



# *In Touch*

November 2013

## Celebrate Christmas at Hanslope



### Saturday 7th December

Christmas Ringing with mulled wine and mince pies at Hanslope  
Saturday 7th December 4-6pm.

Are you at a loss of what to do on a Saturday afternoon between Christmas shopping and Strictly Come Dancing? Come out to Hanslope for a sociable ring, some festive refreshments and look at a display about the Hanslope bell rehangng project. See also page 3 in this edition for information on this project.

Do come and support us at what will be the last branch social event of 2013. Everyone very welcome.

To help planning please indicate numbers to Jonathan, the secretary, at [secretary@northbucks.org.uk](mailto:secretary@northbucks.org.uk) or 01908 511883 by Sunday 1st December or alternatively – just turn up !



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## *Deadline for next edition . . .*

The deadline for contributions for the next edition of In Touch is **Tuesday 4th February 2014.**

Contributions to [intoucheditor@northbucks.org.uk](mailto:intoucheditor@northbucks.org.uk) please.

*Nick Read*

## Branch Training Day – Stop Press

An intensive day of Plain Hunt and Bob Doubles practice took place on November 9<sup>th</sup>. The training day was attended by twelve students from eight towers. It started with a theory session at Newport. The students then split into three groups and went to three different towers for the first practical session. At each tower five or six experienced ringers were there to assist to enable the practice to be beneficial as possible.

A communal lunch took place in the Swan at Olney and this was followed by two further practical sessions at other local towers. All arrived back at Newport tired, but having made progress, for a debrief at the end of the day.

It was satisfying to see the branch come together for the day in mutual support. Thanks must go to the thirty supporting ringers who gave up their time, the towers that opened their doors, the refreshment providers and those who lead the training sessions.

*Jonathan Griggs*

# Who's Who 2013—2014

<b>Chairman</b>	Brian Newman	Great Linford	01908 395160	chairman@northbucks.org.uk
<b>RDL Buckingham</b>	Lesley Belcher	Hanslope		rdl_bh@northbucks.org.uk
<b>RDL Milton Keynes</b>	Graham Bartholomew	Shenley		rdl_mk@northbucks.org.uk
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<b>Branch Website</b>	www.northbucks.org.uk		<b>Guild Website</b>	www.odg.org.uk

## Dates for your Diary.....

### December

Fri 6 – Call Changes & Plain Hunt – Whaddon - 7.40 - 9.00pm

Sat 7<sup>th</sup> – Mince Pies, Mulled Wine and Ringing at Hanslope - 4-6pm

Sat 21 – Branch Practice - 10 bell Branch practice at Olney on Simulator - 4-5.30pm

### 2014

### January

Fri 3 – Call Changes & Plain Hunt - Newport Pagnell - 8-9.00pm

Sat 18 – Branch Practice – Shenley - 4-5.30pm

### February

Fri 7 – Call Changes & Plain Hunt - Old Wolverton - 7.40 - 9.00pm

Sat 15 – Branch Practice – Emberton - 4-5.30pm

### March

Sat 1 – AGM - Lillingstone Lovell (and Leckhampstead tbc) - 3.30pm

Fri 7 – Call Changes & Plain Hunt – Calverton - 7.40 - 9.00pm

Sat 15 – Branch Practice - 10 bell Branch practice at Olney on Simulator - 4-5.30pm

### May

Sat 17 - Guild AGM in North Bucks - Downs Barn

## From the Chairman.....

Hello all

I hope you all enjoyed the summer social as much as I did, especially the BBQ. The branch has not put a 10 bell team in for the Guild competition, various reasons have been put forward, but if we are to take part in the Guild competitions and we should, then the branch needs you to help, the officers can only do so much so even if you feel doubtful of your ability to either ring on 8 or 10, but would like to try then contact any of the officers and we will do our best to form bands to practice for your and our enjoyment and to be ready for the competitions that lay ahead.

On other things we have the continuing program of branch practices and the Christmas social to look forward to. If you need to check the dates have a look at the diary of events here in the following pages.

Also at the last officers meeting we talked about how to make our practices more relevant and how to develop the social side of ringing to encourage more of the members to take part, if you have any ideas of your own that you feel may be useful, please tell us.

Well that's all for this issue and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at Hanslope for the Christmas social.

Brian

# Tower News

## Hanslope Bell Restoration Project

The year 2013 marks the start an exciting couple of years for the church, the bell ringers and the villagers of Hanslope because we are embarking on a huge bell restoration project. Over the last few years our bells have become increasingly difficult to ring and as a result, following an inspection by Whites, it was decided that Hanslope bells needed to be refurbished, retuned and then rehung in a new frame which will situated lower down the tower.

In common with many villages, our bells are a facility not just for the church and the ringers, they are there for everyone and they are an integral part of our village life. Obviously we ring regularly for church services and on our practice nights every Thursday, but these are not the only occasions when we ring. We ring to celebrate weddings, and occasionally as a mark of respect for a funeral. We ring to commemorate national occasions, such as the new Millennium, the London Olympics, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and other royal occasions. We also ring to celebrate our village festivities such as the annual Street Fayre, and for Christmas and at New Year.



The PCC at St James the Great gave the go ahead for the project and so a committee was formed with members representing both the church and the bell ringers. The estimated cost of £75,000.00 seemed an enormous amount to raise but earlier this year we received a very generous and unexpected legacy which got the bell restoration fund off to a tremendous start. We have already applied successfully for several grants, including one from the Oxford Diocesan Guild Bell Fund, and we are researching other grants from a variety of organisations, in particular the Heritage Lottery Fund, to ascertain which ones would be most applicable to our project. There has been a village car boot sale, and half of the proceeds from the abseiling down the church tower in November last year were given to the fund. We are currently working on a number of other initiatives to help raise money and, at the time of writing, we are now about half way towards the total amount required.

It is hoped that work can commence on the bells in the autumn of 2014 so there is a lot to do in the next twelve months but once the project is completed we will have a fantastic facility for the future generations of our church and village.

*Sheila Blenkhorn*

## Branch News

### New ringer?

Catherine Stanworth and Michael Tinsley are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter Jessica Elizabeth Charlotte Tinsley on the 1<sup>st</sup> October.



The sound of ringing seems to have a soothing effect on Jessica, this may be due to it being a familiar sound to her as Catherine enjoyed good health during her pregnancy and was able to keep ringing and in fact was ringing two days before she gave birth, she returned to ringing again three days after for just a few pulls on practice night at her local tower. Here Jessica caused a lot of attention and somewhat distracted the ringing (in a nice way) with other ringers wanting a cuddle.

The first ¼ peal to celebrate her birth was rung at Towcester on the 20<sup>th</sup> October; this was 1346 changes of Cambridge Surprise Maximus called by her dad with her mum ringing the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Following a few days later a ¼ peal made up of her immediate family was rung at Padbury with 'Auntie' Vicky calling her first touch (1<sup>st</sup> attempt) of Grandsire doubles as part of the quarter.



# Branch News contd.

## North Bucks Celebration Barbeque and Autumn Meeting



Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September saw the branch autumn meeting being held at Downs Barn Church, Milton Keynes together with a celebration to mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the bells being installed. The day started with a successful peal on the bells. This was followed in the afternoon by some more ringing, a short service and meeting, a barbeque and quiz. The service was conducted by Rev Peter Green, the incumbent of Downs Barn Church when the bells were installed. As part of his address the Rev Peter Green played a selection of recordings of various methods being rung and invited the congregation to 'guess the method'. Over 60 people attended the afternoon which was rounded off with a superb barbeque, although this was eaten inside because of the weather. Many thanks to all those who took part and also those who helped put the day together. A special thanks goes to Linda Maycroft for organising the food and those who helped prepare / cook / serve and wash-up. Amongst those attending were some folks who had a hand in the project to install the bells 20 years ago. It was good to see them there. There were also some displays and a video showing the casting and installation of the bells. All in all a very enjoyable afternoon.

### Quiz Correction

Thank you to all those of you who took part in the 'Name that Tower' quiz at the Downs Barn celebration. However I have to admit to a small mistake. In the preparation for the quiz of branch towers, I did not have a picture of Stowe church. So I googled 'Stowe Church' and it produced a nice picture which I 'acquired' for the quiz. However a number of people pointed out that it was not Stowe church. Further investigation followed and what materialised was that the picture was actually of the church at Church Stowe – a village not so far away near Daventry. Apologies to those who were confused and especially those who ring at Stowe.

*Jonathan Griggs*

## Training

### Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers

*Established 17th January 1881*

#### EDUCATION COMMITTEE

#### RADLEY

#### ONE-DAY COURSE

Based at Radley (near Abingdon)

**SATURDAY 29th MARCH 2014**

**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 2013

From Ann Osborne, Email: annosborne.1@BTInternet.com  
or  
Tel: 0118 942 5876

Closing date for applications is:  
31st January 2014  
Maximum of 25 students

# Branch News contd.

## In Touch indexing – update and some thoughts

I have recently checked some of the older *In Touch* issues as they appear on the website - [http://www.northbucks.org.uk/Old\\_In\\_Touch.aspx](http://www.northbucks.org.uk/Old_In_Touch.aspx). I'm not quite finished yet but I have gone through all those available from 2001 onwards.

There are some gaps in the sequence and if you have any of the following issues lurking about at home please let Doug have them, or send us a scanned copy if you can, to complete the archive. The missing dates in this part of the sequence are:

2001 – August and November

2002 – all issues

2003 – February

2005 - November

The indexes for the older issues are combined with the newer ones and appear as files available from the drop-down list at

[http://www.northbucks.org.uk/In\\_Touch.aspx](http://www.northbucks.org.uk/In_Touch.aspx)

There are three indexes, one for peals, one for quarter peals and one that covers all the other articles which is called 'main'. The latter does not cover standard items discussed at AGMs or business meetings; it is aiming to report articles, items of interest and branch events. I thought that if important things were discussed at the meetings then information would have been included in *In Touch* separately.

Some observations I have made during the indexing process:

- \* There are discrepancies between the information recorded in *In Touch* and that which appears in the peals database. For example, I only found one peal at Hanslope in the newsletters, but the peal database has five but not the one I found. Did the one I found not get 'sent up' to the *Ringing World*? Did Doug miss it? Are the other societies that rang peals at Hanslope just more organised?
- \* Some towers seem to specialise in a few methods, others have a lot more methods rung at them. Why is that?
- \* There really have not been enough quarters of Stedman doubles, only six in 13 years. Please go and ring some more.

Over the next few weeks I hope to be working my way through the rest of the back issues, and discovering things about NBB that I'd forgotten. In the meantime, please try and use the indexes and if you have any comments please let me know.

[nicola\\_king@hotmail.com](mailto:nicola_king@hotmail.com)

## A contribution from one of our younger ringers...

The ringers have an outing and  
One of them drives the bus



Faulty recollections by Doug Hird  
Artistic interpretation by Adam Hird



## Peals & Quarters

**Newport Pagnell, Bucks**

SS Peter & Paul

Sunday, 18th August 2013 (21-2-16)

**1264 Plain Bob Major**

Composed by Simon Read

- 1 Nicki King
- 2 Alan J Marchbank
- 3 Kate Hollins
- 4 Scott P Ayers
- 5 Nick Read
- 6 Charles Knight
- 7 Simon Read (C)
- 8 B Douglas Hird

Rung prior to the Newport Pagnell Town Council annual Civic Service.

# Peals & Quarters contd.

## **Oxford Diocesan Guild**

**Milton Keynes**, Bucks

Cross & Stable, Downs Barn

Saturday, 7th September 2013 in 2h 49 (6-0-10)

### **5040 Grandsire Triples**

Composed by William Matthews

- 1 Scott P Ayers
- 2 Bernard J Stone
- 3 Philip M Haslam
- 4 Catherine M A Lane
- 5 Alan J Marchbank
- 6 B Douglas Hird
- 7 Kenneth R Davenport (C)
- 8 Brian Newman

Rung to celebrate the birth of Prince George, future King of England.

For the 20th anniversary of the dedication of these bells.

The band wish Sheila Watts and Pat Newton to be associated with this peal, as donors of the treble and tenor bells respectively.

First peal on eight: 8.

## **Padbury**, Bucks

St. Mary

Sunday, 29th September 2013 (10cwt)

### **1259 Grandsire Doubles**

- 1 Helen Stanworth
- 2 Brian Plummer
- 3 Nick Read
- 4 Richard Stanworth
- 5 John Stanworth (C)
- 6 Michael Tinsley

85th Birthday Compliment to Geoff Down, senior member of the band at Padbury. Also with the band's best wishes to Brian on his move to Lincolnshire. First of Grandsire inside: 2.

## **Old Wolverton**, Bucks

Holy Trinity

Friday, 18th October 2013 in 47 mins (14cwt)

### **1260 Plain Bob Doubles**

- 1 Robert Freer
- 2 Audrey Jones
- 3 Michael Pearce
- 4 Michael Woodcock
- 5 Michael Nimmo (C)
- 6 Susan Freer

Rung in celebration of the marriage of our vicar Rev Gill Barrow to Lee Jones  
1st quarter peal: 1 & 6.

## **Loughton**, Bucks

All Saints

Saturday, 19th October 2013 (11-0-8)

### **1260 Plain Bob Doubles**

- 1 Anne McIntyre
- 2 Ann Birch (c)
- 3 Edward Fawcett
- 4 John Brookman
- 5 Gary Reading
- 6 Terry Page

First as conductor (after 30 years of ringing!): 2.  
Birthday compliment to Ann Birch and Hilary Reading  
Wedding Anniversary compliment to John and Lorraine Brookman

## **Saint Lawrence Society, Towcester**

**Towcester**, Northants

St. Lawrence

Sunday, 20th October 2013 in 52 mins (23-1-16)

### **1346 Cambridge Surprise Maximus**

- 1 Ann White
- 2 Catherine M Stanworth
- 3 Joanne C Lovell
- 4 Sue M Ferrie
- 5 David G Thorne
- 6 Michael J Tinsley (c)
- 7 Barbara A King
- 8 Jonathan G W King
- 9 William A M Barter
- 10 G Nigel Williams
- 11 Andrew W R Wilby
- 12 John I White

Rung to celebrate the birth of Jessica Elizabeth Charlotte Tinsley daughter of 2 and 6, born on the 1st October.

## **Padbury**, Bucks

St. Mary

Tuesday, 22nd October 2013 (10cwt)

### **1260 Grandsire Doubles**

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

Rung to celebrate the birth of Jessica Elizabeth Charlotte Tinsley born on 1st October 2013. Rung by her parents (4 and 6), grandparents (2 and 3), aunt (1), and uncle (5). First as conductor: 1.



## **Minutes of Autumn Meeting held on 7th September 2013 at Downs Barn, Milton Keynes**



### **1 Chairman's Welcome**

The Chairman, Brian Newman, welcomed everyone to Downs Barn for the 20th celebration of the dedication of the Downs Barns Bells and the Autumn meeting.

### **2 Apologies for Absence**

Received from Ruth Groves (Guild Steward)

### **3 Minutes of previous Meeting**

The minutes of the AGM held at Buckingham 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.

### **4 Matters Arising from Minutes**

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

### **5 Election of new Ringing Development Leaders**

Lesley Belcher was nominated as the Ringing Development Leader for Buckingham Deanery. This was proposed by Jonathan Griggs and seconded by Roy Keeves.

Graham Bartholomew was nominated as Ringing Development Leader for Milton Keynes Deanery. This was proposed by Brian Newman and seconded by Sheila Blenkhorn.

Both nominations were approved.

### **6 Presentation of the branch striking competition certificates**

Certificates were presented to the eleven teams who entered the competition.

### **7 Forthcoming events**

#### **Branch Training Day**

On November 9th there will be a branch training day concentrating on Plain Hunt and Bob Doubles. There will be a maximum of 12 students split across 3 groups, each group having 3 practical sessions in different towers. The course will be held in the Newport Deanery. Application forms will be sent out to the Egroup in the next week.

### **7 Forthcoming events contd.**

#### **Guild 10 bell competition**

The guild 10 bell competition is being held at Newbury on 23rd November. The branch has not always entered a band. The method this year is Bob Royal. If people are interested then they should register their interest with Brian by email. If there is enough interest then a team will be assembled to compete.

#### **Christmas Celebration**

It is hoped to be able to hold a mulled wine and mince pies Christmas celebration with ringing at Hanslope in December. Further details will be available once arrangements are confirmed.

#### **Branch Outing**

Graham is proposing to organise a branch outing in Spring 2014 to Hertfordshire. This will probably include 5 towers – mainly 8s with a 6 and a 10. If you are interested in going please contact Graham.

### **8 Any other Business**

Brian Baldwin mentioned that Matthew Smith is undertaking a review and update of the bells of Buckinghamshire and in doing so is visiting many towers in the area. Please help him if he contacts your tower. Brian also mentioned that as part of this project he has visited Little Woolstone which has 3 bells dating to about 1650.

### **9 Vote of Thanks**

On behalf of everyone present the Chairman thanked Peter Green for taking the service, Nick Read for playing the organ and the folks who were preparing the barbeque.

