



In Touch

North Bucks Branch - www.northbucksbranch.org.uk

November 2019

Diary of Events 2019/20



OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD of CHURCH BELL RINGERS

North Bucks Branch – Diary of Events to June 2020

The Venue for Branch Practices and Midweek Meetings to be advised as confirmed

Date	Event	Venue	tbc/C	Timing	Organiser
Saturday 7 th Dec	Christmas Meeting	Bletchley	C	4.00-6.30pm	Brian Baldwin
2020					
Saturday 18 th Jan	Branch Practice		tbc	3.00-5.30pm	Barry Eglesfield
Thursday 23 rd Jan	Midweek Group		tbc		Nick Read
<i>Saturday 8th Feb</i>	<i>Rope Splicing & Maintenance Course</i>	<i>Radley</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>Details to follow</i>	<i>Guild Secretary</i>
Monday 10 th Feb	Officers Meeting	Woughton	C	7.30pm	Brian Baldwin
Saturday 15 th Feb	Branch Practice		tbc	3.00-5.30pm	Barry Eglesfield
<i>22nd to 29th Feb</i>	<i>Sponsored QP Week</i>	<i>Various</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>Details to follow</i>	<i>Guild</i>
Thursday 27 th Feb	Midweek Group		tbc		Nick Read
Saturday 7 th Mar	Branch AGM	Emberton	C		Brian Baldwin
<i>Saturday 14th Mar</i>	<i>General & Bell Fund Mtgs</i>	<i>Reading Branch</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>Details to follow</i>	<i>Guild</i>
Saturday 21 st Mar	Branch Practice		tbc	3.00-5.30pm	Barry Eglesfield
Thursday 26 th Mar	Midweek Group		tbc		Nick Read
<i>Saturday 4th April</i>	<i>Radley Course</i>	<i>Radley</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>Details to follow</i>	<i>Guild</i>
Saturday 18 th Apr	Branch Practice		tbc	5.00 – 6.30pm	Barry Eglesfield
Thursday 23 rd April	St Georges Day	<i>Various</i>	C	Details to follow	??
Thursday 23 rd April	Midweek Group		tbc		Nick Read
Monday 4 th May	Officers Meeting	Woughton	C	7.30pm	Brian Baldwin
<i>Friday 8th May</i>	<i>Guild Ringing Day</i>	<i>Vale of White Horse</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>Details to follow</i>	<i>Guild</i>
<i>Friday 8th May</i>	<i>VE Day (Bank Holiday)</i>	<i>All Towers</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>7.00pm</i>	<i>National</i>
<i>Saturday 16th May</i>	<i>Guild AGM</i>	<i>Old North Berks</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>c4.15pm</i>	<i>Guild</i>
<i>Saturday 16th May</i>	<i>Guild 8 Bell Striking</i>	<i>Old North Berks</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>2.00pm</i>	<i>Guild</i>
Saturday 16 th May	Branch Practice		tbc	5.00 – 6.30pm	Barry Eglesfield
Thursday 28 th May	Midweek Group		tbc		Nick Read
Saturday 6 th June	6 Bell Competition	Wavendon	C		Brian Baldwin
Saturday 20 th June	Branch Practice		tbc	5.00 – 6.30pm	Barry Eglesfield
Thursday 25 th June	Midweek Group		tbc		Nick Read

Guild Courses/Events – shown in blue italics

Published by Branch Secretary – 19th November 2019

Proposed Changes to Branch Communications

Having been In Touch Editor since 2016, I have been proud to contribute to the branch. In the May 2018 edition, I wrote an article here asking about engagement with branch, entitled Our Branch. It elicited no response. In the last edition of In Touch, I raised the question of the future of In touch, based upon its circulation, consumption of raw materials and how current many of the articles were by the time it is published.

This lead to the future of In Touch being debated by the Branch Officers at their meeting on the 12th of August at which I proposed the following:

- Going forward, the role of In Touch Editor will be evolved into Communications Officer, working with the Webmaster to keep the branch informed, aiming for the members finding the website a valuable tool for news and events, and using the articles submitted to enliven our website.
- Ending the hard copy publication.
- An up-to-date diary and Branch Officers contact emails will be available on the website.
- On a monthly basis, an email will be circulated to all members with a link the website encouraging them to look at a copy of the branch diary and news.
- Members and towers who would like a quarterly black and white branch diary sent to them by post can request this at no additional cost, by making this request to the Communications Officer.
- The members would have the final vote on this proposal, if accepted by the Branch Officers.
- The aim would be to have the proposal implemented immediately. Those who have paid in advance for a printed colour copy would receive a pro-rata refund upon request.

The aim is to have these developments implemented before the Branch AGM in 2020.

This evolution will not only reduce consumption of natural resources, but allow re-investment into the website, and wider access to the world with more current information, as well as making communication easier to manage for the volunteers whose time is given to the Branch.

This proposal was unanimously accepted at a vote by the Officers present.

At the Christmas meeting and social on the 7th of December, this proposal will formally be proposed and seconded, for a vote by those members present.

This will be your chance to have your say.

Phillip Starr—In Touch Editor

HANSLOPE BELL RESTORATION PROJECT - Update

Monday 9 September 2019 marked the beginning of a rather momentous week with regard to the Hanslope Bell Restoration Project. After approximately six years of planning and fund raising, the day had finally arrived when work commenced to remove the bells from the tower.

Whites of Appleton were assisted by several members of Hanslope ringers and a couple of men from the church to provide the labour required to lower the bells down through the trap doors with the aid of pulleys and hoists. When the final trap door had been installed in the church, for some unknown reason it did not align with the other trap doors. It was therefore necessary that two to four men, depending on the weight of the bell, needed to put ropes around each bell as it came down the tower and then pull it across to allow it to drop through the final trap door. Each bell was then put onto a pallet and taken out through the door at the bottom of the tower and then wheeled round the outside of the church to be taken back into the church through the main door. Over the course of two days, seven of the eight bells were put into the church, the exception being the tenor bell which remained in the porch as Whites thought it might damage the porch ramps if they tried to wheel it over them. There was some concern over leaving the bells overnight in the church, but after some discussion it was decided to put an extra lock on the main church gate and also park a car across in front of the door to the church.

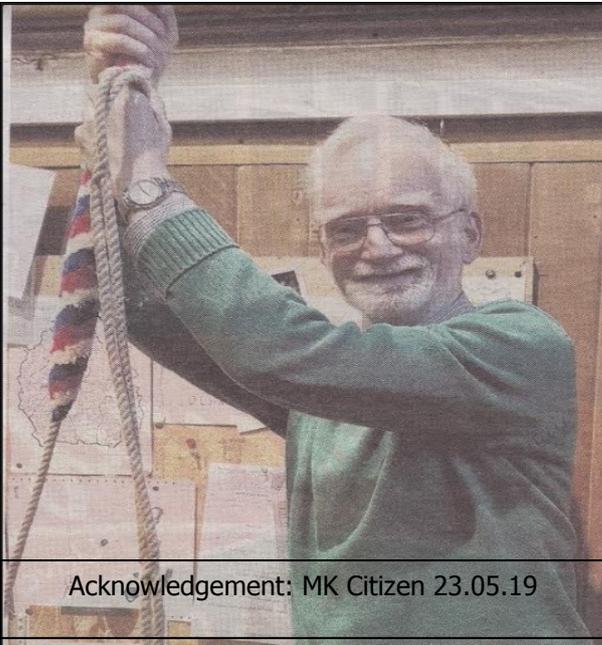
The bells were an amazing sight lined up on display inside the church. On the Wednesday evening the church held a Goodbye to the Bells event where we invited all the villagers and the wider community to come along and view the bells before they were sent away. We did not make any charge for the event, where we served free drinks and nibbles, and we just put out a large carboy asking for donations. We had no idea how many people would attend and we were overwhelmed by the level of support from villagers, and our local friends and ringers. We had decided that we would put the bell wheels up for sale by sealed bids; we had no idea if anyone would be interested and so were amazed the following day when we opened the envelopes to find that their 'sale' had raised over £1,000. During the evening someone also asked what was happening to the bell clappers and we said that Whites would take them away to be scrapped. The upshot of this was that all the clappers were also 'sold' in return for donations to the bell project. Several days later when everything was totalled up, we found that the evening had raised over £3,000 – it was way beyond any of our wildest dreams.

On Thursday, Whites returned to the church and the bells were then wheeled outside and lined up along the church path ready to be put onto a lorry and taken to their premises in Appleton. It was quite an emotional moment to see them all loaded and then being driven away from the village.

There is a short postscript to this article. Since starting work on the bells, Whites have discovered that there are already some holes drilled in the crowns of the seventh and eighth bells where they have been quarter turned during previous restorations. This means that the bells will now need to go away to be welded to repair these holes before Whites can continue with their restoration work. The cost of this will add a further £8,000 to the project. This amount, and some additional building costs, mean that we still need to raise at least £15,000 more in order to complete the Hanslope Bell Restoration Project. So the fund raising continues.....

Sheila Blenkhorn





Acknowledgement: MK Citizen 23.05.19

The chimes they are a-changing for mayor

The city's bell-ringing retiring mayor has raised £7,455 for the Bus Shelter homeless charity city by ringing a quarter peal at all 21 available sets of church bells in MK. Cllr Martin Petchey performed his last clang-athon peal days before his mayoral year ended.

Ringling for VE Day 2020

Friday 8th May 2020 will be the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War in Europe. The government is planning a day of commemoration, and have moved the early Spring bank holiday, usually the first Monday in May, to that Friday.

One of the acts of commemoration they are organising is the ringing of church bells throughout the country at 7pm

The Central Council have issued a statement about this here: <http://https/cccbr.org.uk/2019/06/18/ve-day-75th-anniversary/>

This note is just to give everyone advanced warning of the request and the date

*Martin Petchy
Branch Chairman*

All Saints—Calverton Ringing

From October 2019, Malcolm Hooton and Wendy Price are encouraging regular ringing at the newly re-hung eight bell tower. Ringing will be on the second and fourth Sundays of each month, between 17:00 and 18:00, and when there is a fifth Monday in the month, between 19:30 and 21:00. All Welcome!

Phillip Starr—In Touch Editor

Practice Night—St. Mary's Whaddon

While Whaddon is no longer able to hold a band practice due to a lack of numbers, the ringers are fortunate to have the monthly Open Practice at St. Mary's, Whaddon. This continues with ringers from a vast array of ability and from across branch boarders, on the first Friday of every month. All abilities are welcome, and every effort will be made to accommodate you. Please join in this friendly practice on a fine set of six (Tenor 14 hundred weight).

Phillip Starr—In Touch Editor

Newton Longville

Some of you may remember that Newton Longville had a membership drive four years ago where we recruited eight new learners of whom four remain. We've reached the stage where they can all ring method: Plain Bob doubles inside. However, we've reached a plateau; there are three competent ringers here so we can ring with one learner on the treble, one inside and maybe one behind on the tenor. Getting beyond that is difficult without someone to stand behind the inside learner and give them help with calls. We've really gone as far as we can and we'd like to appeal to anyone who can spare a few Thursday evenings (7.30 - 9.00) to help us along. Many thanks to the Marchands who were able to come over while I was unable to ring after a back operation and who helped us to move forward a bit more but we need just that little bit extra help to get us over this hump.

On another note, the bells here at Newton Longville are on their last legs. We've got quotes for re-hanging/retuning/recasting on a new frame and we are starting to think about raising the necessary £100k. The PCC is being very supportive and we are hoping that the Guild will be able to help also. We're really looking forward to doing something about our somewhat indifferent eight and giving our new ringers something really good to ring on.

Nigel Titley—Tower Captain, Newton Longville

2020 ART Awards

The ART Awards continue to grow every year – with over £3,000 in prize money waiting to be won. Now is your chance to apply for the 2020 ART Awards!

The teaching awards are open to everyone – not just ART Members or those using ‘Learning the Ropes’ scheme – the aim is to encourage and recognise the people and groups leading best practice and innovation in the teaching and development of ringing. The individual ringing awards are open to those who have completed one of the Learning the Ropes programmes (on tower or hand bells) or participated in the Learning the Ropes Plus scheme.

Click here to find out more and to apply -

<<http://www.ringingteachers.org/recognition/awards>> www.ringingteachers.org/recognition/awards

ART Awards 2020

Prizes will be awarded in the following categories:

The Sarah Beacham Youth Group Award

Prize of £400 – sponsored by the Sarah Beacham Memorial Trust

The Sarah Beacham School Group Award

Prize of £400 – sponsored by the Sarah Beacham Memorial Trust

The ART Award for Excellence in the Use of Technology in Teaching

Prize of £500 – sponsored by John Taylor & Co.

The ART Award for Excellence in Recruitment or Retention

Prize of £400 – sponsored by AbelSim

The ART Award for a University Society that has made a Significant Contribution to Promoting Ringing to Younger People

Prize of £500 – sponsored by CCCBR

The ART Award for Inspiring Leadership in Ringing

Prize of £400 – sponsored by Talent Innovations

The ART Learning the Ropes Individual Achievement Awards

Two prizes of £250 – sponsored by the Ancient Society of College Youths

Five highly commended prizes of £25 each

Worried about applying?

The judges aren't looking for the most professional application; what they are looking for is ideas, commitment and results. So if you're looking at new ways of recruiting it's not just the idea, but the number of people you recruited and whether they stayed. Easy ways to show that – number retained a year or two later, new recruits coming in (success breeds success), quarter peals, striking competition results, practice attendance, or ringing progress (Ltr Levels) ... and don't forget photos and quotes. There's no magic formula; think why what you're doing has been successful and put it down on paper. Please don't be modest!

What are we looking for?

Hopefully having convinced you that the ART Awards might be relevant to you or a ringer or group you know, what are the common themes that appear in previous years' winning applications?

- * Having a vision or passion and making it happen: however big or small, making things happen is what leadership is all about, even if you don't call it that.
- * Trying out new things: some of which work and some of which don't. If we don't move with the times ringing will not flourish, so tell us about the risks you took - what you tried or did differently
- * Getting young people ringing: over-turning all those misconceptions that exist about children seeing ringing as “uncool” and giving up at the first hurdle.

If you recognise and identify with any of these themes, why not consider applying for yourself or a ringer or group you know? There will be an ART Award that's right for your application....and if you applied and didn't win last year, how about applying again, now you've got another year under your belt – Lerryn School did that last year and they won!

How do I enter?

Further information and application forms are available at <<http://www.ringingteachers.org/recognition/awards>> www.ringingteachers.org/recognition/awards The closing date for applications is **31 December 2019** – so now is the time to make sure that those doing great work don't miss out!

Lesley Belcher ART Chair



Stewardship & Management Workgroup

of The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers



THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH
BELL RINGERS

Good Practice for Maintaining a Safe Environment in the Belfry for Young People

1. Parents' consent in writing should be sought prior to commencing teaching, outings or Guild meeting visits and they should be made aware, in advance, of the content and arrangements for teaching, outings or visits. Any medical conditions of the child should be established in advance as should the agreement that the parents are responsible for delivering and collecting the child. It is good practice to invite the parents to a training session so they understand what is involved in learning to ring.
2. If there is a child who it is believed is at immediate risk of harm call the emergency services on 999 and then inform the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser. Any behaviour of adult ringers which gives cause for concern should be discussed with the Parish Safeguarding Officer who will advise about any further action. They can then liaise with the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser.
3. Keep an attendance register, which all attendees must sign, so that everyone is aware who was present at any given time.
4. Children must be supervised at all times and should only be allowed into hazardous locations, such as the bell chamber, when accompanied by the Tower Captain / Deputy or Assistant
5. Always have two adults (preferably one of each gender) present whenever children/young people are ringing or being supervised, taught or transported.
6. Touching should be only that appropriate for teaching, supervision and/or in an emergency. Those helping children by ringing another bell or standing nearby should be aware of the need to protect personal space.
7. Relevant health and safety procedures should be followed and first aid available.
8. Local tower arrangements should always be approved by the PCC in line with the Parish Safeguarding Policy. The Tower Captain should have a copy of the Parish Safeguarding Policy and ensure that Ringers have access to it.
9. Ensure that the appropriate insurance is in place prior to any teaching, training or ringing session.
10. All local ringing societies should appoint a Safeguarding Officer, someone who can oversee the performance of safeguarding matters in their area.
11. Good liaison should be established between Tower Captains and PCCs and between the Safeguarding Officer of local societies and the Parish and Diocesan Safeguarding staff.
12. Please note that it is the responsibility of all visiting groups to ensure that those leading/supervising a group have had all relevant checks and it is not the responsibility of the host church, unless the host church is providing the leader/supervisor for a visiting group. All visiting groups should have a copy of this General Statement on Safeguarding Towers in relation to children available to them.

Developed in collaboration with the Church of England, National Safeguarding Team.

This notice should be exhibited in the belfry together with any Parish Safeguarding Policy statement and local Safeguarding contact.

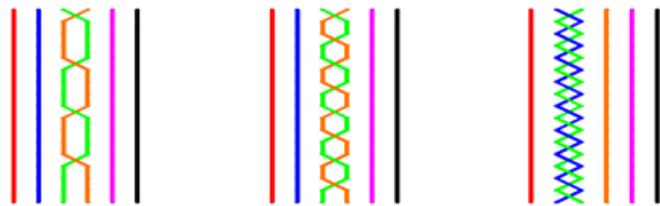
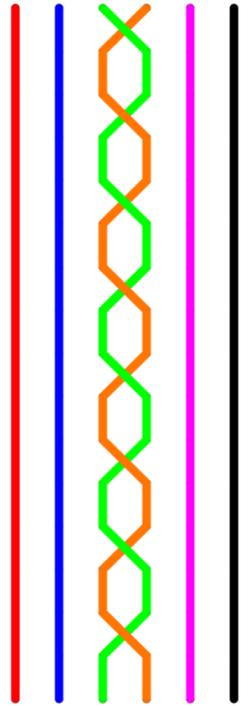
Have you tried kaleidoscope ringing?

Once a learner can ring rounds successfully, they are often moved onto Call Changes. Obvious to us, but for the new ringer (who is using at least 90% of their brain concentrating on handling their bell safely and keeping it in synch with everyone else) there's not much processing power left to remember the order of the bells, translate a verbal instruction to the whole band into a specific one for them (do I or don't I move place, if so do I need to move up or down and who will I follow) and then think about what they need to do with the rope to make the bell make that move ... all in less than 4 seconds. And that's without the occasional conductor who decides to mix calling up and down!

This is where kaleidoscope ringing can help – a series of changes all made within two places. Perhaps not an immediately helpful definition so in this case I think a picture speaks a thousand words. And the benefits:

Breaking the learning into small, easy understandable steps. Kaleidoscope ringing allows the learner to practise moving their bell up or down a place without having to remember the order of the bells or knowing which bell is following which as they are always moving from rounds.

It is easier for a learner to hear their bell and correct their striking. Kaleidoscope sequences move out of and back into rounds all the time. Because the sound of rounds is familiar it is easier for the new ringer to identify their bell, listen for gaps and clips and correct their striking.



It can sound nicer. Bands with insufficient ringers to ring methods can make up their own sequences (even naming them after people e.g. Sheila's Shuffle) and ring them for service making a more pleasing sound than Call Changes gone wrong or Plain Hunt struck badly.

Kaleidoscope ringing can grow with the band. Long places (four blows) lead onto short places which lead onto dodges or dodgy places, all of which can start at handstroke or backstroke. Then why not more complex sequences such as the bells in 2-3 making long places whilst the 4th stay in fourths place and the 5th and 6th make short places?

Why not introduce kaleidoscope ringing into your practices? More information about kaleidoscope ringing is available at www.ringingteachers.org/resource-centre/teaching-tips Lesley Belcher - ART Chair

Quarter Peal

South Northamptonshire Society

Calverton, Buckinghamshire

All Saints

Monday, 16 September 2019 (9–3–8 in G²)

1250 Cambridge Surprise Major

1. David A Cornwall
2. Julie A Haseldine
3. Kay Bartholomew
4. Raymond A Vickers
5. Malcolm Hooton
6. Ruth Stokes
7. Andrew Haseldine
8. Christopher C Stokes (C)

Compliments of the band to David Cornwall on his 80th Birthday.

Wendy Price

Quarter Peal

Oxford Diocesan Guild

Calverton, Buckinghamshire

All Saints

Sunday, 29 September 2019 in 2h 59 (9–3–8)

5024 Plain Bob Major

Composed by Malcolm G Hooton

1. Malcolm G Hooton
2. Julie A Haseldine
3. Ruth Stokes
4. Richard Haseldine
5. Christopher C Stokes
6. James A Haseldine
7. Richard A Horne
8. Andrew Haseldine (C)

First peal on the bells since augmentation and restoration, given by her husband to commemorate the life of Margaret Lindsay Hooton, whose birthday would have been today

Wendy Price

Branch Outing 28th September 2019

The North Bucks branch outing culminated in a late-afternoon drive almost to the front door of the Marquis of Northampton at Castle Ashby, but had begun some seven hours earlier at Bromham, near Bedford, where the church of St Owen stands a distance from the present village, in the middle of a park created by the Dyve family in the seventeenth century and containing the earthworks of the deserted earlier village.

Bromham bells are a Taylor eight of 21cwt, augmented from a Taylor six in 1934 and therefore Simpson-tuned, very dignified and perhaps the most musical of the bells encountered during the outing. As you might expect, we rang Grandsire, Plain Bob and Stedman - though there is a St Owen Doubles, there isn't an extension to triples, so we weren't able to honour the unusual dedication with our choice of methods.

Our next tower, Stevington, a leisurely 10 minute drive away, could not have been more of a contrast. An eighteenth century five, the historic sound reminded us of what change-ringing must have sounded like in its earliest days. The bells are hung in an Anglo-Saxon tower (much like Lavendon), and rung from a ground floor ringing chamber entered through a side opening, as the entry from the nave has been blocked by the re-erected Jacobean chancel screen. The church had many other historic features, not least two ruined aisles each side of the chancel, and those not engaged in rehearsing their repertoire of doubles methods found much to keep them intrigued.

On to Carlton, a pleasant 9cwt six, though by this time we had started losing ringers to events back in MK, and then to lunch at the Fox in the village. The relaxed timetable gave us plenty of time to enjoy a leisurely meal in good company and sample the beer on offer – some of us were bold enough to try the Norwegian Blue, which was definitely not an ex-beer.

Harrold, just across the Ouse, are another six, a little heavier at 13 cwt, and given a sonorous tone by the reverberations in the spire. Equally of note was the huge gap between 1 and 2, left to give room for the augmentation to eight that hasn't happened yet, and that 4,5 and 6 came down very close to the edge of the balcony. At a personal level I was glad to see my godfather's name appearing as a churchwarden on a peal board from nearly fifty years ago.

Bozeat, our first of two Northants towers, was nearly a lock-out – the tower captain had chosen to go to Yorkshire instead of meeting us – but keys were rustled up in time for a quick grab. The belfry had a very old-fashioned feel, full of black varnished peal boards from a previous century of five bell peals at the tower, often in methods not now much rung, achieved before its augmentation to a 16 cwt six.

And so to Castle Ashby, our final tower. The church is situated between the big house's terrace garden and the orangery – as Pevsner says, rarely is a church made so much part of the private garden furnishings of a mansion, and so to get there we had to pass by the front door of the Marquis of Northampton (though the church access is no longer through his garden, as it once was). The presence of the marquis and his ancestors is just as prominent once you get inside the church, not least through a twice or three times life size carving in gleaming white marble of an angel about to play the last trump, placed at the west end of the nave in memory of a nineteenth century marquis. It's only a shame that the family didn't spend more on the bells and less on monuments. A 19cwt five would be challenging under any circumstances, but a long draft and poor hanging doubled the difficulty. Methods without dodges (Reverse Canterbury, All Saints) came to the fore, as we rang on what was the oldest bell of the day – the fourth was cast in the first year of Henry VIII's reign.

Many thanks to Doug Hird for organising a successful and well thought out tour around towers in the district's near north – the result of meticulous preparation and careful reconnaissance

Martin Petchey - Branch Chairman

Quarter Peal

Padbury, Buckinghamshire

St Mary the Virgin

Sunday, 17 November 2019 in 43m (10½ in A²)

1260 Plain Bob Minor

1. Helen Stanworth

2. Victoria L R Bunce

3. Catherine M Tinsley

4. Michael J Tinsley

5. Richard S Stanworth

6. A John Stanworth (C)

Family quarter peal to welcome Hope Annie Joyce Stanworth born on 17th October. Rung by her grandmother, two aunts, uncle, grandfather and father

Richard Stanworth



2020 Ringing World Pathways



Introduction

Proud owners of a 2020 Ringing World Diary may already have discovered pages 132 and 133; the rest of you have missed your headstart on one of *The Ringing World's* big projects for the year. Part challenge, learning, focus and exploration – and hopefully fun: **2020 Ringing World Pathways** are your chance to join in with the worldwide ringing community this year.

The idea

In 2019 the Ringing World Diary contained a feature called *Method of the Month*. Simon Lindford suggested a set of twelve non-standard major methods for 8-bell bands looking for quality and variety; several of the methods had featured in his selections for *Project Pickled Egg*. David Hall compiled some recommended compositions for each method in a monthly introduction article. Lots of people reported working with the MoMs as special methods, and we hope a few of them will have stayed as staples in the repertoire.

This year we wanted to do better at helping people expand their method repertoire. We wanted to involve more ringers, and we wanted to make it easier to participate. Learning a new method every month is a big ask, even for the keenest and most skilled bands, so we wanted to be more realistic, while still getting a bit of a challenge. And we wanted to come up with something fun and flexible, something that we hope ringers will take in different directions according to their own situation. We hope pathways do all these things.

In the last few years, we've also seen ringers step up and ring together for the same event to an unusual degree. Ringing for the centenary of the World War One Armistice was the most remarkable example of this: just under 3,000 performances were posted on *BellBoard* as having been rung on 11th November 2018. These included performances at many towers and from many bands that had never logged anything on *BellBoard* before. Whatever they rang – from rounds and call changes before or after a service to a quarter peal or peal, from St Paul's Cathedral to the smallest churches – they submitted it to join in with the international event. Ringing after the fire at Notre-Dame wasn't anywhere near as prolific, but it was still an example of ringers joining together for a common goal and being proud to log their ringing, whatever it was. We're in support of this, and we hope pathways will unite ringers in a common challenge which they can take pride in.

bb.ringingworld.co.uk/pathways
pathways@ringingworld.co.uk
 #rpathways
 Facebook: Ringing World Pathways

How it works

There are three pathways: red, blue and yellow. Each pathway is a set of six steps: each step is a method or a group of methods. To complete a pathway, log a 2020 performance of each step on *BellBoard*, and link it to a pathway subscription. (More about subscriptions and how to use the website in the box elsewhere on this page.)

These performances can be of any length. We're expecting that most people will try and ring quarter peals of each step – a quarter peal is a challenge and a good way of cementing progress with a new method. But you don't have to. Perhaps you'll work through the pathways as training methods at a regular practice, and you just want to log that you've managed to ring a plain course or touch of them. Or if peal ringing is your thing, perhaps you'll want to ring a peal of one or more steps. You can do a mix of performance lengths too.

Options

Some of the steps are more flexible than others. There's most choice on the Red pathway – while most of the pathway is based around six-bell methods, we've created options on some of the steps for you to ring on eight: Step 2 is Single Oxford Bob Triples, and Step 5 is a plain triples method from p.59 or 61 of the diary. We hope that six-bell bands might take the excuse to visit a local eight-bell tower and try some of those out. You don't have to: you only need to do one of the options at each step to complete the pathway.

Articles and Resources

We'll be bringing you helpful articles throughout 2020 on all the steps of the pathways. We've got some great authors lined up to write with ideas, learning tips and compositions. Of course, there are also useful compositions, and some information pages, in your fresh new Ringing World Diary (it's not too late to order one now...). And if you go to the online page for each step, we're collecting links to useful online resources. Most of these are free – for example, the relevant articles from John Harrison's long-running series *The Learning Curve*, now hosted on the Central Council website. Some of them are Ringing World articles, so if you're a subscriber with the appropriate access you should be able to see them for free, or if not you'll be given the option to buy the relevant issue. Or maybe it's a good time to take out a subscription?

If you have any ideas for more resources we could add or link to – perhaps you know of a useful article from the RW archive, or a good website – or if you'd like to write for us, please email us (pathways@ringingworld.co.uk) so we can share them. We're also looking for bands who might write for us about their whole

journey through a pathway – get in touch if you'd like to volunteer!

The pathways

So what's on the pathways? Take a look at the diagrams, reproduced from the diary. As mentioned there are three: red, blue and yellow. Each pathway has a suggested starting point (bold/grey) – you don't necessarily have to have rung this, it's just a guide.

The blue pathway is for ringers looking to develop their ringing beyond **Plain Bob Minor** by learning some simple new doubles and minor methods.

The red pathway is aimed at ringers who can ring a **surprise minor method** and who wish to learn more methods on five, six, and optionally seven bells. Steps 2 and 5 on this pathway have a six-bell option and a seven-bell option. You only need to do one of these to complete the pathway.

The yellow pathway takes ringers who can already ring **some surprise major methods** and expands their repertoire on eight bells with both plain and surprise methods.

Fun and flexible

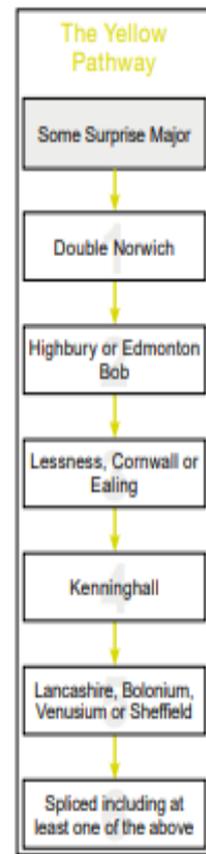
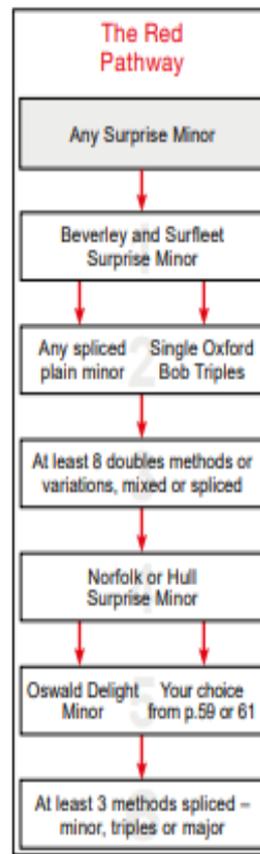
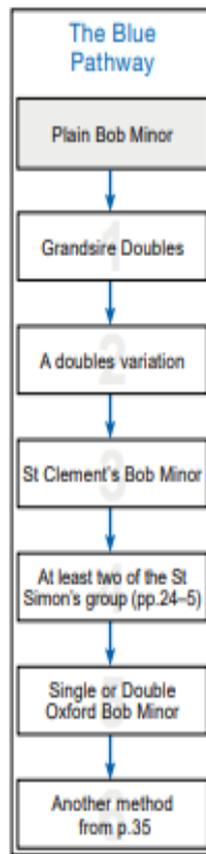
The pathways aren't supposed to be a direct syllabus. We are not claiming that each step is more difficult than the last. In fact, occasionally we've deliberately done what we think might be the opposite. Partly this is because grading method difficulty is controversial, and sometimes isn't possible; partly because for some of the methods their inclusion is more about putting them in the repertoire; and partly just because we thought it would be more fun. You don't even have to ring them in the order we've suggested –

Subscribing to a pathway

- Go to bb.ringingworld.co.uk/pathways
- Click on 'Blue Pathway', 'Red Pathway' or 'Yellow Pathway'
- Click 'Subscribe' at the bottom
- Name your pathway subscription

Pathway subscription names: Other people will be able to follow your progress when you start associating performances with steps on the pathway, so give your pathway a meaningful name. (We reserve the right to change name if the name chosen does not identify you or your band sufficiently, so please don't name it "My pathway" or "St John's tower pathway", but rather "John Smith" or "St John's, Johnston".)

You can subscribe to the same pathway multiple times. You might want to do this if, for example, you want to track your personal progress on the pathway as well as documenting the quarter peals at your home tower or by a specific band.



you'll be able to link performances in any order to your pathway subscription, as long as they're rung in 2020.

We hope even the most proficient method ringers will find ways of stretching themselves on any of the pathways. Some of the steps are deliberately vague for that very reason. For example, Step 4 on the blue pathway is ringing 'At least two of the St Simon's group'. That means you could just ring St Simon's Doubles and St Martin's Doubles – perhaps an extent of each, one after the other – and you'd be done. But there are sixteen methods in the St Simon's group (as explained on pp.24-5 of the 2020 Diary), so if you need some stretching perhaps you

This article will be available to download for free from *BellBoard*. Tell your friends about it!

could ring them all in the same quarter peal. Two of the steps are about ringing doubles variations, and there's a whole world of variety there if you're keen. Some other ideas:

- See how quickly you can complete a whole pathway from start to finish
- Conduct a whole pathway yourself
- Make sure every step is a 'first' for you or someone in the band
- Find ways of stretching yourself on each step

And of course it doesn't matter if you don't finish a pathway. For some bands and ringers, taking the first few steps on one of the pathways will be an achievement and a chance to explore some different methods.

"I don't like this."

Good! Please write in and tell us why (pathways@ringingworld.co.uk). Tell us

how you'd do it differently, or why pathways aren't working for you. That should be a good lesson in how ringing is really working in different places and for different people, or how we can improve *BellBoard*. And while those specific pathways are just for 2020, we hope it's an idea that might work again in future, with different methods at different levels, so we'd like feedback on how we can improve for next time.

Conclusion

It's a big project to take in all at once. Head to the pathways page to have a look around. As mentioned above, only 2020 performances will count, so you've got a few weeks to start making plans, or be in touch if you've got any questions. We'll be printing regular updates in *The Ringing World*.

We're excited, and we hope you are too – good luck!

WILL BOSWORTH

Whaddon Monthly Practice

With an average of 14 to 16 ringers every month, this practice is the one to attend if you wish to learn a new method. We ring anything from rounds to Cambridge; this does not mean that we are a surprise practice band, as we spend a lot of our time ringing doubles methods.

It is a chance for you to ring, learn or improve a method as at most meetings we can have one learner in at a time, with somebody standing with them. We have two learning to ring Bob minor and again we can have someone standing with them. We welcomed two new ringers from Whaddon who can now ring rounds.

If you can ring a plain course of a method and would like to learn Bob and Singles, we can help with that. So if you would like to join us, we ring on the 1st Friday of each month, 19:40 – 21:00hrs. Whatever your ability, you will be made welcome, and will have a fair amount of time on a bell.

We look forward to seeing you.

Mick Nimmo – Organiser and Practice Leader

Guild Education

For those of you who do not know me, I am Colin Newman and I have relatively recently taken on the Chairmanship of the currently named Education Sub-Committee (EDC) within the ODG. I am gradually getting myself up to speed with what is currently done at a Guild level to support Learning and Development, and am keen to ensure that the work undertaken at this level is pertinent to the membership at large. To achieve this, one of the things I want to do is get a session together, represented by as many branches as possible, to gather ideas on what needs to be done going forward to facilitate effective development across the Guild. I am keen to do this face to face if possible.

Those of you that read Odd Bob will notice in my report on Education, a date of 22nd February has been cited for a Training Meeting. Unfortunately for various reasons, that date is now not going to be viable. I am therefore intending to organise something on the afternoon of either 7th or 21st March next year. This will have the format of a general open discussion around training needs and ideas at a branch and Guild level, plus some general ringing for those who want to 'get their fix'.

From the output of this session, I am hoping that the EDC can find some new and innovative ways of providing the learning opportunities needed by the Guild to promote progress and quality in the ringing undertaken.

In order to understand a likely majority representation for this, please can I ask that people wishing to attend, fill in the Doodle Poll below including their name and the Branch they represent. Also, I don't want this to be a closed shop so if you know of anyone else in your Branch who would possibly like to add value to this, do forward the message on.

<https://doodle.com/poll/k7v7azcwmf2d4n4h>

Once the most appropriate date is identified, I will find somewhere as central as possible to meet.

Colin Newman EDC Chair

11th May East Claydon Young Ringers trip

On the 11th May 2019 the young ringers (Esme Johnston, Matthew Kitchen, Tom Kitchen and Joshua Tovey) of East Claydon went on a 'Bell Ringing Outing' across three churches within the county of Buckinghamshire. These churches were Lillingstone Lovell, Padbury and Grandborough church. This page will explore the churches in the order we arrived at them, and explain about the bells.



The ringers in Lillingstone Lovell

The first church we went to was Lillingstone Lovell. This church was the lightest of them all and it had 6 bells, with the tenor weighing 6cwt. Although the treble was a bit jumpy, all of the other bells were easy to ring. This church was our favourite church that we went to.



The four ringers ready to ring in Padbury

Padbury church had very heavy bells with the tenor weighing 10&a half cwt. There were 6 bells and we rang on the ground floor. We found the sally was particularly thick compared to East Claydon church, but they did not seem much heavier. We decided that the second bell was around the equivalent of the third bell at our church. A thing we enjoyed was the camera the tower captain set up for us. We enjoyed this church a lot!

The third church we went to was Granborough. It had 5 bells. The bells were one flight of stairs up. They were hard to pull off but when we started to ring they became easier. This was the hardest church of them all.

So overall the first church we went to was the easiest and the last church was the hardest. However, the outing was very fun and we enjoyed it a lot! We would like to say thank you to David and Nicki for helping organise the outing, and we had a wonderful time!

Introduction, Paragraph 2 and conclusion- Joshua Tovey

Paragraph 1- Esme Johnston

Paragraph 3- Matthew Kitchen