much needed enthusiasm into our ringing reflected in the number of teams taking part in the 6 bell contest and the attendance at our regular practises as well as now having two towers back ringing that were silent. With the increase in members that we now enjoy, there is a need to fill the vacancies to help run the branch. Please, if you are at all interested give me a call, email me or have a face to face chat the next time we meet.

And thinking of the next time we could meet there is the Christmas Social at Emberton which I hope as many of you as can will come, it should be fun. Of course there will a branch practice before then and I know some folk come over to Downs Barn on a Friday so I'll look forward to meeting you all at one or another of them.

Brian Newman

Deadline for next edition . . .

The deadline for contributions for the next edition of In Touch is **Tuesday 5th February 2013.**

Contributions to intoucheditor@northbucks.org.uk please.

Nick Read

Tower News

St Mary & St Giles in Stony Stratford

Here at St Mary & St Giles in Stony Stratford we will be celebrating a very personal jubilee on 14th November when our tower captain, Malcolm Hooton, reaches the grand old age of 80! Not only will we be celebrating his birthday, but also his Captaincy of the tower ~ a post he has held for 60 years. Is this a record?

Malcolm tells us that the first time he made a noise with a church bell was when he was allowed to pull on a rope at the age of 3, but it was not until he was 14 that he seriously started bell ringing.

As a relative newcomer to the art of bellringing, I'd like to thank Malcolm for the welcome he gives to young – and not so young – novices. I was approaching 50 when he gave me my first lesson, and I now look forward to Monday evenings where we share some lively banter as we all try to improve our bell ringing. Indeed if we don't get teased for doing something wrong, then I feel I simply haven't been working hard enough!



Malcolm Hooton

Our Sunday ringing for worship is at 9am for the 9.30 service and all visiting ringers are made welcome by Malcolm. We normally manage to ring all eight bells – but on the occasions when we are a ringer down, Malcolm has been known to ring two bells whilst calling changes for the rest of us – a sight to behold.

Despite Malcolm's humorous and warm-hearted approach, he takes the importance of bell-ringing seriously, reminding us that not only are we performing publicly to the whole town, but that we are also making music for the Lord.

So as just one of Malcolm's many pupils, on behalf of all in the Tower of St Mary & St Giles, I'd like to say a sincere **Thank You** for 60 years commitment to the parish and **Congratulations, and Many Happy Returns**, on your 80th birthday.

Kieran Salter – Churchwarden

Forty Years of Ringing?

That may not sound much to some of you fellow ringers but yes I have been ringing for 40 years. It all started when my sister's friend wanted to learn to ring and asked my sister to go along. My sister was only allowed to go if I went too, so along we went to our local Church in Frindsbury, Kent. We were taught by Len Crouch and all managed to handle a bell fairly proficiently, Len used to take us to Rochester Cathedral after ringing for our church service as they were always short of ringers. I remember it as a big tower with 10 bells which had to walk along the roof outside to get to the ringing chamber.



Margate Ringers

When I was 16 my family moved down to Ramsgate in Thanet and my sister and I pursued our ringing career (!) at St Lawrence Ramsgate which was literally just down the road as we lived in St Lawrence High Street. The ringing chamber at St Lawrence was accessed by a ladder on the roof outside. St Lawrence at that time was short of ringers and my sister and I were the most experienced ringers as we could plain hunt! My parents always had itchy feet and could never stay living in the same place for too long and after only about a year moved to Cliftonville. Our nearest church with bells at this time was St John's in Margate and this is where I learnt to ring changes under the guidance of Bert and Peter Dadds. I loved ringing at this heavy 8 bell tower although most of the time we could only ring 6 bells as we did not have enough ringers. During our ringing time there we were elected into the Canterbury District and made friends with quite a few ringers about the same age as ourselves. When I learnt to drive everyone who could fit squeezed into my old Fiat and we bombed round the countryside attending meetings, ringing at other towers and generally having a good time. We also rang regularly at Quex Park, Birchington, which has 12 bells and is a tower built in the middle of Quex estate! We used to have great fun there rang once a fortnight had barbecues and generally messed about.

Contd....

Tower News contd

Forty Years of Ringing? contd

When I was 21 I married Paul at St John's, Margate. We have been married now for 37 years and he still has not wanted to learn to ring. I had two children in Margate carried on ringing as long as I could much to the alarm of Bert Dadds, but my doctor said if it was something that you had always done then there was no reason to stop. I rang my first peal at St John's (not when I was pregnant) - this was for Bert's 50th wedding anniversary. A few years later a job move brought us to Milton Keynes. We came up one day to buy a house, narrowed it down to a few and found one in Bradwell village that we liked and decided to do a reccy of the village before making the final decision. We found St Lawrence Church. The vicar rode by on his tricycle and waved us a hello, checked the notice board out and found out that the church had bells. That clinched it, we bought the house and still live in Bradwell to this day. Once moved I went ringing the first week we were there and had a warm welcome from the tower captain David Ockwell. I'm still a ringer, not so keen as I was, and you don't see me at many meetings but it is a part of my life. I am not a brilliant change ringer. I've realised long ago that I don't have the brain to ring advanced methods but got as far as Cambridge although I doubt I could ring it now. That old comment on my school reports about lack of concentration is my downfall, when ringing my mind wanders.



Jenny Brookman and Bradwell Ringers

We rang a quarter peal to commemorate my 40 years of ringing. We hadn't rung a quarter at our church for at least 7 years and it was great to be ringing them again. Will I still be ringing 40 years from now? Now that will make me very old, but you never know! Thanks to everyone who has rung and still rings with me for putting up with my mistakes and especially thankyou to Chris, Gordon, Ian, Dean and Becky for the quarter peal. Oh and to Emily for bringing the cookies down straight from the oven to celebrate.

Jenny Brookman

Wavendon

September 29th saw Wavendon Tower welcome a large party of ringers as we hosted the Branch Half-yearly Meeting. Many thanks to those who travelled from far and wide to join us in worship on that sunny afternoon, and to novices and experienced ringers alike who supported the tea and took advantage of the meeting to enjoy St Mary's renowned musical bells; and thanks to Jonathan for his help and advice.

Six of our new band were elected to the Guild (one experienced ringer, three BRP participants and two other novices), testament to the perseverance of Brian Baldwin, upon whom we continue to rely for guidance as we develop our skills. Our most experienced ringer, Hazel, has been key to the stability of the band, as has BRP novice Ellie, whose rapid progress has led to her ringing for several weddings this year. We managed some chiming for the opening of the Olympics, and with additional support from other towers (Woughton, All Saints and Newport), we've been able to practise regularly all summer, enjoying exercises ranging from rounds and called changes to occasional attempts at Plain Hunt.

Towards the end of the summer we took (what felt like) the enormous step of ringing as a 'Wavendon-only' band, and have progressed from extremely wobbly rounds to something *occasionally* approaching good striking. I'm glad to report that at least one of the local residents appreciates our efforts; waiting for us after practice, she told us: "After a long day at work, it's so uplifting to hear the bells" - backing this up with the gift of a packet of biscuits!

The Village has been treated to more advanced ringing from visiting bands, and we hope you will continue to help us to bring Wavendon Tower to life. Ray Holmwood, Brian Norwood and Adrian Rowe have replaced some stays which took a bit of a bashing from us novices, so you should find everything in good repair if you visit with your band.

This month we are honoured to be ringing for the first time for Remembrance Day at St Mary's, when we expect to have good support from the Village. We continue to venture out to other towers (Woughton and Great Brickhill in particular), and two of us had an exciting time on the BRP 'Big Day Out' (thank you, Hilary!). The Plain Hunt course at Newport and Olney now looms slightly scarily, although the standard of teaching that we enjoyed for the Big Ring Pull tells me there is really nothing to worry about!

We'd like to thank Trisha Gifford of All Saints, who after many years is handing back responsibility for ringing at Wavendon weddings to Patricia Rosewell and Ray Holmwood. And finally, in this year of celebration, we warmly congratulate Brian and Norma Baldwin on their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

Patricia Rosewell

Tower News contd

Hanslope Bellringers - We're going DOWN to keep the bells UP

This was the slogan that three members of Hanslope Tower had printed on the backs of their T-shirts when they abseiled down the church tower on Saturday 13th October in order to raise money for Hanslope church and the Hanslope Bell Restoration fund.

Earlier this year it had been agreed by our church and bellringers that Hanslope bells were in need of major restoration work in order to ensure that we could continue ringing our bells. Obviously this meant embarking on a substantial fund raising initiative and the church decided that the abseiling was to be our first event in aid of the bells. Anyone could volunteer to abseil and the total amount raised on the day would be split 50:50 between the church and the bell restoration fund.



It therefore seemed only right that some of the bellringers should take part and the three female members of our tower decided to sign up. On the day there were a total of 26 people who abseiled down the church tower, a distance of some 100 feet. We were very ably assisted, cajoled and encouraged, by the experts from "Call of the Wild" in Neath, South Wales, Dave Thomas and his assistant, also called Dave - without their help we could not have done it.

I can only try and describe the experience from a personal point of view. After we were fitted up with our safety helmets and harnesses, it was with a certain amount of fear and trepidation that we, ie myself, Helen Dear and Dorrie Mutch, began our ascent of the tower steps. We passed the ringing room and went onwards and upwards to the battlements - what had we let ourselves in for!

We had our photos taken as we looked down on our many family members and friends who had come to support us, all of whom were now too small to identify individually. I volunteered to go first and my harness was hooked onto the safety rope which, I was pleased to note, was looped several times around the spire. There was a small step ladder placed level with the lower castellations and from there I had to step out and stand on the battlements, at which point Dave T said "Now let go the rope and put your hands on your head". You must be joking, I thought, but no he wasn't and so there I am standing on the edge of the battlements and not holding onto anything. In the event, it did what it was meant to do and gave me the confidence to realise that I was being held safely by their ropes and that, if necessary, they could take control. The next instruction was to step down over the edge and put my feet on the ledge approx three feet below. I think that this was probably the worst/scariest moment as far as I was concerned, but once it had been accomplished and the ascent had begun I had a strange feeling of exhilaration that I was actually doing it. I was abseiling down our church tower - wow!



It was entirely up to the individual as to how fast or slow they went down as we each had total control of our own rate of descent. I tried not to go too fast and I stopped a few times on the way down in order to savour the moment as I knew that this was an 'unlikely to be repeated' occasion. I was also aware of all the people on the ground, who were shouting out and encouraging me as I came down. Finally, I reached the bottom and was soon surrounded by everyone congratulating me, and then shortly afterwards I too was cheering as we watched Helen abseil down to join me. Then it was Dorrie's turn but, as Helen and I already knew, she was extremely frightened when she got to the top and she had totally frozen. It was agonising for us all waiting at the bottom and obviously all the more so for Dorrie trying to summon up the courage to go over the edge. It is therefore to her [and the two Daves] great credit that she did eventually manage it and Dave No 2 came down with her on a parallel rope to help and encourage her all the way down. However, she did say to us later, "Never, ever again!"

Sheila Blenkhorn

Tower News contd

Downs Barn Trip to Olney

Saturday 18th August

Due to the success of the Big Ring Pull in recruiting new ringers the bells at Downs Barn now have a regular band of ringers who meet for practice on a Friday night and ring every week for the Sunday service. Under the captaincy of Alan Marchbank and with the support of other experienced ringers the new recruits have made good progress, and it was felt that the time had come to venture out to try some different bells, so a morning of ringing at Olney on ten bells was arranged. Two other new ringers from Great Linford also joined us. The simulator provided relief for the local residents as we rose to the challenge of ringing ten bells in rounds, then progressing to call changes, and for some the experience of plain hunt on ten was a first. Everyone enjoyed the morning and gained some personal benefit from the ringing. We then ventured up to the bell chamber to see how ten bells fitted into the tower and gazed up into the open spire above us. In the words of one young visitor, "it was amazing". We were so inspired with our visit that we have already planned another trip out! But that's another story.....

Hilary Reading

Branch News

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.

Autumn Meeting minutes

Please see pages 10 to 12 for a copy of the minutes from our autumn meeting held at Wavendon on 29th September.

Jonathan Griggs

Branch News contd

Steeple Aston One-Day Course

We are two ringers who started to learn to ring in the summer of 2011 at St. Peters Church in Stoke Goldington Bucks. We applied for and were accepted on to the course at Steeple Aston to learn plain hunt doubles and minor

We arrived at Steeple Aston Village Hall for a 09.15 start, and were welcomed with tea coffee and biscuits. We were then put into groups of 5 with a Tutor and had an hour's tuition which incorporated trying to ring plain hunt on hand bells!

We then set out to our first church at Swalcliffe. We rang rounds and plain hunt on 5 from the treble and donging behind on the tenor, which was new to us. We had some lively banter and much advice from a great team of bell ringer helpers. We then broke for a much needed drink and lunch at the pub.

For the afternoon session we rang at two more churches in Tadmerton and Bodicote with more Plain Hunt and then started to learn Bob doubles.

We closed the day with a great supper in the Village Hall, with much discussion of the days ringing and were presented with our certificates for the course.

We both thought the course was very well organised and enjoyed visiting the different bell towers. It was a very enjoyable day and we will take back what we have learnt to our own tower, and hopefully put into practise.

We would like to thank every body who worked so hard to make it a good day, and to the North Bucks Branch of Oxford Diocesan Guild for part funding us.

Jackie Sharp & Jill Lever

ODG 6 bell Striking competition final

Having won the branch 6 bell striking competition in June, Hanslope went on to represent the branch at the Guild 6 bell striking competition held at Tadmerton near Banbury. We were pitched against 8 other teams representing some of the other branches of the guild. Our general ringing was reasonably good but there were a few slip ups which had a detrimental effect on our score. We came 8th. The tea was very nice though.

Higher numbers.....

Congratulations to Gary Reading, Claire Reading and Ann MacIntyre who rang their first touches of Grand-sire Caters 'inside' at All Saints, Leighton Buzzard on Saturday 9th November to mark the occasion of Rev Grant Fellows, Vicar of Leighton Buzzard, being made a Canon in the Church at England at St Albans Abbey that afternoon. Their achievements were matched by Sophie Reading (aged 10) ringing her first rounds on 12 bells on the same occasion. Well done to all.

Barry Eggesfield

Branch News contd

Big Ring Pull Day Out

There was an overwhelming response to the idea of a day out for those people who started ringing through the Big Ring Pull, and on a very sunny Saturday in September, 22 'learners' enjoyed travelling round six towers within Milton Keynes. Each tower offered its own challenge, from the anti-clockwise ring of Old Wolverton, to the very light 8 bells of Downs Barn. There was a variety of ability within the group and there were experienced ringers at every tower to offer assistance and guidance where needed.



Breakfast at Great Linford

The day started off well at Great Linford, with welcoming coffee, croissants and Danish pastries, moving on to New Bradwell and Old Wolverton during the morning. Back to Great Linford for a picnic lunch in the churchyard, which gave us a chance to finish off the croissants and pastries, before heading off to Downs Barn, Shenley and Milton Keynes Village for the afternoon session.

Everyone gained something from the day out: from ringing on different bells, to meeting other new ringers and sharing stories of progress, to finding an excuse to visit other churches in the area. The enthusiasm of the Big Ring Pullers is a credit to the trainers and the tower captains, and a further day out is planned for next year on Saturday 16th March 2013 to coincide with the anniversary of the Big Ring Pull.

Hilary Reading

Loughton and Shenley Outing to Loughborough on Saturday 6th October 2012

Following on from our successful outing in May to North Oxfordshire I volunteered to organise the next tower ringing outing to Loughborough.

The plan was to go on a tour of Taylor's in the morning, followed by a ring at their bell tower, and then ring at three local towers in the afternoon. There was a question mark over Taylor's ring of twelve, as to whether this would be available, as these were in the process of being augmented from ten to twelve bells.

Despite bad weather in the days (and weeks!) leading up to the outing, the day of the outing turned out to be bright and sunny. More than twenty people had signed up for the outing, including a number of recruits from the Big Ring Pull, and Taylor's had confirmed that the ring of twelve would be ready in time.

Finding the foundry proved to be a challenge for some, but everyone managed to get there before the tour started at 10:00. There was a lot to look at, and it was interesting to see the bells from Christ Church Cathedral, which had been shipped to Taylor's so that any damage could be assessed and repaired.



Loughborough Bell Foundry

The ring of twelve had only just been finished with an open day to try them out the weekend before, so we were the first tour party to ring on them, and we managed to do this without disgracing ourselves. There was time for quick look around the museum and to purchase a few souvenirs, before a pleasant lunch at the Packe Arms in Hoton.

Then a visit to three towers at Stanford on Soar, Rempstone and Kingston on Soar in the afternoon, and time to pose for a final photograph before heading home.



Loughton and Shenley Ringers

Gary Reading

Branch News contd

Branch Practices

The successful Big Ring Pull project has drawn a lot of new recruits into ringing in the Branch. To provide a platform for their progression and to cater for the more experienced ringers in the Branch, a range of practice opportunities have now been arranged to offer something for all abilities.

Ringers at the rounds and call change level can still attend the Friday Rounds and Call Change practices and the quarterly meeting ringing. New monthly Branch change ringing practices have been arranged and will take a rotational format on a quarterly basis. The new additional Branch Practices will be 4.30 to 6pm 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.

Guild Training Course

RADLEY

ONE-DAY COURSE

Based at Radley (near Abingdon)

SATURDAY 13th APRIL 2013

Cost £25.00 including evening meal

Methods offered:

Plain Hunt on 5, 6, 7, 8; Grandsire Doubles and Triples;

Plain Bob Doubles, Minor and Major

All subject to demand

These courses have been running for a number of years and are designed for learners of all ages and levels of competence. No need to feel nervous about coming as you will be with others at a similar level. We aim to improve your confidence as well as your ringing with friendly support and tuition.

Details and an application form will be available after 1st December 2012 from Ann Osborne,

Email: annosborne.1@BTInternet.com

or

Tel: 0118 942 5876

Closing date for applications is:

31st January 2013

Maximum of 25 students

Peals & Quarters

Hillesden, Bucks

All Saints

Friday 17 August 2012 in 44 mins (9-0-12)

1260 Doubles (1p/2m)

(360 Stedman, 420 Grandsire and 480 Plain Bob)

- 1 Helen Stanworth
- 2 Catherine M Stanworth
- 3 A John Stanworth
- 4 Richard S Stanworth
- 5 Michael J Tinsley (C)
- 6 Graham Gulliver

Rung for the wedding of Kyle Jenner to Jenny Plummer
First quarter peal - 6

Bradwell, Bucks

St Lawrence

Sunday 19th August in 40 mins (7-2-15)

1260 Doubles (2m)

(600 Grandsire and 660 Plain Bob)

- 1 Chris Abbott
- 2 Jenny Brookman
- 3 David Joyce
- 4 Dean Meakins
- 5 Ian Green (C)
- 6 Gordon Abbott

In celebration of David Green's (son of Ian Green) wedding to Amy.

Oxford Diocesan Guild

Clifton Reynes, Bucks

St Mary the Virgin

Thursday 23 August 2012 in 2h 41 (10-2-14)

5040 Surprise Minor (7m)

720 of each London, Wells, York, Durham, Bourne, Surfleet & Cambridge.

- 1 John B Marchbank
- 2 Alan J Marchbank
- 3 A John Stanworth
- 4 B Douglas Hird
- 5 Simon Read (C)
- 6 Richard I Allton

Birthday compliments to Tine Marchbank and Nick Read.

Oxford Diocesan Guild

Great Linford, Milton Keynes, Bucks

St Andrew

Thursday 6 September 2012 in 3h 1 (16-1-22)

5040 Surprise Minor (7m)

720 of each Carlisle, London, York, Westminster, Bourne, Cambridge & Norwich.

- 1 B Douglas Hird
- 2 Alan J Marchbank
- 3 A John Stanworth
- 4 Richard I Allton
- 5 Simon Read (C)
- 6 John P Loveless

Circled the tower to peals for the second time – 2

Peals & Quarters contd

Hanslope, Buckinghamshire

St James the Great

Saturday, 15 September 2012 in 49mins (22 cwt)

1312 Plain Bob Major

Composed by Simon Read

- 1 Alan Cozens
- 2 Brian Berry
- 3 Nick Read
- 4 Peter Tribble
- 5 Ian Thompson
- 6 Jonathan Griggs
- 7 Roy Keeves
- 8 Simon Read (C)

Rung for 'A Floral Celebration - 110 Years of Villagers Weddings' and for the Village Fayre held on this day.
First of Plain Bob Major - 2

Bradwell, Bucks

St Lawrence

Sunday 30th September in 40mins (7-2-15)

1260 Doubles (2m)

(600 Grandsire and 660 Plain Bob)

- 1 Chris Abbott
- 2 Jenny Brookman
- 3 Becky Fawcett
- 4 Dean Meakins
- 5 Ian Green (C)
- 6 Gordon Abbott

To mark Jenny Brookman's 40 years of ringing.

Oxford Diocesan Guild

Campton, Bedfordshire

All Saints

Sunday 7 October 2012 in 2h 47 (6-2-10)

5088 Dereham Surprise Major

Composed: Donald F Morrison (no. 3064)

- 1 John B Marchbank
- 2 Trevor W Marchbank
- 3 Ben Hockenhull
- 4 Carol A Marchbank
- 5 Alan J Marchbank
- 6 Robert J Marchbank
- 7 James C Marchbank (C)
- 8 Edward O Marchbank

To mark John's forthcoming 18th birthday.

Newport Pagnell, Bucks

SS Peter & Paul

Sunday 4 November 2012 in 44mins (14-3-4)

1260 Doubles (1p/2m)

(60 Stedman, 600 each Grandsire and Plain Bob)

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

Rung on the Dorian six for the All Souls service.

Oxford Diocesan Guild

Milton Keynes, Downs Barn, Bucks

Cross and Stable

Saturday 20 October 2012 in 2h 41 (6-0-10)

5184 London Surprise Major

Composed: N J Pitstow

- 1 John B Marchbank
- 2 Alan J Marchbank
- 3 B Douglas Hird
- 4 Roger Powell
- 5 Barry R Eglesfield
- 6 Robert J Marchbank
- 7 Simon Read
- 8 Benjamin J Carey (C)

Rung as an 18th birthday compliment to John Marchbank; with further birthday compliments to Alan Marchbank, Trevor Marchbank and Geoff Searson.
Circles the tower to Surprise Major - 2

Wavendon, Bucks

Assumption of the BVM

Sunday 21 October 2012 in 42mins (8-3-5)

1260 Plain Bob Minor

- 1 Alice Reading
- 2 Claire Reading
- 3 Anne F M McIntyre
- 4 Gary Reading
- 5 John A Brookman
- 6 Alan J Marchbank (C)

Birthday Compliment to Alice Reading.

First Quarter - 1

First of Minor - 2

Oxford Diocesan Guild

Newport Pagnell, Bucks

SS Peter & Paul

Sunday 11 November 2012 in 3h 19 (21-2-16)

5184 Plain Bob Major

Composed: Donald F Morrison (no. 2806), arranged by Simon Read

- 1 Eleanor Cooper
- 2 Nick Read
- 3 Simon Read (C)
- 4 Scott P Ayers
- 5 A John Stanworth
- 6 Christopher C Stokes
- 7 Alan J Marchbank
- 8 B Douglas Hird

First peal - 1

Circled the tower - 8

Rung half muffled in memory of the fallen.

Also rung as a belated farewell compliment and thank you to the Reverend Beverley Hollins who left Newport Pagnell to work in a new parish in Hardingstone.



Minutes of Autumn Meeting held on 29th September 2012

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman, Brian Newman, welcomed everyone to Wavendon and the Autumn meeting.

Apologies for Absence

Received from David Joyce, Ted Fawcett, Sheila Watts, James Champion (Guild Secretary)

Minutes of previous Meeting

The minutes of the AGM held at Great Linford in March had been published in the May 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.

Matters Arising from Minutes

Jill Joyce noted that the vacant Guild Rep position was proposed to be included in the agenda for this meeting. The Chairman added it under Any other Business.

Presentation of new members' certificates

Alice Reading from Loughton was awarded her ODG membership certificate.

Election of New Members

Nominations had been received proposing 30 new members.

Shenley

Anne Nightingale, proposed by John Brookman, seconded by Jonathan Griggs
Helen Richardson & Daniel Richardson (Junior) proposed by John Brookman, seconded by Becky Fawcett

Loughton

Hilary Reading & Sophie Reading (Junior), proposed by Gary Reading, seconded by Derek Stainsby

Milton Keynes Village

Paul Wheeler & Sylvia Bennet, proposed by Patricia Gifford, seconded by Malcolm Parsons
Christopher Charman & Jane Charman, proposed by Patricia Gifford, seconded by Brian Newman

Emberton

Molly Harvey (Junior) & Francis Parker, proposed by Sheila Watts, seconded by Phil Haslam

Olney

Simon Daley, proposed by David Phillipson, seconded by Charles Knight

Wavendon

Bill Atkinson, Eleanor Atkinson (Junior), Hazel Dallen, Daniel Rowe (Junior), Ray Holmwood & Patricia Rosewell, proposed by Peter Tribble, seconded by Jonathan Griggs

Newport Pagnell

Keith Wagstaff & Elizabeth Wagstaff, proposed by Doug Hird, seconded by Jonathan Griggs

Leckhampstead

Zoe Jones, Morris Jones & Time Lowe, proposed by Bernard Philips, seconded by Robin Culley

Downs Barn

Joanna Taylor, Paul Barrett & Sally Yelland, proposed by Alan Marchbank, seconded by Brian Newman

Lavendon

Richard Boon (Junior) & Timothy Boon (Junior), proposed by Brian Clifton, seconded by Ann Clifton

All nominations were approved.

There was a discussion about the payment of a whole year's subscriptions for new members when they were elected part the way through a year. It was suggested that partial subscriptions could be levied in this case, although it was noted that £4.50 of the fee was required by the ODG and could not be changed. Jill Joyce noted that historically anyone elected at the December meeting would have their membership effective from the following January. It was decided that full subscription should be paid at this time. The Chairman requested that the subject be put on the agenda for the next meeting and for everyone to consider their views.

Officers Reports

- **Secretary** – The secretary reported that advertising of future meetings in the Ringing World would be restricted to the AGM only as alternative mechanisms ie In Touch and the egroup communicated with more people and were cheaper alternatives. The secretary reminded everyone that the display panels created for the Big Ring Pull were available to anyone in the branch to support local ringing initiatives.

- **Treasurer** – In her absence, the treasurer reported that the branch funds stood at £960.01 in the general account and £1326.39 in the Training and Development account. All towers who had paid their 2012 subscriptions were thanked – only Thornborough was outstanding. The meeting collected £21.71 for the Guild Bell fund.

- **Ringing Development Leader (Newport)** - Doug Hird clarified the role of the Ringing Development Leader in that its main aim was to provide communication and be a point of contact between ringers and with the church in each deanery. Within the Newport deanery there were a number of already active bands including the new bands at Stoke Goldington and Weston Underwood and that going forward effort would be required to support towers where there was only 1 or 2 ringers.

Minutes of Autumn Meeting held on 29th September 2012 contd

Officers Reports contd

- Ringing Development Leader (Milton Keynes) –

Brian Newman, standing in for the vacant position, reiterated the role of the ringing development leader as a focal point for ringing in the deanery and that key a key component of the role is communication. It was hoped that someone would come forward to fill this role and the Buckingham one before the next meeting.

- Archivist – Doug Hird explained that the branch website was going to be redeveloped and to bring it onto line with the style of In Touch. If anyone wanted to suggest ideas for content for the website or ideas on presentation then they should pass them to Doug to include.

Jill Joyce questioned why this meeting was not on the website. Doug explained it was a mistake and he would fix it.

Training Grant Awards

Requests for grants for the Steeple Aston Course have been received from the following members:

Alice Reading of Loughton

Jill Lever and Jackie Sharp of the Gate Ringers

The Chairman proposed, seconded by Terry Page that grants of 50% of the costs (£12.50) should be awarded to each applicant. The meeting accepted this proposal.

In Touch Costs

Nick explained that in order to provide every tower in the branch with a full colour copy of In Touch there would need to be an increase in funding of approximately £100 per year. As it stood the present income of the branch would not be able to support this.

Jill Joyce felt that the newsletter did not need to be so glossy in order to get information to people who did not attend meetings.

Sheila Blenkhorn suggested that an increase in subscriptions up to £8 or £10 would cover the additional costs.

Nick proposed, and Alan Marchbank seconded that, as many people now read In Touch on-line, either from direct email copies or from the website, that there should be a charge of £10 per year per tower or for any individual, for printed copies of the 4 editions. This would be collected via the subscriptions and take effect from next year. This proposal was passed with 15 votes for, 1 against and 2 abstentions.

Presentation of Branch Striking Competitions Certificates

Certificates were awarded to Emberton, Shenley and Loughton, Great Linford and Hanslope.

Forthcoming Events:

- Plain Hunt Training Day – This is scheduled for November 10th at Olney and Newport Pagnell on the simulators. It is for BRP ringers and any others who can ring rounds and call changes and want to progress to the next stage. Names of attendees to the secretary and if anyone can help to support it by ringing please also contact the secretary.

- Branch Practices - Nick explained that whilst the Big Ring Pull had drawn a lot of new recruits into ringing it had meant that the branch may have not addressed the needs of the more experienced ringers. To address this need it was proposed that formal branch practices be more focused on change ringing. Ringers at the rounds and call change level can still attend the Friday Rounds and Call Change practices and the quarterly meeting ringing. It was proposed that monthly branch practices would take the following rotational format and commence in the new year. Branch Practices would be 4.30 to 6pm 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.
Month 1 – General change ringing practice
Month 2 – Surprise practice
Month 3 – Normal branch meeting or function with general ringing
- Additional 10 bell practice at Olney

- Guild 10 Bell Striking competition

Doug explained that this was taking place at Long Crendon on November 24th. Anyone interested in taking part should contact Doug.

- Young Ringers Practices

On behalf of Simon Read, Nick explained about the Young Ringers Practices running once a month. The next one is on October 13th at Woughton on the Green 10.30 – 12.00. It is run by youngsters for youngsters. Adults can attend but only as observers. John Marchbank who is organising it will turn 18 shortly and then be CRB checked. It is proposed that the group will set up an email group to communicate with one another as long as their parents give permission. It was stressed that Tower Captains should identify their younger ringers and inform them of the group and try and persuade them to attend.

- Christmas Celebration at Emberton

Sheila Ware informed the meeting that the Christmas celebration would be at Emberton on December 8th with a short carol service followed by a jacket potato meal in the hall, a walk around quiz and some surprise entertainment. All are invited.

Minutes of Autumn Meeting held on 29th September 2012 contd

Forthcoming Events contd

- Next Big Ring Pull Outing

Alan Marchbank explained that after the success of the September Big Ring Pull outing that another one around Milton Keynes was being planned for March 16th 2013 – the anniversary of the end of the Big Ring Pull training. It would be similar in concept – ringing at different towers around Milton Keynes but this time ending at Downs Barn for a social meal and refreshment.

2013/14 Branch Officer Positions

The Chairman indicated that there are currently had 3 officer positions vacant – one Guild Representative, Ringing Development Leader for Milton Keynes area and a Ringing Development leader for the Buckingham area. It was noted that with our new members accepted today that we as a branch might be entitled to three guild representative positions instead of the current two. Five of the current committee will be standing for re-election whilst the sixth is unknown at present. The Chairman outlined the roles and urged people to consider them. It was noted that the guild rep positions do not require extensive ringing experience to be effective and allow the opportunity to ring in other parts of the diocese.

Any Other Business

Ray Holmwood provided an update on the ringing at Wavendon since the Big Ring Pull. He thanked Brian Baldwin for this patience teaching the new ringers and the assistance of the Woughton ringers. He reported that the band was making steady progress and was looking forward to service ringing.

Alan Marchbank thanked the meeting for the contribution to the ODG Bell Fund.

Vote of Thanks

On behalf of everyone present the Chairman thanked the Wavendon ringers for their welcome, for leading the service, their tea and hosting the meeting.

Stop Press.....

Plain Hunt Course

The Plain Hunt course organised for Saturday 10 November was so popular that we had to split into two groups for the day, alternating between Newport Pagnell and Olney. The morning group at Olney was not without drama, when the stay broke early on in the session. Some quick maintenance resulted in the old stay being taken off so that the bell was able to be rung, and this gave the experienced ringers a challenge to what was otherwise going to be an easy ring.

The group had varying degrees of ability but we all had the opportunity to ring plain hunt on the treble and the tenor behind, and some were given the chance to ring plain hunt inside.

Stop Press..... contd



*Plain Hunt Course Participants & Helpers
at Olney (am & pm groups)*

Whatever our ability we all gained something from the experience and are all grateful to those who ran the course. A word of thanks must also go to the ladies who provided the much needed refreshments, without which we would have been very thirsty!

Hilary Reading

Big Ring Pull Day Out

The best thing about the whole BRP experience has been meeting a whole new bunch of people, and the Big Day Out was no exception. Another unexpected bonus is the pleasure of sampling the wide variety of churches and towers that we have in Milton Keynes. Our afternoon's pilgrimage took us from Downs Barn's airy, bridge-like ringing platform with the lightest of bells, to the ancient tower at Shenley where we had to lean on the rope to get a bell to the balance! The final stop for tea and pastries in the idyll of Milton Keynes Village brought a perfect end to this sunny and companionable day. The helpers were as ever proficient but friendly and we all enjoyed renewing acquaintances and spotting new faces. North Bucks should be proud of what the branch has achieved in under six months, and I can thoroughly recommend the planned Spring repeat to all novices. Thank you to Hilary Reading and her team, and congratulations on a brilliant event.

Patricia Rosewell